

Soft-Spoken Leader

In his senior season, Reggie Jordan is dealing with being one of the few experienced players on the Ducks' defense

By Chris Hansen
Sports Reporter

Reggie Jordan is two-faced. Normally, that isn't something you would want to say to a man who stands 6-foot-3, weighs a muscular 262-pounds and spends his Saturday afternoons trying to knock peoples' heads off.

But in the case of Jordan, his Dr. Jekyll is more prominent than his Mr. Hyde.

In person, Jordan, a starting outside linebacker for the Ducks, is mild-mannered and so soft spoken that at times it is a strain just to here him talk.



JORDAN

Until he gets on the football field, that is. "Reggie is one of those guys who is kind of quiet," fellow outside linebacker Derrick Barnes said. "Then occasionally he'll get fired up and you're like, 'Whoa, where is this coming from?'"

Jordan said it comes from a sense of survival.

"When you're out on the field you have to look at it like 'This guy wants to knock you out,'" he said. "And I go against a lot of big guys who like to talk a lot of trash. That just gets me fired up, and I want to hit somebody."

And when he gets fired up, Jordan makes plays. He is first on the team and in the Pacific-10 Conference in tackles for a loss with 14. His three sacks on the year give him a career total of 17, fourth on Oregon's all-time list.

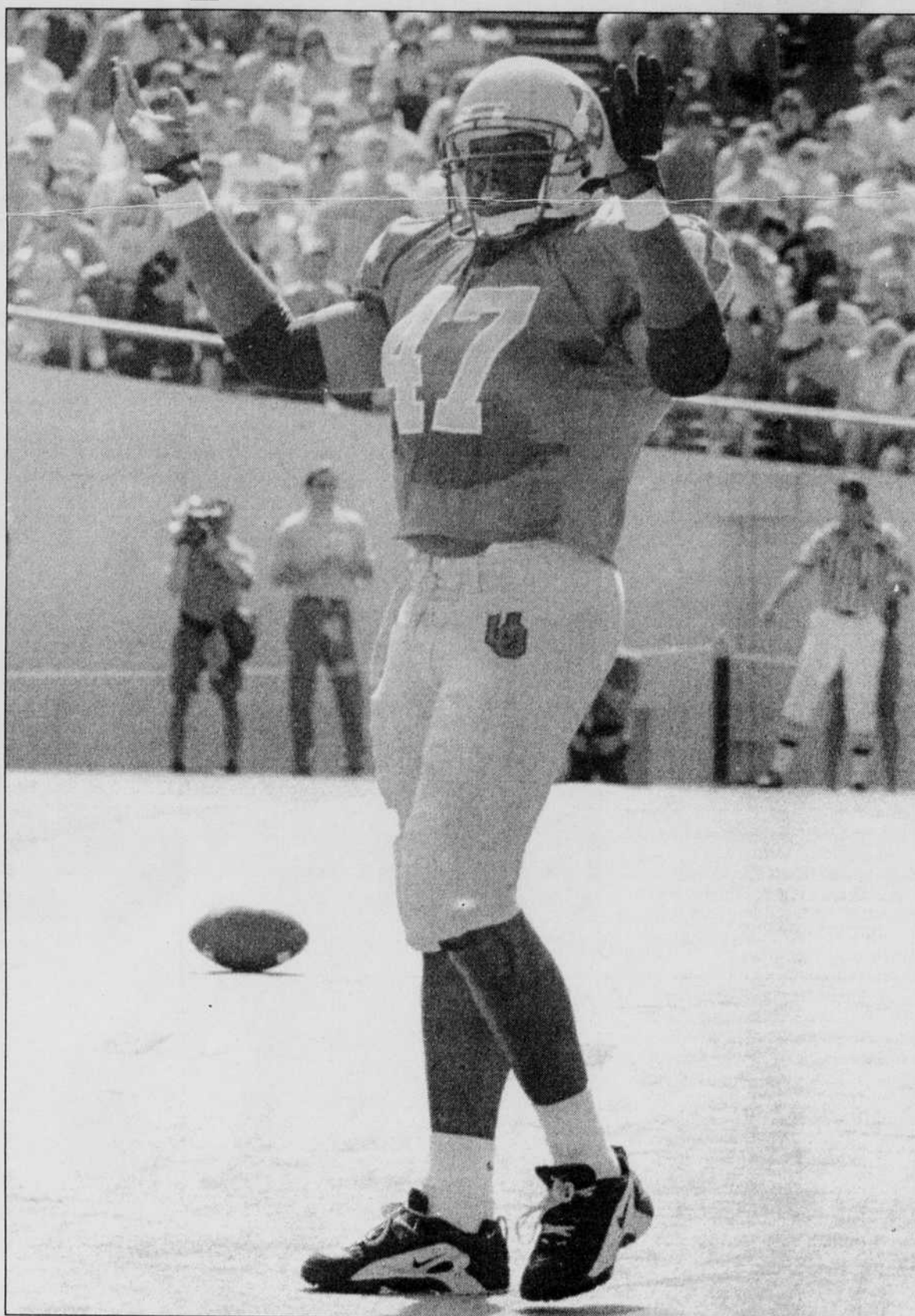
"He just gets things done," Barnes said. "He is someone that we come to count on when we really need something. He is a tremendous player."

Oregon head coach Mike Bellotti agreed. "Reggie is a big-play guy," he said. "He has a lot of athletic ability and potential, and he is utilizing more and more of that everyday in my opinion."

"When he is playing up to his level," Barnes added, "there is nothing he can't do out there."

If there has ever been a time when the Ducks need Jordan's play making ability, it is now. While Oregon has suffered through three-consecutive Pac-10 losses, Jordan has

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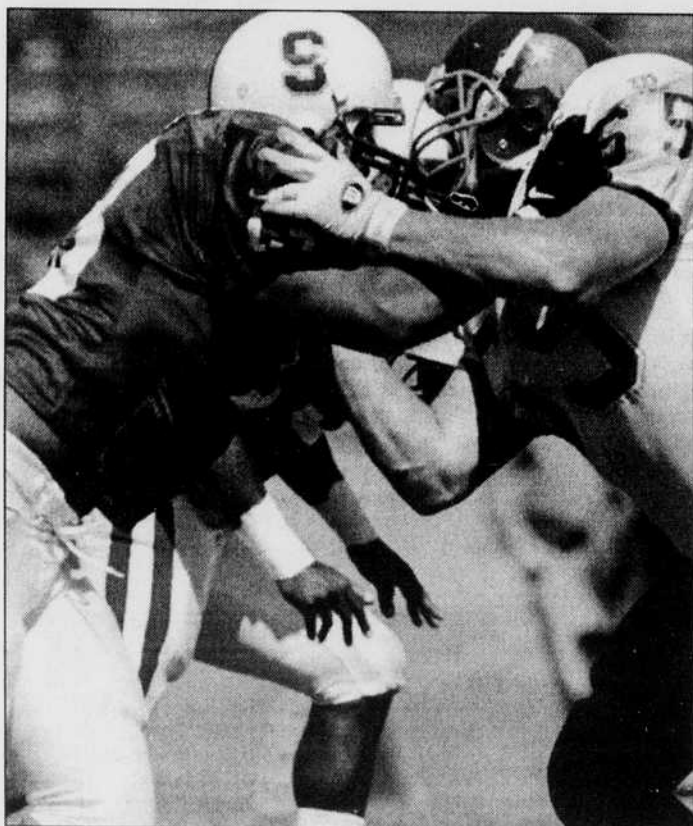


ANDREW BRACKENSICK/Emerald

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— Reggie Jordan
UO outside linebacker

Outside linebacker Reggie Jordan stands as an imposing force to opposing teams. But on his own team, Jordan's mild manner and emotional play makes him an easy leader and role model to a young defensive unit.



COURTESY PHOTO

Former North Eugene High School star Kailee Wong will have a little extra motivation this Saturday when his Stanford Cardinal line up against the team he grew up watching.

Ducks face former Eugene standout

■ STANFORD: Kailee Wong played for North Eugene High School before becoming a Cardinal

By Todd Bernstein
and Ryan Frank
The Stanford Daily
and the Oregon Daily Emerald

Two years ago, Cardinal defensive lineman Kailee Wong watched as his hometown team, the Oregon Ducks, marched into the Rose Bowl as the Pacific-10 Conference representative.

While it would have been easy for the North Eugene High School star to regret his decision to attend Stanford instead of Oregon, the 6-foot-3, 260-pound defensive end focused on the positives at Stanford and has blossomed into one of the premier defensive linemen in the Pac-10.

"You would definitely like to be on the team that is going to the Rose Bowl," Wong said. "I just had to take it in stride and look at the positives that were here for me."

Wong was recruited by Stanford as a linebacker, one of the positions he played in high school. While garnering many national defensive honors his senior year, Wong was also named the state Co-Offensive Player of the Year.

"He was a man among boys at the time," North Eugene head football coach Mike Jodin said. "He was a great player, he had a great attitude, worked hard and was probably one of the better athletes I have ever coached."

The problem Stanford faced was luring him away from the Ducks, who had been recruiting Wong early in

his high school career.

"I was recruited in my sophomore year, so it started pretty early for me," Wong said. "It wasn't that tough a decision, though. It's not like I didn't like Oregon. I just needed to get out of Oregon and experience something else."



WONG

Wong started seven games as a freshman, recording 23 tackles and one quarterback sack. Each year, Wong has improved and is now thought of as not only one of the most improved players in the conference, but one of the best.

"He is a good player, works real hard and hustles. Definitely one of the better ends in the Pac-10," Oregon offensive guard and South Eugene graduate Bob Baldwin said.

Last year, Wong added 39 total tackles and one sack. This season, he has taken his play to a higher level, amassing 24 tackles and five sacks in his first four games.

Cardinal head coach Tyrone Willingham is pleased with Wong's early season success. "We're very happy with the play of Kailee Wong and his emergence into an excellent defensive lineman," Willingham said. "He is one of the top 10 players in the conference in sacks and a really explosive-type player."

Wong thinks that confidence is something that has propelled him to the top ranks of the Pac-10.

"I just think I finally have more confidence in my abil-

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