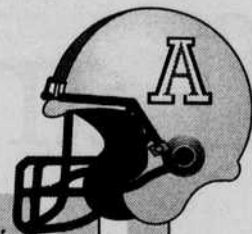




ducks vs. wildcats



# PAC-10 FOOTBALL

## ONE TO WATCH

TB Saladin McCullough is finally living out his dream of playing Div. I football

2B

## HOMECOMING WEEKEND

Mike Bellotti and Jerry Allen, among others, will take part in the festivities

6B

SPORTS EXTRA  
November 8, 1996

Oregon Daily  
**Emerald**

# Playing for Respect

The end of the season means very little and a whole lot at the same time for the Ducks

I have to admit that before I decided to come to Oregon to go to school, I never knew the school had a football team.

And then I came here and that first year, the Ducks went to the Rose Bowl. While I stood inside the Rose Bowl in Pasadena on January 2, 1995, I decided I made the right choice to come to Oregon.

The following year, I was giving myself a bigger pat on the back for being a Duck when the team went to the Cotton Bowl.

So what if we lost both bowl games? The seasons were still exciting ones.

But this season is a whole new story. When Arizona comes into town this weekend,

there is very little on the line.

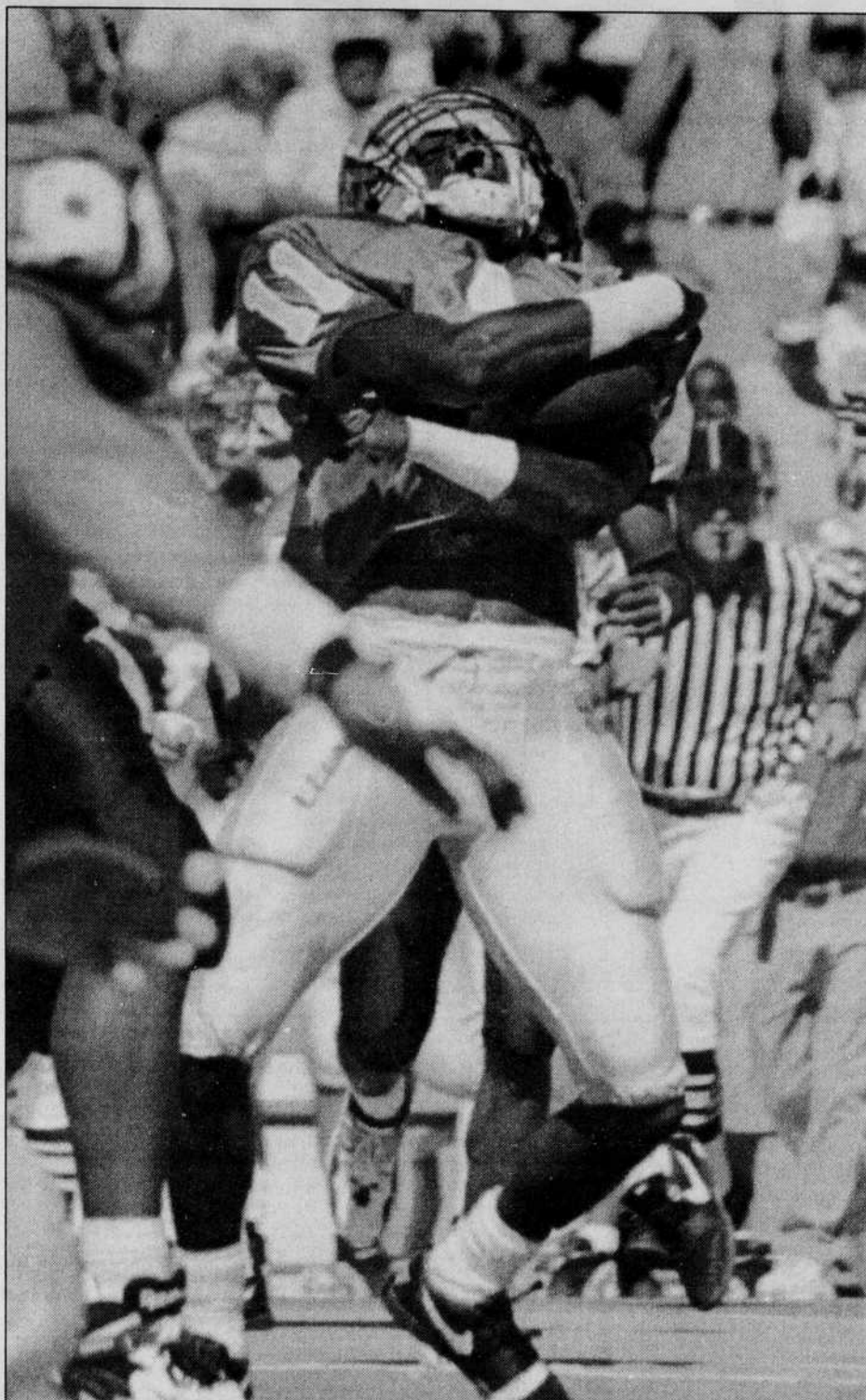
Respect, pride, a winning record — but little else. At least that's what some people believe.

Remember two seasons ago when the Ducks were 5-3 overall going into the game against the Wildcats? Oregon had just beat Washington at home and was riding an emotional wave. Gang Green was in prime form against Arizona, and the Ducks won 10-9 en route to a 9-4 season and a Rose Bowl bid.

Last season the game in Tucson was just as critical. Oregon had two losses in the Pacific-10 Conference and could ill afford another if it wanted to go to another New Year's Day bowl game. The Ducks came away from the game with a 17-13 victory and were flying to Dallas less than two months later.

And now? A bowl game is out of the question, a winning conference record is out of the question, an exciting game this weekend is out of the question. Or is it?

There are more than 40 Ducks who will hit the field this weekend and play like there is no tomorrow. These athletes have made it through spring drills, fall two-a-days and practices in the cold and rain of early evening throughout the season. They are not about to roll over and die because the record says their season is a loss.



MARK McTYRE/Emerald

Senior cornerback LaMont Woods celebrates an interception against Nevada during Oregon's three-game winning streak earlier this year. The Ducks, especially the seniors, hope to begin another winning streak that will continue throughout the rest of the season.

■ **GAME PREVIEW:** The Oregon football team has found ways to beat Arizona the past two years

By Ryan Halvorsen  
Sports Reporter

Being winless in the Pacific-10 Conference with three games remaining in the league schedule is something new to the Ducks of recent years. Still, it has been an impossible accomplishment for the Oregon football teams of the last 20 years to have three winning seasons in a row, and it will be a big accomplishment if the Ducks can pull it out this season.

After the Ducks' 33-14 loss to the Huskies two weeks ago, head coach Mike Bellotti guaranteed that his team

would win their last three games. No disrespect was meant toward their opponents, Bellotti said. His statement was more along the lines of motivation for the team.

"It was more a challenge, and I think the kids rallied to that," Bellotti said. "The main message is that we cannot make mistakes and help other people win. We've got to play good, hard football. If we do that and eliminate mistakes on our part then I believe that we can win every game we play."

This weekend, when the Ducks face Arizona, their hopes of a winning season will be on the line against a Wildcat team that is looking for revenge after the Ducks ended their hopes of getting to a bowl game last year in Tucson. Oregon has had Arizona's number for the past couple of years, beating the Wildcats at Autzen 10-9 in 1994 and then grabbing a 17-13 win last year. But, the two teams have very different looks this year, and this is especially evident in Oregon's defense. Bellotti hasn't seen his defensive team get much better as the season has progressed.

"I don't think that we are where we should be," Bellotti said. "I haven't seen a marked improvement yet. I think that we got better in practice last week in basic fundamental un-



**OREGON VS. ARIZONA**

- **KICKOFF:** 1 p.m. Autzen Stadium
- **TV:** None
- **RADIO:** KUGN 590 AM
- **REPLAY:** Fox Sports Northwest, Nov. 11, 7 p.m.

## OPINION



Andrea DeYoung

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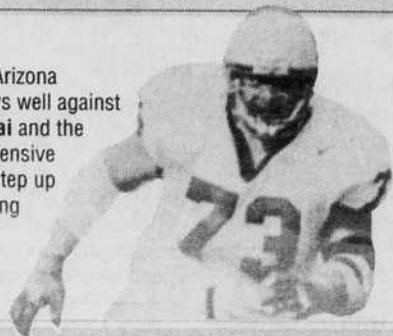
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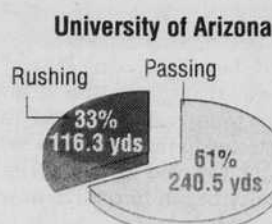
## THE STATS

### Key Player

Facing a blitz-happy Arizona defense that also plays well against the run, Tasi Malepeai and the rest of the Oregon offensive linemen will have to step up to the task of protecting the quarterback and opening holes for the running backs.



### YARDS ALLOWED PER GAME



### ASSOCIATED PRESS TOP 20

1. Florida	8-0	11. LSU	7-1
2. Ohio State	8-0	12. BYU	9-1
3. Florida State	7-0	13. Kansas State	7-1
4. Arizona State	9-0	14. Penn State	8-2
5. Nebraska	7-1	15. Virginia	6-2
6. Tennessee	6-1	16. Wyoming	9-0
7. Colorado	7-1	17. Notre Dame	5-2
8. North Carolina	7-1	18. Northwestern	7-2
9. Michigan	7-1	19. Washington	6-2
10. Alabama	7-1	20. Southern Miss.	8-1