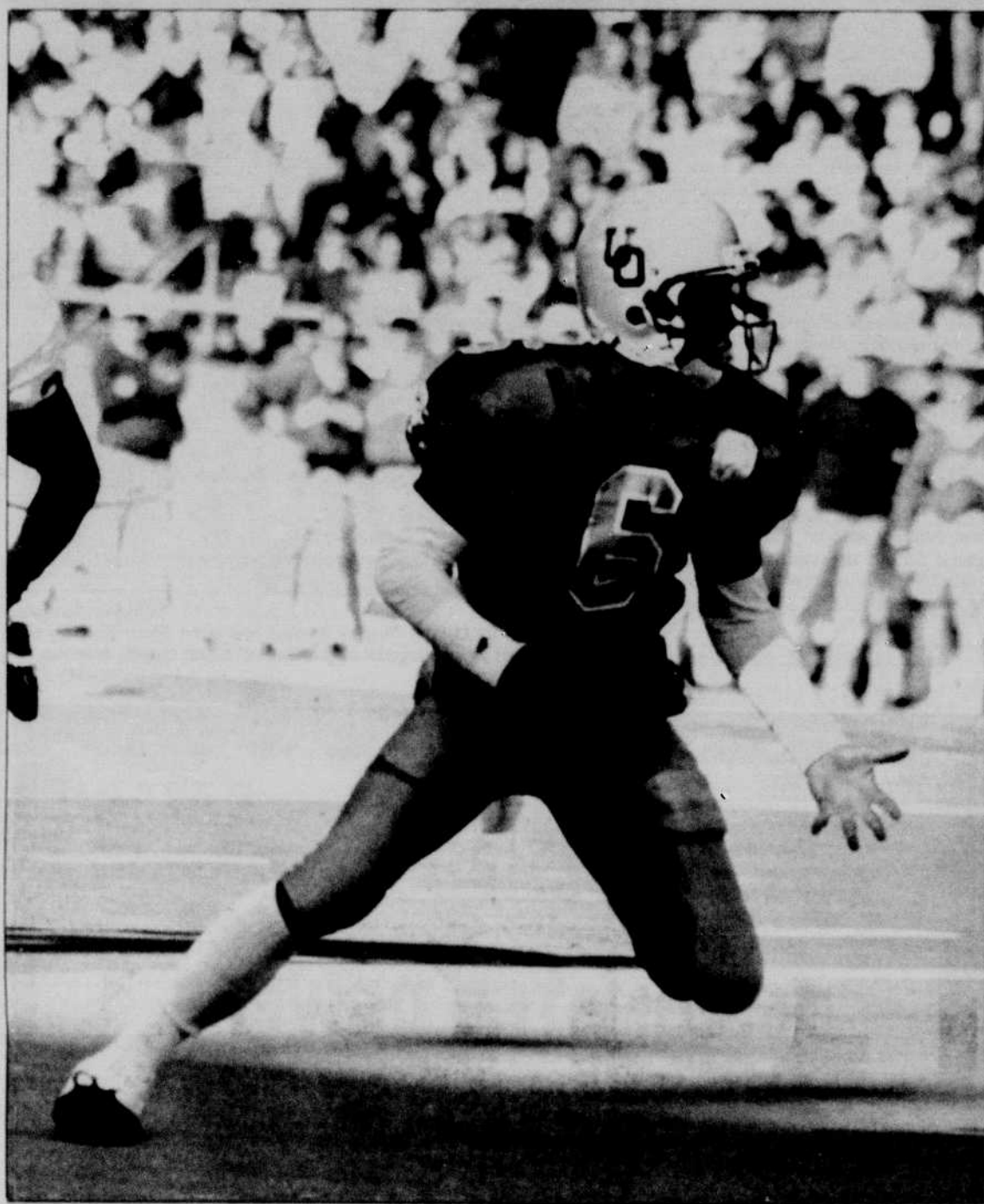


CIVIL WAR

OREGON VS OREGON STATE

Civil War sets stage for McLemore to show off dramatics



MARK MCTYRE/Emerald

In his four years at Oregon, senior flanker Cristin McLemore has provided Oregon football fans with spectacular catches and provided the Ducks with clutch performances.

■ **McLEMORE:** The senior has recorded many memorable games in colorful fashion in his career at Oregon

By Trevor Kearney
Sports Editor

After four unprecedented years as a member of the Oregon football team, senior flanker Cristin McLemore knows pressure situations as well as anyone. Been there.

And after wowing fans with one-handed, leaping catches time and time again in those four years, he has also developed a certain flare for the dramatics. Done that.

But what McLemore hasn't done is stop there.

As McLemore nears the end of what is arguably the best career of any Oregon wide receiver, he owns the Oregon career records for pass receptions, yards receiving and touchdown receptions with 152 total catches, 2410 yards receiving and 24 touchdowns. He ranks 14th on the all-time Pacific-10 Conference list in catches and has caught 50 or more passes in two seasons, his sophomore and senior years.

"I have been a very fortunate person," McLemore said. "I was put into a situation where I had the opportunity as a young player to make my mark and I did. I consider it my job. I don't see it as being special."

All the records aside, however, and McLemore has been one of the driving forces in the emergence of the Oregon football program.

"The records are very nice, they are very appreciative," McLemore said. "But at the same token, I can look at these records and say that I achieved these while we were on the uprise. And that was the biggest key because I don't think it would have been as enjoyable for me as a person to

establish all those records and then be a team that was 1-9 every year, or a team that was 3-8. We have been very productive the last two years."

That productivity — not to mention McLemore's value to the team — was never more evident than last year's Civil War.

With a win, the Ducks would clinch the Pac-10 Championship outright. But on that cold, brisk November day,

McLemore went down with a wrist injury that threatened his availability and jeopardized the Ducks' chances at earning a trip to the Rose Bowl.

"Last year's game was about as cold as I possibly ever remember it being in my life," McLemore recalled. "And at the same time, here I am looking at my hand and it looks like it is completely broken. When I looked at my hand — [the trainers] thought I had really broken my whole hand because it had swollen up so much. It was so big."

McLemore was faced with a decision of having to either play in pain and risk injury or sit on the sidelines and watch his team claw for a victory. In true McLemore fashion, he chose the first option.

"At that point I was just hoping that it would be OK for any future things," he said. I wasn't even thinking about the game, and then it got to the point when they said it wasn't broken in their X-Ray room.

"Something inside of me was just like 'Go play! It ain't going to bother you!' I was like 'Well, tape



McLEMORE

Turn to **McLEMORE**, Page 13B

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