

sideline

TODAY IN SPORTS

Oregon travels north to play Pilots tonight

The Ducks will take a short road trip tonight to face Portland in their final non-conference game of the year.

The Pilots and the Ducks will face off for the second time this year, the last meeting brought Oregon its first McArthur Court victory in 1995 and gave rookie head coach Cathy Nook her first victory in front of the home crowd. The Ducks swept the Pilots 15-7, 16-14, 15-13.

Junior outside hitter Amy McNeel led the team with 11 kills, and sophomore outside hitter Shelby Edwards and redshirt freshman middle blocker Madeline Ernst each had 10 kills. Oregon led at the net with 21 team blocks.

For the Pilots, junior middle blocker Dawn Eudaly had 13 kills and freshman outside hitter Staci Asher had 12.

Portland has a record of 7-16 and the Ducks are only slightly better with a 7-19 overall record.

Ducks tied for second at Texas tournament

The Oregon women's golf team was in a three-way tie for second place following the first two rounds of play at the Lady Cardinal Invitational in Beaumont, Texas, Monday. The Ducks trailed only the Beavers, who shot a team score of 631 to finish the first day 15 strokes better than Oregon, Tulane and North Texas.

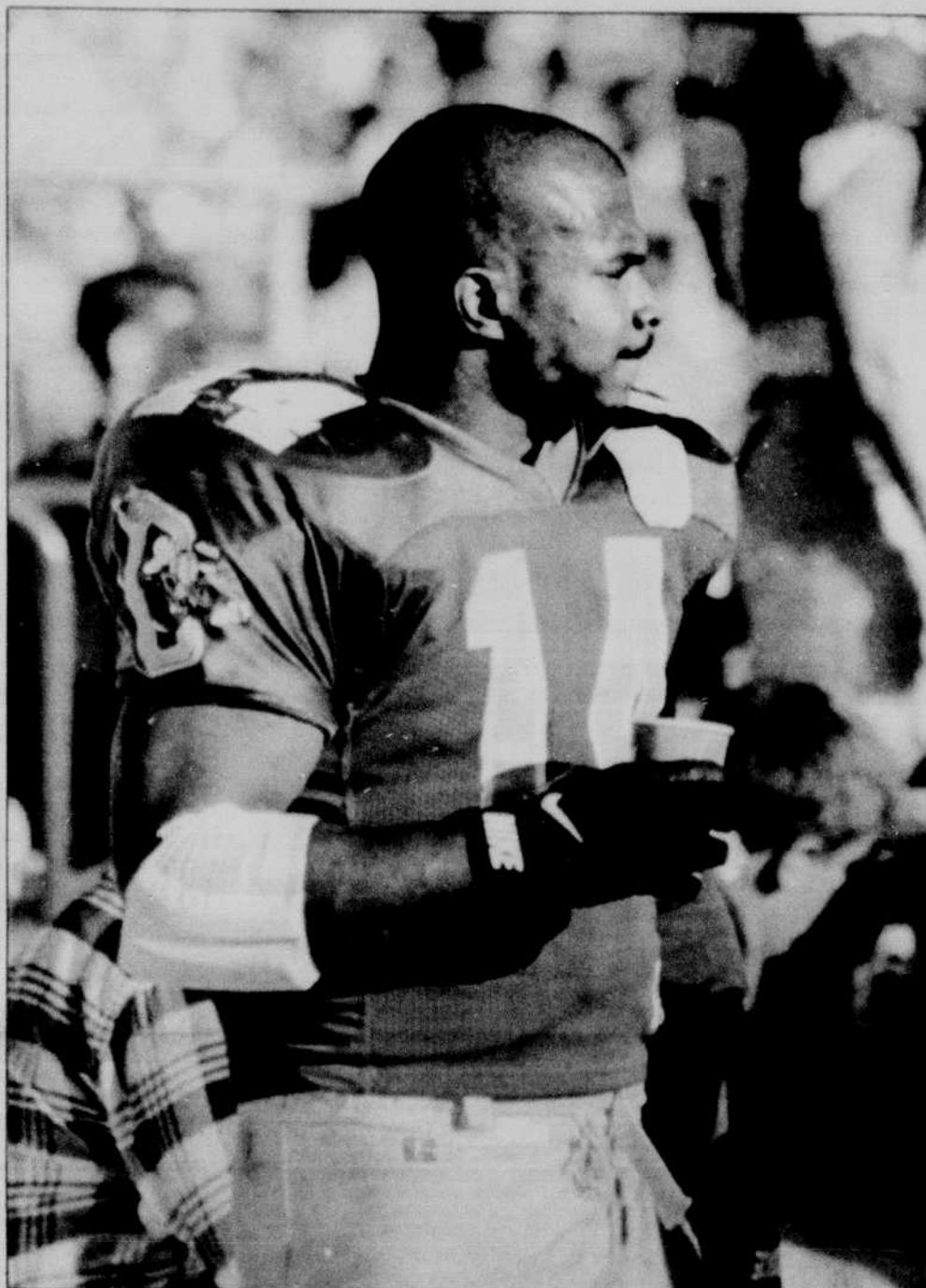
Oregon senior Christel Tomori was in a two-way tie for second among the individuals with a nine-over-par score of 153. Laura Rolf of North Texas led the 12-team field with a combined score of 152. Tomori had rounds of 77 and 76 to lead the Ducks.

Senior Susie Roh fired a 160 to place 14th for Oregon. Play concludes today in the 54-hole tournament being played at the par 72, 6,093-yard Beaumont Country Club.

Hargrove rewarded contract extension

CLEVELAND (AP) — The Cleveland Indians have exercised the 1997 option on the contract of manager Mike Hargrove, who led the team to its first World Series appearance since 1954.

"Mike has done an outstanding job in taking this club to the next level," general manager John Hart said in announcing the move Monday. "Mike has done so much for this organization over the years and he is very deserving of this."



Oregon tailback Ricky Whittle, who was held to 57 yards rushing last Saturday, watches from the sidelines as the Ducks defense failed to hold Arizona State on its final scoring drive.

Miracles can happen, just have faith

You know, sometimes things just don't go the way you want them to. And when they don't, it either pisses you off or just leaves you in a stupor. Well, last weekend took hold of my emotions and incorporated both sides. Obviously, I'm talking about the Ducks' loss last weekend to the visiting Sun Devils — the supposed 12-point underdogs.

Usually I'm the type of person that doesn't give up hope until the final whistle of the game, signifying the end of the blow. But this time I had lost all hope of a Ducks' comeback when Arizona State's Michael Martin carried the ball in for the game's final score — running toward me as I stood at the back of the end zone shooting photos — making it 35-24.

Within those few seconds it took Martin to cross the goal line, all the hopes that I had for this season's team fell from my head to the tips of my toes — as it did with all of the fans watching on at Autzen Stadium. I felt sick, sad, upset and drained because of what happened, not knowing what to do or what to ask the players during the post game interview session.

I was sure that these guys would be frustrated and angered with the outcome of the game and be in no mood to be bombarded with questions from myself and the rest of the media. But when it was time to talk to the players and coaches, they took all of the questions in stride. They gave no sorrowful answers, but instead replied with words of confidence that the season would go on.

"Where do you see the Ducks going from here?"

"I think we just have to correct our mistakes and go out there and win our next three games

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Mark McTyre

Bears end eight-game Monday night losing skid

■ **NFL:** Chicago's 14-6 win over Minnesota gives them their first win on Monday night since 1991

MINNEAPOLIS (AP) — The Chicago Bears finally won again on a Monday night, and they might have doomed the Minnesota Vikings' playoff hopes in the process.

Erik Kramer threw two touchdown passes, including a stunning 48-yarder to Curtis Conway with 25 seconds left in the first half, as Chicago beat the Vikings 14-6 to end its NFL-worst eight-game losing streak on Monday nights.

The rare prime-time victory, sealed when Minnesota's Qadry Ismail fumbled at the Chicago 24 with 1:32 to play, gave the Bears (6-2) a one-game lead over Green Bay in the NFC Central entering the second half of the season. It also was Chicago's fourth consecutive win, and its first sweep over Minnesota since 1991.

It left the Vikings (3-5) needing a remarkable turnaround to make Dennis Green only the fourth coach to take his team to the playoffs each of his first four seasons.

Minnesota probably needs a 6-

MONDAY NIGHT FOOTBALL	
Chicago	14
Minnesota	6

2 finish to have a chance, and its schedule includes Green Bay, Detroit, Cleveland and San Francisco.

The Bears entered the game with a 12-26 record in the 26-year history of Monday night football, and they hadn't won in the showcase game since a victory at the Metrodome on Nov. 11, 1991. Before a 27-24 loss to Green Bay on Sept. 11, they had lost their previous seven Monday night games by nearly 20 points a game.

Even with running back Robert Smith out with an injured ankle, Minnesota controlled the clock throughout, riding quarterback Warren Moon's accurate short passing on long drives that kept Kramer and the NFC's highest-scoring offense on the sidelines much of the night.

Moon finished 28 of 42 for 252

yards, and the Vikings had a four-minute edge in possession.

But Chicago sacked Moon four times, and the Vikings, who lost their third straight game, consistently stalled when they got in scoring position and managed only two Fuad Reveiz field goals.

Kramer completed 18 of 25 passes for 231 yards, and was exceptional when he got his chances.

He was 5 of 5 for 73 yards on Chicago's first scoring drive, which ended in Kramer's 4-yard pass to defensive end Jim Flanigan, a backfield substitute in goal-line situations. That gave Chicago a 7-3 lead, and 1:58 later Kramer lofted a scoring pass to Conway, who got behind Alfred Jackson for his ninth touchdown catch of the season.

The Vikings managed only the second of Reveiz's kicks and never threatened until the Bears made their only mistake in the final minutes.

The Bears got a break when Dewayne Washington was called for roughing the kicker when Kevin Butler missed a 38-yard field goal attempt with 2:23 to play, but Rashaan Salaam fumbled on the next play and Dumberrick Thomas recovered at the

Minnesota 13 with 2:17 remaining.

The final drive was delayed when a fan ran onto the field, and it ended when Ismail was hit by Marty Carter, and Albert Fontenot recovered.

The Vikings set the tone with their first drive of the game, taking 7:38 off the clock. But that drive ended at the Chicago 34 when Moon missed Jake Reed on fourth-and-1. On their next possession, Moon was 6 of 6 for 75 yards as the Vikings moved to a first down at the Bears 7. But the Bears forced Minnesota to settle for Reveiz's first field goal, and Kramer then got the Chicago offense going.

A 36-yard pass to Michael Timpon set up his touchdown pass Flanigan with 2:23 left in the half. Flanigan, a second-year defensive tackle, also caught a touchdown pass in the Bears' Sept. 11 Monday night loss to Green Bay.

Flanigan then sacked Moon on the first play of Minnesota's next drive, helping force a punt. Kramer moved the Bears to the Vikings 48 before Conway beat that gave Chicago a 14-3 lead 25 seconds before halftime.