

The Ducks' bowl hopes not yet dead

Oh what a difference a win makes. Just two weeks ago, the Oregon football team was down-and-out with no hopes of a third consecutive trip to the postseason. But after the

OPINION



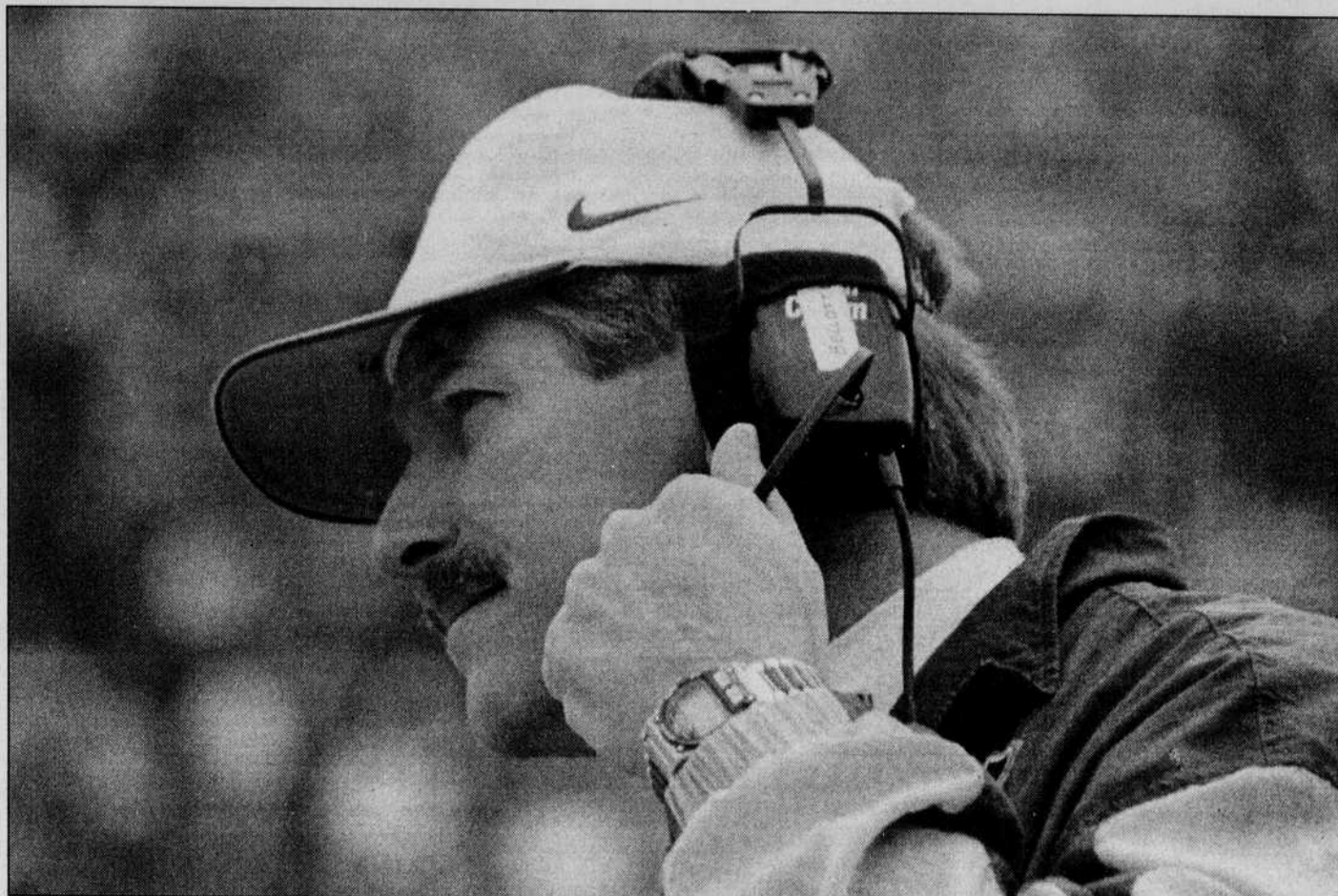
Chris Hansen

Ducks' trouncing of Arizona on Saturday, ending a five-game losing streak and getting their first win in the Pacific-10 Conference, there seems to be a sliver of light breaking through Oregon's cloudy bowl game picture.

Oregon must win its last two games to keep these slim hopes alive, but if it does so, the Ducks could possibly gain bids to either the Copper Bowl or the Independence Bowl.

"It is a longshot at best," Oregon Athletic Director Bill Moos admitted on Monday. "Not only is it contingent on us winning the next two games, but on a lot of things that we don't control."

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MATHEW STIFFLER/Emerald

According to team sources, head coach Mike Bellotti could guide his team to another bowl berth with two more wins.

Oregon keeps rolling in weekend sweep of hockey contests

HOCKEY: The Ducks squeak out two one-goal victories to sweep Western Washington and extend their unbeaten streak

By Alex Pond
Freelance Sports Reporter

Ezra Louthis scored with just a little more than a minute gone in overtime Friday night to give the Oregon Club hockey team a 5-4 victory against Western Washington, the first of two victories for the Ducks this weekend as they improved their season record to 7-1-1.

Brendan Malia found Louthis open in front of the net with 3 minutes, 56 seconds remaining in the extra session, who then slipped the puck past Western Washington goaltender Darin Dishneau for his second goal of the game as a pumped up crowd at Lane County Ice roared its approval.

While the Ducks finished the game in a frenzy, they sure didn't start that way.

Despite outshooting Western Washington 14-4 in the first period, they were rather sluggish and appeared unmotivated as Western Washington outhit and outhustled them early on. Just nine seconds into the second period, Oregon found itself down 2-0 and in danger of being blown away.

The Ducks definitely wouldn't let that happen, though. Perhaps with a feeling of desperation setting in, the team suddenly came to life.

Louthis scored Oregon's first goal of the game on a power play with 10:33 remaining in the second period. About a minute later, Chris Gieb rebounded a missed shot and slapped the puck past the West-

ern Washington goalie to even the score at 2.

Western Washington didn't like the sound of a tied game, though, as Cory Clacks beat Oregon goalie Stuart Robertson for the score with 8:51 remaining to give them the lead again at 3-2.

Oregon then scored two goals in a row to take its first lead, 4-3, with 3:31 remaining.

A Western Washington goal with 2:25 to go tied the game at 4, which is where the wild period ended.

The third period was a defensive struggle that lacked scoring but not excitement. There were a number of big hits and oh-so-close shots on goal that featured some great goaltending by both sides. Nonetheless, the game went to overtime tied at 4,

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