



The playability of Oregon tailback Ricky Whittle, who has been the backbone of the Ducks' rushing attack, is uncertain for this weekend's game against Washington in Seattle. MARK McTYRE/Emerald

Huard and Huskies seeking revenge for last year's loss

■ **FOOTBALL:** Ducks get two defensive starters back for bowl-berth run

By Mark McTyre
Assistant Sports Editor

The heated Oregon-Washington football rivalry continues this weekend in Seattle, with Rose Bowl and season implications on the line for both teams.

The Ducks (6-2 overall, 3-2 Pacific-10 Conference) are in dire need of a win over the Huskies (5-2-1, 4-0-1) to stay in mathematical contention for a second consecutive invitation to Pasadena. Washington needs a victory to hold stride with Southern California atop the Pac-10.

However, in this series, unlike most others, a win is almost more important in terms of brag-

ging rights. The Huskies have firm control of the overall record by winning 17 of the last 21 games. The team increased their margin over the Ducks to 54-29-5 entering the 79th meeting, but Oregon holds the victory to the teams' last contest.

In last year's Oregon victory, quarterback Danny O'Neil led the Ducks 98 yards for the go-ahead touchdown in the fourth quarter, and then cornerback Kenny Wheaton capped the game off with a 97-yard interception return of a Huard errant pass for another touchdown.

"You know, it obviously left a scar on me," Huard said, "but you move on with life. I think if we can go out there and win this year's game, at least part of the memory will be erased."

Entering the game, the Ducks,

who have been plagued by injuries week in and week out this year, will see the return of the much-needed services of defensive lineman Troy Bailey. Bailey has been sidelined since the Stanford game with a leg injury.

"Just having Troy with us is a positive thing," Oregon Head Coach Mike Bellotti said. "Not just from his impact on the field but as a leader. I'm excited for three reasons: (1) for him, (2) because of him being an emotional leader, and (3) just because we need a defensive lineman."

Another notable player to return this weekend will be Wheaton, who didn't see action in the Ducks' loss to Arizona State because of a needed surgery to repair a torn tendon. The sophomore will be playing

"We're pretty fired about this game. It's an opportunity to make up for last year."

— **Damon Huard**
Washington quarterback

with a streamline cast for protection, but he is not likely to have much freedom for his fingers.

Kicker Matt Belden, whose been out since the first game of the year, will not be making a return to the field against the Huskies because his leg injury continues to bother him. Bellotti said that Oregon may seek a medical redshirt for Belden and that he feels confident in the personnel they have kicking the

ball right now.

"At this point, I think we'll be leaning toward getting a medical redshirt for him," Bellotti said. "The trainers, doctors and Matt really aren't sure if he can come back this season."

"Overall, I've been pleased with the performance of all of them [Josh Bidwell, Joshua Smith and Matt Brewer]. I think Josh Smith has been the surprise because he was a walk-on kicker. I feel that in a game-winning situation he could hit one from 52 yards if needed."

While the status of Bailey, Wheaton and Belden is known, it is unknown to what degree tailback Ricky Whittle will be used. At this point, the only news on him is that he will be playing with bruised ribs and a tender ankle.

Oregon's Das Neves is flying again

■ **CROSS COUNTRY:** Daniel Das Neves is back and running well for the team

By Chris Stewart
Sports Reporter

When coaches list qualities of the kind of people they like to have on their team, there are some important traits that always get mentioned: someone who is hard working and coachable, someone who responds well to adversity and someone who is willing to set personal goals aside to better the team. Daniel Das Neves of the men's cross country team is all of that.

A native Brazilian, Das Neves became a Duck in 1989. And his reason for choosing Oregon was fairly simple.

"The first school I ever visited in the USA was the U of O and I loved it," Das Neves said.

After battling through a stress fracture in his right foot, Das Neves was ready to go for this cross country season. But as the cold weather came, so did asthma.

Because of the injury and the asthma Das Neves hadn't been able to go all out and run his best in the Ducks' two meets during the season. So he got some medication for his asthma and began to increase the intensity of his workouts in hopes of doing well at the Pacific-10 Conference meet last weekend.

"During workouts I was feeling good," Das Neves said. "Going down to the Pac-10's I was in such good shape and I was hoping the weather was going to be warmer."

The weather was better and so were the results for Das Neves. He finished 12th in the meet to help the Ducks upset third-

ranked Stanford and capture the Pac-10 Championship.

Das Neves said he felt good about his health and his chances for success at the District VIII meet coming up Nov. 11. He noted his confidence in his teammates and said that he hopes to run in the lead pack with junior Karl Keska and sophomore Matt Davis, who finished first and fourth, respectively, at the Pac-10 meet.

"If everything goes right I should be up there," Das Neves said.

With the various problems Das Neves has had, he has been forced to change his style of running from an all-out effort through the whole race to a more conservative approach.

"Usually I just go out hard and keep going hard until the race is over, but I'm having to



Daniel Das Neves of the men's cross country team is peaking at the right time after recovering from a stress fracture in his right foot. ANDREW BRACKENSICK/Emerald

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