

Arizona State has little trouble scoring

■ **ASU:** The Sun Devils' offense is high powered but their defense is shaky going into Saturday's game

By **Pete Schneider**
Sports Reporter

The makeup of the Arizona State football team that will face Oregon this weekend is similar to many Sun Devil rosters in the last five years; they score a lot of points, but give up even more.



PLUMMER

Scoring has not been a problem for Arizona State this season as the Sun Devils' offense is averaging over 28 points per game. Led by junior quarterback Jake Plummer and his 127.4 quarterback rating, Arizona State, coming off a bye week, has amassed 2,780 yards — 386.9 per game.

Arizona State head coach Bruce Snyder's main concern is the Sun Devil Defense, a unit that gives up more than 420 yards and 31.5 points per game.

"My thinking is that our team has plenty of confidence and will fill some holes on defense," he said. "We have to play four quarters of tough, physical football on our side of the ball to beat this Oregon team."

Snyder has fewer concerns on offense as Plummer leads one of the nation's most impressive passing attacks into Autzen Stadium. The 6-foot-2-inch signal

caller is coming off an awesome performance in a 29-21 victory over Brigham Young two weeks ago, in which he threw for 177 yards on 22 of 28 pass attempts. Snyder emphasized that four of Plummer's passes were dropped by Sun Devil receivers, keeping him from a near-flawless outing.

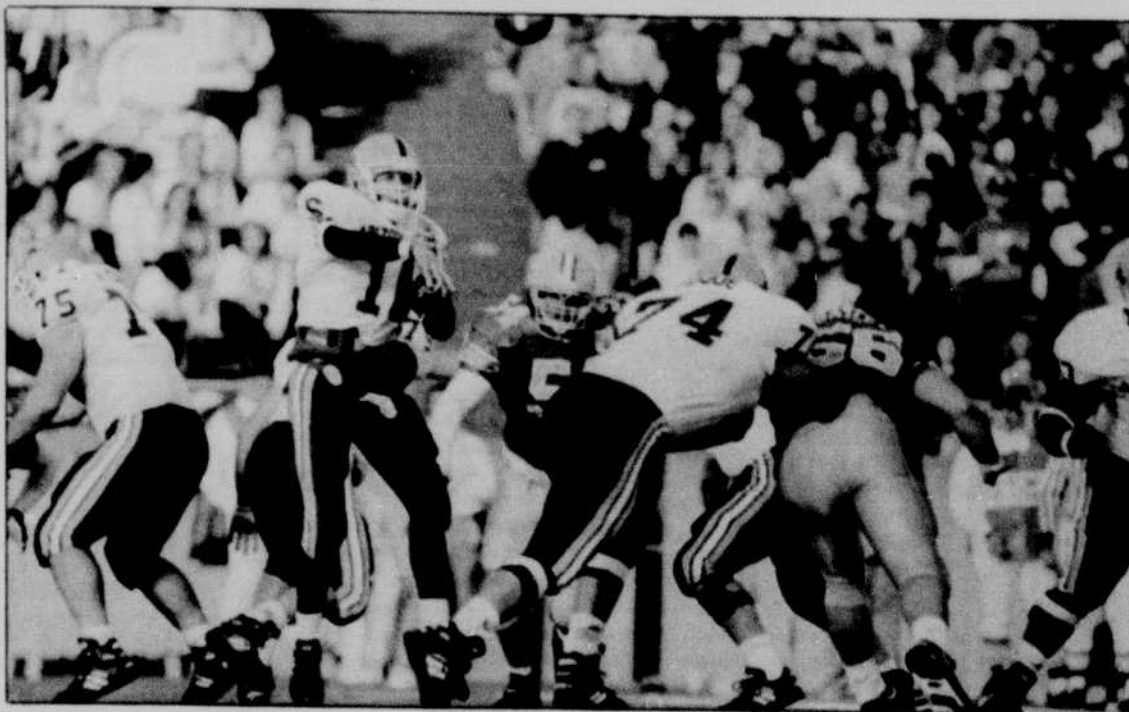
Plummer has been in a groove so far this year, throwing 11 touchdowns despite throwing 7 interceptions. He had a stretch this season where he threw 80 consecutive passes without a pick. His best output this season came against No. 2 ranked Nebraska when he hurled three touchdown passes and 273 yards.

"I was really impressed with Plummer," Nebraska head coach Tom Osborne said. "He has an excellent arm and good mobility that always will pose problems for opposing defenses."

Plummer's primary target this season has been junior standout Keith Poole. The 6-foot-2-inch, 180 pound burner at wide receiver is averaging 4.6 receptions a game at a 90.2 yard-per-game clip. Poole surpassed the 50-catch and 1,000-yard career receiving marks against BYU. The versatile receiver also has returned 18 punts for 98 yards this year. His best performance this season also came against Nebraska when he hauled in six passes for 200 yards.

Sophomore Isaiah Mustafa compliments Poole at the other wide-out spot. Mustafa is more of a long ball threat than Poole, but has fewer receptions. Rickie Boyer (13 receptions, 154 yards) and Lanzie Jackson (two receptions over 40 yards) round out the potent Sun Devil passing contingent.

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Arizona State quarterback Jake Plummer and his supporting cast are looking to avenge last year's loss to the Ducks when they come to face Oregon at Autzen Stadium tomorrow.

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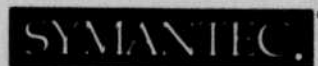
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