



Magic: Indians defense disappears

By Ken Berger
The Associated Press

CLEVELAND — Defense got them here. In Game 3, it got them in trouble.

The Cleveland Indians let the Florida Marlins back in this World Series with three errors in the ninth inning Tuesday night. The "Disappearing D" led to seven Marlins' runs in the ninth and turned a tight game and series on its head.

The Marlins, who led the majors in last at-bat comebacks, beat the Indians 14-11 Tuesday night to take a 2 games-to-1 lead in the Series. They showed everyone that Cleveland isn't the only team capable of wacky comebacks.

The Indians tied a series record with three errors in the ninth that led to three unearned runs. A cold night with funny hops and bounces resulted in only the second seven-run ninth inning in World Series history. The New York Yankees were the only other team to do it — in Game 6 of the 1936 series against the Giants.

Eric Plunk, who got a huge out in the eighth when Gary Sheffield grounded out with the bases loaded, walked Bobby Bonilla to lead off the ninth. Bonilla, hobbled by a very sore hamstring, tried to advance to third on Darren Daulton's single to right-center.

Center fielder Marquis Grissom, a Gold Glove and savior in the post season for the Indians, threw a one-hopper to third that struck Bonilla's right shoulder and bounced past Matt Williams and out of play. Bonilla scored on the unlikely error by Grissom — with one Gold Glove throwing to another.

Plunk struck out Moises Alou and walked pinch-hitter Cliff Floyd intentionally. He tried to pick off Floyd, but first baseman Jim Thome missed the throw for another error. Daulton scored to make it 9-7, and the ugliness was on.

"Both teams just out-uglied each other," Indians manager Mike Hargrove said of the 25-run, 17-walk, six-error game. "It was just about the ugliest game you'll ever see."

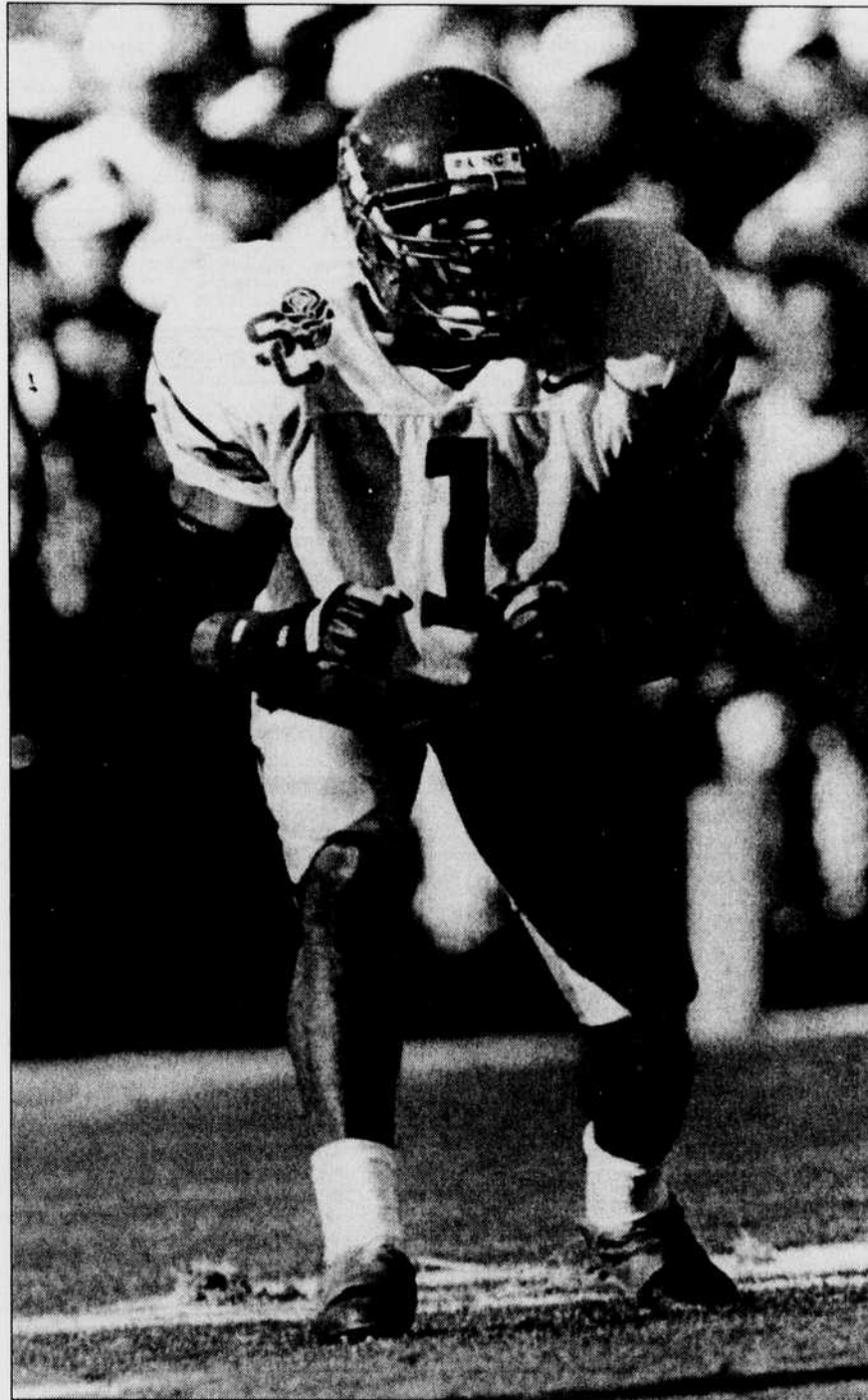
After Charles Johnson singled, Alvin Morman came in to face Craig Counsell. Morman didn't get any help from the defense, either.

Counsell grounded to second base, patrolled by Tony Fernandez and his four career Gold Gloves. He booted it, and another run scored to make it 10-7.

The final damage report: seven runs, four earned, all ugly.

SOUTHERN CALIFORNIA

The Trojans' hot corner



Daylon McCutcheon digs in against Northwestern in the 1996 Rose Bowl. The freshman had a 53-yard fumble return for a touchdown against the Wildcats.

*Junior cornerback
Daylon McCutcheon
hopes to follow in his
father's footsteps and
play in the NFL*

By Joel Hood
Sports Reporter

While some doctors and mothers are quick to point out that only a handful of college football players play professionally, there are always going to be those who say they will break through.

Some louder than others.

Enter Daylon McCutcheon, Southern California's equivalent to a Texas tornado — a player who can rip through receivers, break up passes and score touchdowns in the blink of an eye, and one who has kept USC alive for a bowl game this season.

"A great player is one who rises to the occasion," McCutcheon says. "You have to love the game. You have to love what you're doing."

McCutcheon, USC's talented junior cornerback, has always dreamed of playing in the NFL. From his Pop Warner days in Denver, Colo., his life ambition has never been in doubt.

While many young boys across the country dream of playing in the NFL, to McCutcheon it's more like a quest — maybe a rite of passage.

His father, Lawrence, was a standout in the NFL for nine seasons. A former all-pro running back with the Los Angeles Rams, Lawrence McCutcheon led the team in rushing five times and once held the Rams' career rushing record with 6,186 yards.

He wasn't just a football player, he was a hero.

In 1979, his final season with Los Angeles, McCutcheon led the team to its first and only Super Bowl appearance. In that game, the Rams battled the heavily favored Pittsburgh Steelers for four quarters, and with McCutcheon leading the ground attack, they nearly pulled off one of the greatest upsets in Super Bowl history.

In his adopted hometown of Los Angeles, McCutcheon was a star.

Turn to **TROJAN**, Page 8

Ducks boost confidence with three-game sweep of Portland



Alison Pepe tallies one of her seven digs to go along with 12 kills in Tuesday's Oregon win over the Portland Pilots.

CHAD PATTESON/Emerald

Junior Madeline Ernst returns to early-season form with 21 kills in Oregon's 15-10, 15-8, 15-9 win at McArthur Court.

By Rob Moseley
Sports Reporter

It was all smiles at McArthur Court Tuesday night as the Oregon women's volleyball team broke out of its 11-game losing streak in a big way, sweeping Portland, 15-10, 15-8, 15-9.

Led by junior Madeline Ernst's match-high 21 kills and .457 attack percentage, the more energetic and athletic Ducks (8-13 overall, 0-9 Pacific-10 Conference) overpowered the Pilots (7-15) from the onset.

Freshman Amy Banducci's service ace to start game one got Oregon rolling, and they jumped out to a 6-1 advantage. The Pilots capitalized on Duck errors to close the gap to one point at 6-5, but except for a stall at 12-7, Oregon won a highly entertaining game one, 15-10.

In game two Portland had leads of 3-0 and 8-4, and it appeared that the Ducks' own worst enemy was themselves. In their efforts to get to the ball, Oregon players began competing with themselves more than the Pilots.

"A lot of that is communication, and a lot of that is relaxing," Nelson said. "I just told them to take a deep breath and relax, and just let it flow."

Oregon responded with its most impressive run since the Pac-10 season began, scoring 11 consecutive points to win game two.

The Ducks again fell victim to a sluggish start in game three, finding themselves quickly down. With the Ducks down 4-0, senior co-captain Casey Crisler entered at the setter position for freshman Michelle Graham. Crisler took over the serve at 5-0 and the Ducks notched their first three points of the game, and soon found themselves in a 6-6 tie.

The Pilots retook the lead at 8-6, at which point Oregon tallied eight straight points and eventually won the game and the match.

Ernst tallied nine kills in game three alone, and Alison Pepe added seven of her 12 kills in the third.

"I certainly hope this is something we can build on,"

Turn to **VOLLEYBALL**, Page 8