

Young leads 49ers to 34-10 over last-place Falcons

■ **NFL:** Atlanta lost its eighth consecutive Monday night game

By Paul Newberry
The Associated Press

ATLANTA — Steve Young is doing just fine, thank you.

The San Francisco quarterback, healthy for the second week in a row, ran for two touchdowns, threw for another and piled up 255 yards passing in less than three quarters as the 49ers rolled over the Atlanta Falcons 34-10 Monday night.

Young, who has missed all or parts of eight games because of two concussions and a troublesome groin strain, showed the effects of neither as he ran fearlessly through the Falcons to give San Francisco a 25-3 lead at halftime.

After Young connected on five straight passes for 62 yards on the 49ers' first possession of the second half, capped off by a 10-yard touchdown throw to Terry Kirby that made it 32-3, Elvis Grbac took over at quarterback.

Young completed 23-of-30 passes, including eight to Jerry Rice in the first half. Kirby had the first 100-yard rushing game for the 49ers in nearly two years, carrying 12 times for 105 yards.

Jeff Wilkins kicked four first-half field goals, the last coming on the final play of the first half, and the Falcons walked off the field to loud boos from Georgia Dome crowd.

San Francisco (10-3) remained a game ahead of

Carolina in the NFC West heading into next Sunday's showdown against the Panthers. The 49ers are tied with Green Bay for the best record in the conference, though the Packers have the tie-breaker advantage by virtue of an early-season victory.

The 49ers scored on all six of their first-half possessions, running up and down the field for 342 yards. San Francisco averaged a staggering 7.4 yards per play before the break.

The 49ers have beaten the Falcons in eight of their last 10 meetings by an average score of 43-13. Atlanta has lost eight consecutive Monday night

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Beavers need to learn to be gracious losers

Give it up, Beaver fans. That's all there is left to do now. In no attempt to beat the poor, poor Oregon State fans into the ground any more than they have been in the last couple of years, or should I say decades, I have only one solution to offer to the loyal order of Beaver Believers. Live with it! Quit being such sore losers and take your bumps with your bruises. Accept the bad times along with the really bad times because it might not get any better than it is right now.

OPINION



Ryan Halvorsen

On the eve of the Civil War game a few of us brave Emerald sports staffers, including Ryan Frank, Mark McTyre and myself, ventured to Corvallis to distribute our propaganda that we so painstakingly put together to poke fun at the Oregon State football team, their coach, Jerry Petti-

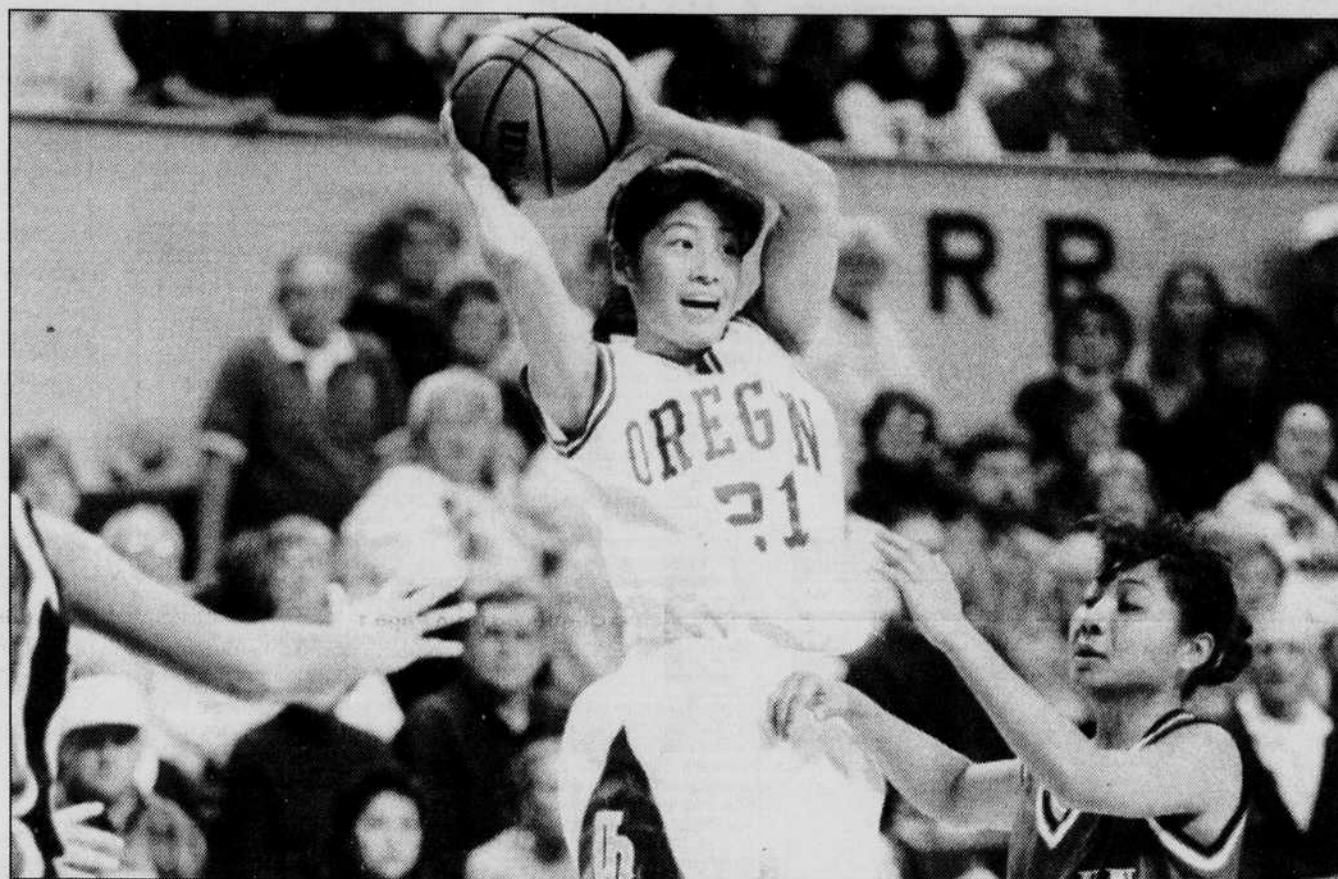
bone, and the students and city of Corvallis in general.

Oregon students received the same issue. Maybe you remember it. The one with the top 10 lists. While handing out these little tidbits of fun and information, we received various expected and unexpected reactions from Oregon State students.

Some were wadded up and thrown in the direction of the nearest trash receptacle. Probably the most common utterances I heard as we handed them out were, "We could use those up in the bathroom. We're out of toilet paper," and, "Hey, why is there a Duck on the front?" and that was usually followed by a dirty look as they expected that we were from their own school newspaper, the Barometer. The best answer I heard in reply to that question actually came from an Oregon State student in the dorms. She said: "It's probably because they're better than us."

Shockingly enough, the others were read

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MARK McTYRE/Emerald

Oregon guard Cindie Edamura's three-pointer with two seconds remaining beat the Pilots 74-72 last season.

Oregon attempts to push record to 3-0

■ **PREVIEW:** Women's basketball goes for 13th straight win over Portland

By Mark McTyre
Sports Editor

After an exciting comeback victory over Utah to win the Pepsi Shootout Invitational last weekend, the Oregon women's basketball team takes to the court against visiting Portland tonight at McArthur Court.

Oregon (2-0 overall) and Portland (3-0) meet for the 13th time, dating back to 1984. The Ducks have won all 12 contests, including a thriller last year in which Cindie Edamura hit a three-pointer with two seconds remaining to give Oregon a 74-72 win. Oregon forward Arianne Boyer had a team-high 19 points, while center Renae Fegent, who will be serving her third of

a four-game NCAA suspension, added 16 and forward Betty Ann Boeving recorded 12.

Portland enters the contest winning three straight games for the first time since the 1983-84 season. The Pilots have five players scoring double digits as they are averaging 83.3 points per game on .476 shooting. Center Wendy Toonen tops the squad in scoring averaging 15.3 points per game while collecting six rebounds.

Starting for the Ducks will be guards Cindie Edamura and Lisa Bowyer, center Jenny Mowe, and forwards Arianne Boyer and Mandy Benson. Mowe will be making her second career start while Benson will be making her third.

Tip-off for the non-conference match-up will be at 7 p.m.

Despite disappointing season, Robinson retains job at USC

■ **TROJANS:** An upset victory over Notre Dame Saturday quieted Robinson's critics

By Ken Peters
The Associated Press

LOS ANGELES — John Robinson's month in coaching purgatory came to a happy end Monday with the word that he would remain as Southern California's coach.

The announcement came two days after USC's first win over Notre Dame in 14 years, and less than 24 hours after Robinson, university president Steven Sample and athletic director Mike Garrett met to talk about the football program.

"Our crisis ended last night. We decided, 'Hey, we're going to have some big-time years here,'" Robinson said at press conference on the USC campus.

"We've been through hell, but we've come out the other side. And we've come out together."

Garrett admitted that he and Robinson had not talked enough over the past month, a period in which the Trojans lost three straight and speculation surfaced about the coach's future. An upset victory over Notre Dame on Saturday night quieted Robinson's critics and left USC with a 6-6 record.

"I overestimated this team just like he did," Garrett said. "He got a little distant, I got a little distant, like strong people do. ... Whenever we're not playing well, it's a crisis. We have been in a crisis, did not always see eye-to-eye, but all that's behind us now."

It's often true in college football that one big vic-

tory can mean the difference between a coach keeping his job and losing it. Whether it was true in Robinson's case, Garrett wouldn't say directly.

"That game gave us a medium to talk," he said. "If we had lost, that would have given us a medium to talk."

Sample backed Garrett's decision to retain Robinson, in part due to a much improved graduation rate of Trojan football players — 75 percent in 1996 compared to a national average of 56 percent.

"John Robinson's overall record during the 11 years he has served as head coach at USC is remarkable," Sample said. "The win-loss record will

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