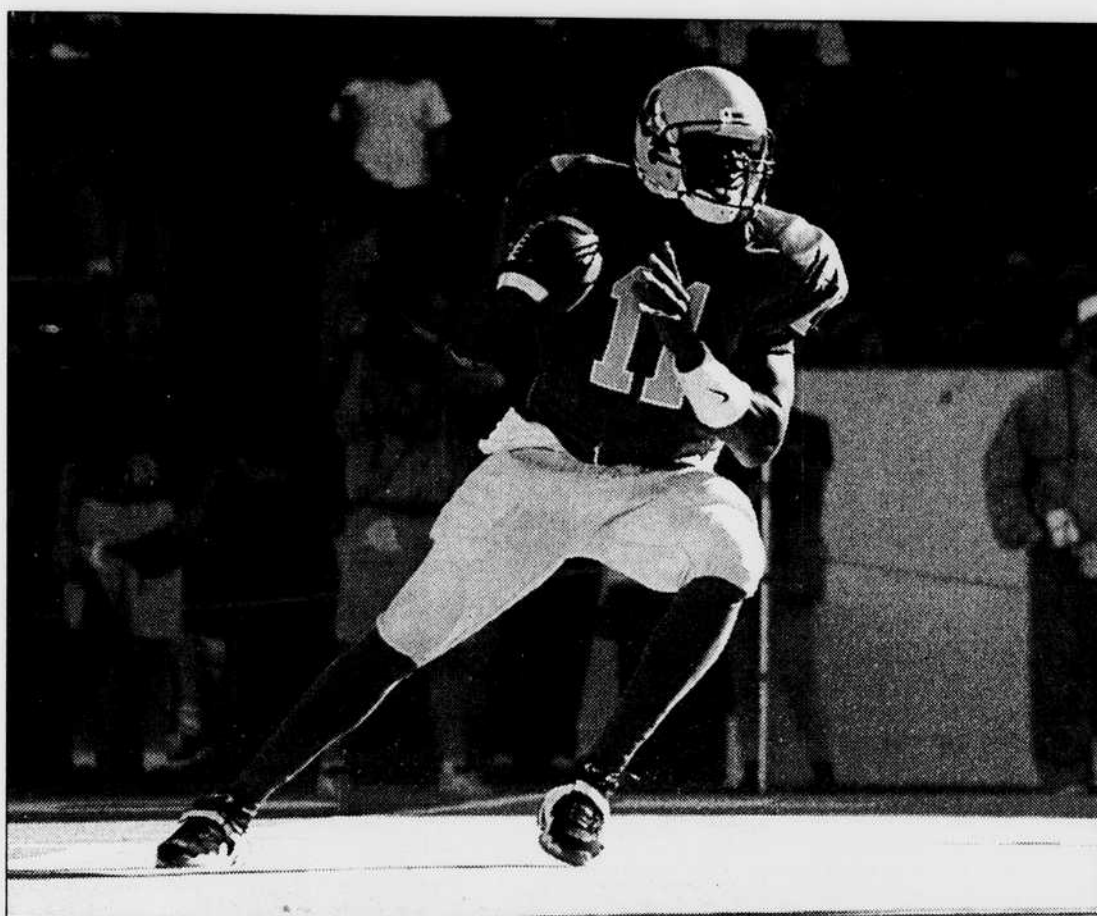




CHAD PATTESON/Emerald

Junior-college transfer Akili Smith (pictured) was seven for 12 for 70 yards against Fresno State. Against Stanford the following week, Smith and junior Jason Maas began to switch off during series.

Frank: Quarterback rotation still has no affect on team performance

Continued from Page 1B

stant rotation, both quarterbacks had combined for numbers that any Oregon quarterback in recent history would be happy about.

Their passing yards have improved each week by an average of nearly 94 yards per game to a season-high of 361 last weekend. Their completion percentage is better than 60 percent, and their 13 passing touchdowns is only one short of the conference lead.

How can you argue with numbers like that?

Also, consider the fact that the

constant rotation has yet to visibly affect Smith, Maas or the rest of the team.

Smith was briefly pouting on the sidelines during the Fresno State game, but he appears to have become comfortable with the situation and was even congratulating Maas during the Stanford game.

If the switch to Maas from Smith after he had taken the Ducks to the four-yard line didn't disrupt the relationship between the two, nothing will.

Either Bellotti has done a fan-

tastic job of making sure no one's ego gets bruised, or Smith, who didn't appear too happy about the rotation early in the season, and Maas have truly forgotten individual goals for the good of the team.

Maybe both is true.

Either way, Duck fans should be able to put up with the two-headed monster for a little while longer.

Ryan Frank is the sports editor for the Emerald.

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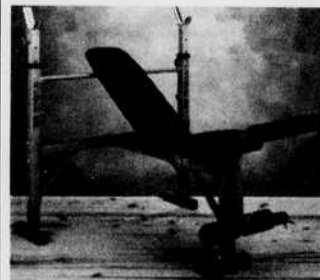
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