

Oregon Football

Ready for Redemption

Oregon quarterback Tony Graziani says he wants to wipe away memories of last year's Cotton Bowl defeat by leading the Ducks to the Rose Bowl and a National Championship

By Ryan Frank
Freelance Reporter

Quarterback Tony Graziani spent New Year's day 1996 watching his dream of a bowl game victory get trampled by the Colorado Buffaloes.



GRAZIANI

CAREER STATS

- **YEAR:** Senior
- **GAMES PLAYED:** 22
- **PASSING:** 270/489 (.552)
- **YARDS:** 3,145
- **PER COMPLETION:** 11.6 yards
- **LONGEST:** 71 yards
- **TDS:** 17
- **INTERCEPTIONS:** 16

Now it's pay back time.

Graziani returns for his senior year, and second as a starter, to a team that just might have something to prove after a 38-6 loss to the Buffaloes in the Cotton Bowl.

"I've kind of put it behind me, but it leaves a sour taste in my mouth," Graziani said of the bowl game. "I want to get back to a New Year's day bowl and the Rose Bowl."

Getting back to the Rose Bowl could be a challenge, however. Oregon lost 12 players to graduation in 1995 — including two of Graziani's most potent offensive weapons, wide receiver Cristin McLemore and running back Ricky Whittle.

But don't tell the Oregon quarterback that.

"It is not going to be difficult to repeat," he said. "At Oregon we don't rebuild, we reload."

With a recruiting class stocked with blue chip athletes and a slew of redshirt freshman, Graziani doesn't feel he should be worried.

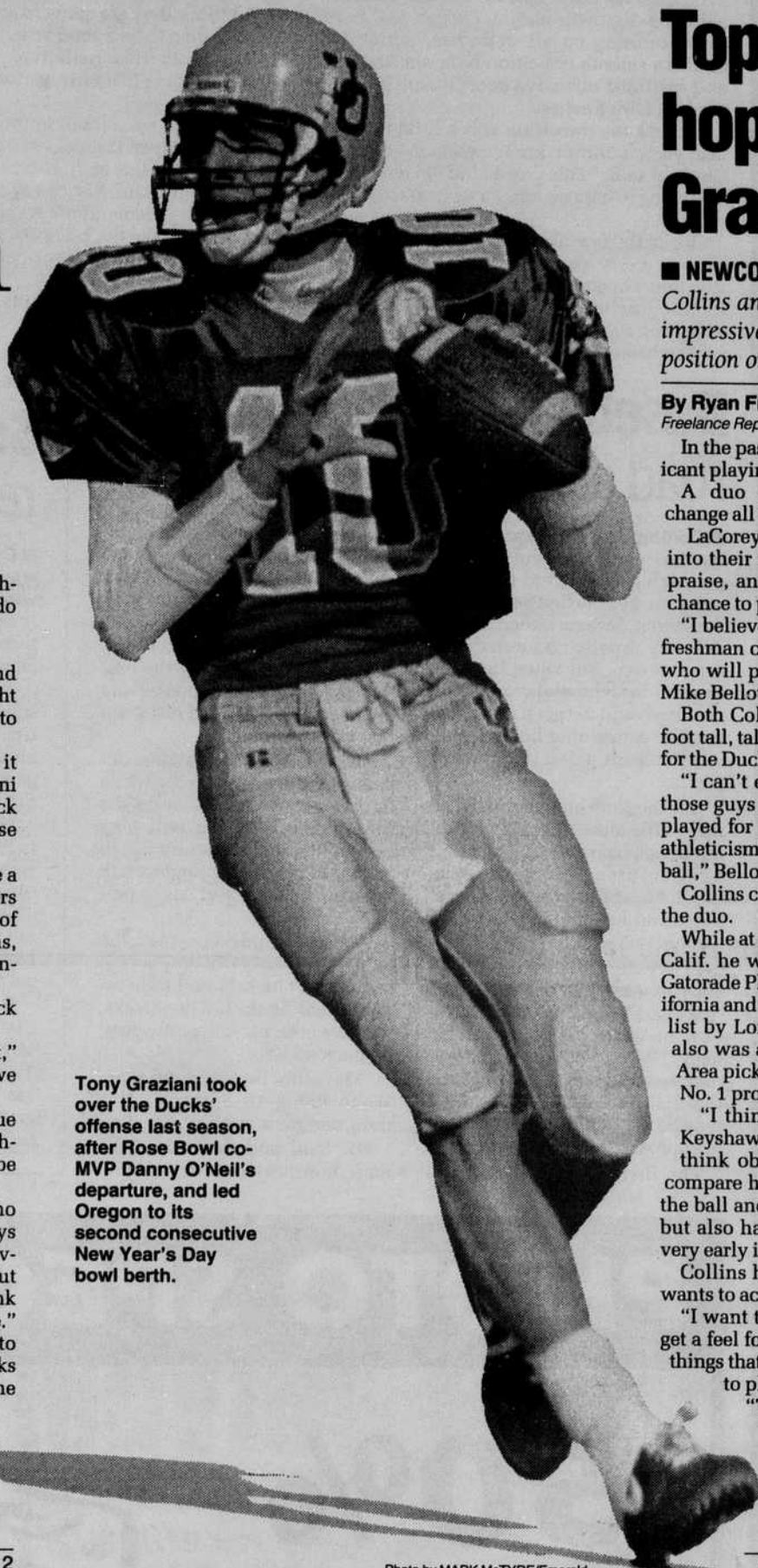
"I think we have some young guys who are going to have to play, but these guys have so much talent that it's just unbelievable," he said. "I'm not too nervous about who's going to play and who's not. I think whoever plays is going to get the job done."

Getting the job done is nothing new to Graziani. As a sophomore he led the Ducks — who were on their way to a trip to the

Rose Bowl — to a win at Southern Cal and as a junior he finished eighth in the nation in total offense.

But to him, there is more to accomplish in a Duck uniform than records and statistics.

Turn to **GRAZIANI**, Page 12



Tony Graziani took over the Ducks' offense last season, after Rose Bowl co-MVP Danny O'Neil's departure, and led Oregon to its second consecutive New Year's Day bowl berth.

Photo by MARK McTYRE/Emerald

Top recruits hope to be Graz's target

■ **NEWCOMERS:** Freshmen LaCorey Collins and Tony Hartley have been impressive; looking for a starting position on Oregon roster

By Ryan Frank
Freelance Reporter

In the past, freshmen have not seen significant playing time at Oregon.

A duo of decorated receivers could change all that.

LaCorey Collins and Tony Hartley come into their freshman season flowered with praise, and they will most likely have a chance to prove themselves early.

"I believe that probably in the incoming freshman class, there will be 5 or 6 players who will play football for us," head coach Mike Bellotti said.

Both Collins and Hartley are at least 6-foot tall, taller than any receiver that played for the Ducks last season.

"I can't emphasize enough the fact that those guys are taller than any receiver that played for us last year. But they also bring athleticism and the ability to catch the football," Bellotti said.

Collins comes in as the more decorated of the duo.

While at Skyline High School in Oakland, Calif. he was a Parade All-American, the Gatorade Player of the Year in Northern California and a member of the Best in the West list by Long Beach Press - Telegram. He also was an all-city, all-state and all-Bay Area pick, including being selected as the No. 1 prospect in the East Bay region.

"I think he has the potential to be a Keyshawn Johnson type," Bellotti said. "I think obviously that is a big name to compare him to, but he runs well, catches the ball and is tough. He has a lot to learn, but also has the skills to step in and play very early in his career."

Collins has already figured out what he wants to accomplish in his first season.

"I want to come out and be able to play, get a feel for the game," he said. "If I do the things that I know I can do, I should be able to play."

"Then during the time I play, I want to become the Pac-10 Freshman of the Year. If I don't reach that goal, so be it. But that is the goal right now."

In addition to his offensive

Turn to **NEWCOMERS**, Page 13

Oregon soccer readies for inaugural opener

■ **SOCCER:** First-year head coach Bill Steffen believes Oregon's future in the sport looks bright

By Ryan Frank
Freelance Reporter

Bill Steffen came to Oregon in February to head the new women's soccer program, in less than two weeks his seven-month wait will be over.

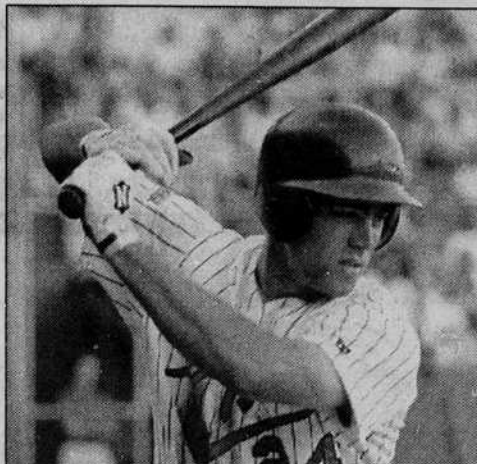
The Ducks will open their inaugural season at home against UC-Irvine on Sept. 3, in what will prove to be a good test for Oregon.

"We start off with UC-Irvine, a very respectable program, which is good," Steffen said. "Let's gauge ourselves, let's find out where we stand, and that will be a good test for us."

Steffen and his 34 team members will

Turn to **SOCCER**, Page 12

Ems hold lead; taking one game at a time



The Ems' Brian Rust was red-hot during the team's run to the top of the South Division.

By Chris Hansen
Freelance Reporter

The coaching philosophy of Eugene Emerald's manager Jim Saul has remained the same through out the season — take it one game at a time.

A simple enough approach, but one that could be very ineffective if preached to an easily deterred group of players.

But in the case of the Emeralds, Saul's philosophy struck a cord early and during last weekend's series-sweep of the Southern Oregon Timberjacks in Medford, the Ems took over sole possession of first place in the Northwest League's South Division.

The rise to the top is a showing of

Turn to **BASEBALL**, Page 12

■ **BASEBALL:**

The Eugene Emeralds took the helm of first place, but now must defend it for the remainder of the season

