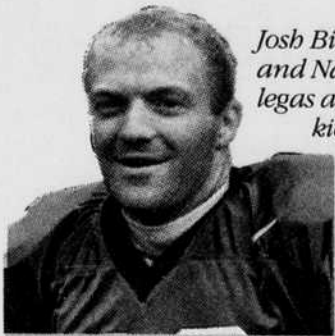


INSIDE:

Oregon Feature	2
Column	2
ODE Football Picks	4
Pac-10 Preview	10
Oregon Injury Update	12
Stanford Feature	13

The Nation's Finest

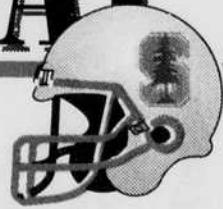


Josh Bidwell (left) and Nathan Villegas are the best kicking tandem in the nation. / PAGE 2

GAME DAY



Oregon Ducks vs. Stanford Cardinal at Autzen Stadium



The Box

Scoring	
Offense	
Oregon	1st
Stanford	9th
Total	
Offense	
Oregon	1st
Stanford	4th
Rushing	
Defense	
Oregon	9th
Stanford	7th
Total	
Defense	
Oregon	7th
Stanford	10th
Turnover	
Margin	
Oregon	2nd
Stanford	5th

* Pac-10 rank

Quotable

"I don't think anyone has found a way to defend Oregon. They can score in a lot of different ways."

— Tyrone Willingham, Stanford head coach

"You have to be very aware of Troy Walters. He's a guy that can turn an average catch into a long gain, and he can also beat you deep."

— Mike Bellotti, Oregon head coach

Key Player

Reuben Droughns

After sitting out most of the last two games with an ankle injury, the Oregon tailback is expected to play Saturday.



Ducks attempt first 4-0 start since '88

No. 20 Oregon faces Stanford in the Ducks' Pacific-10 Conference opener for the third time in the last four seasons

By Rob Moseley
Oregon Daily Emerald

In each of his four seasons as head coach, Mike Bellotti has led Oregon to victories in its first three games, all nonconference affairs.

As encouraging as that record is, the fact that Bellotti's Ducks have dropped their Pacific-10 Conference opener in each of the past three seasons is just as discouraging. Saturday in Autzen Stadium at 1 p.m., the No. 20 Ducks (3-0 overall, 0-0 Pac-10) get a chance to end that record of futility against an all-too-familiar opponent.

The Stanford Cardinal (1-2, 0-1) has beaten the Ducks in two of those three conference openers during Bellotti's tenure and is one of three Pac-10 teams the Ducks have never beaten under Bellotti.

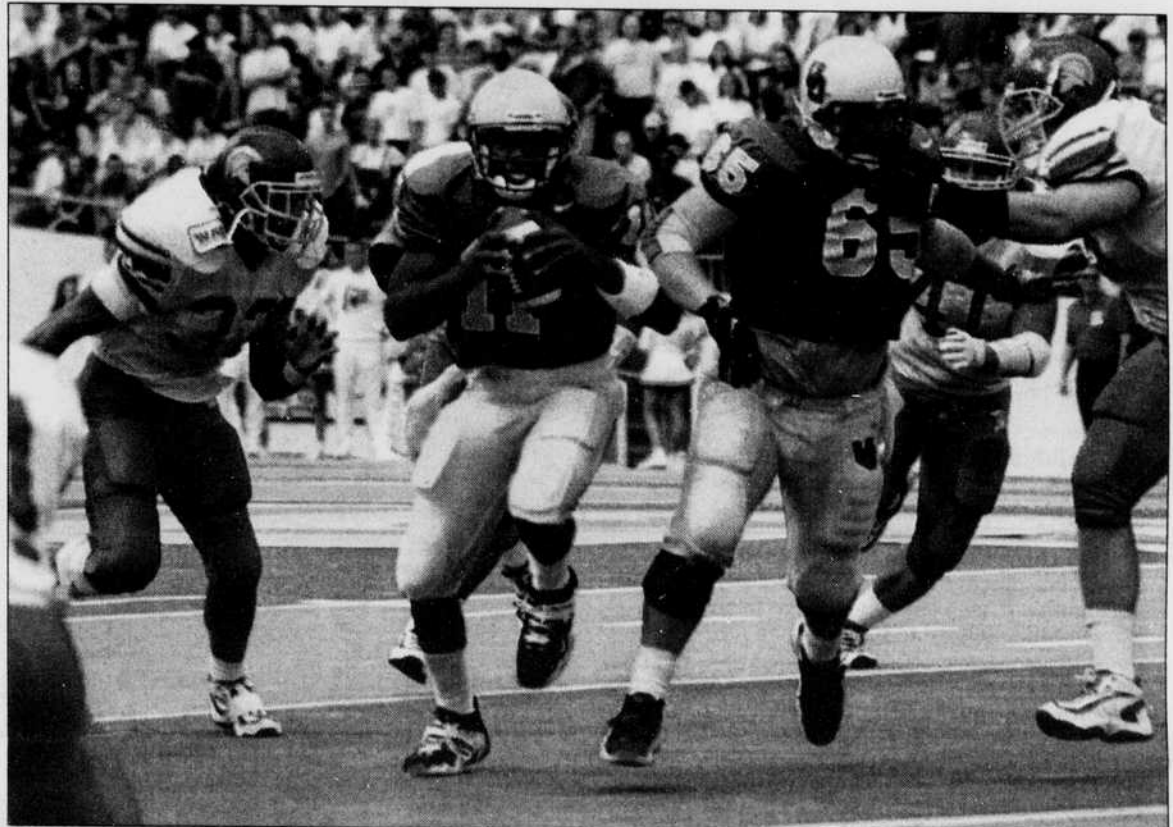
Last season, the Ducks lost 58-49 in Palo Alto, Calif. Including that game, Oregon won just two of its next seven contests, one a nonconference victory over Utah. Two fumbles and an interception thrown by Jason Maas prevented the Ducks from winning the most prolific scoring battle in conference history.

"I see it as a classic matchup," Bellotti said. "Turnovers have been the most important factor in our games the last couple of years. Last year we turned the ball over three times, and that was the difference in the ball game."

1998 has been a different story for Oregon, as the Ducks have gone from being ranked ninth in the Pac-10 in turnover margin last season to tied for second — and 19th in the nation — with a plus-four margin after three games.

What hasn't changed since last season is the two teams' abilities to score. Stanford put up 37 points against a usually stingy North Carolina defense last week, and Oregon leads the conference in scoring with 139 points this season.

"I don't think anyone has found a way to defend Oregon," Stanford coach Tyrone



MICHAEL CRISP/Emerald

Akili Smith follows center Deke Moen for a short gain in the Ducks 58-3 win against San Jose State.

Willingham said. "They can score in lot of ways."

While Willingham focused on the Duck offense, Bellotti seemed more concerned with the Oregon defense.

"The most important thing a defense can do is stop the run, and we need to do that," Bellotti said. "We're better than we were last year, but we need to get better still. We're playing better pass defense, but all of that comes from putting people in situations where they have to pass. We need to be prepared to try to make them one-dimensional and then defend that dimension, and we'd like to make that dimension the pass."



MICHAEL CRISP/Emerald

Dietrich Moore corraling Spartan tailback Roger Rattliff.

Turn to FOOTBALL, Page 11

Cardinal hopes to continue its domination of Oregon

Stanford enters the game with six wins in its last seven meetings with Oregon, including three straight victories at Autzen Stadium

By Tim Pyle
Oregon Daily Emerald

The Las Vegas betting line for Saturday's 1 p.m. Pacific-10 Conference game between Oregon and Stanford at Autzen Stadium is a startling 18 points in favor of the Ducks.

Perhaps the professional bookies have been too busy shooting craps to consider the history of the Oregon-Stanford series.

The Cardinal has defeated the Ducks in six of the last seven meetings, including three straight wins in Eugene. In fact, Stanford has won two-thirds of its 63 all-time games with Oregon, dating back to a 34-0 shutout of the Ducks in 1900.

Recent meetings between these two teams have been close, exciting and usually Cardinal victories.

Last season, the teams combined for 1,108 yards in total offense as Stanford blazed to a 59-48 win in Palo Alto, Calif. In 1996, the Cardinal kicked an overtime field goal in Palo Alto to squeak past the Ducks 27-24.

Even in 1995, when Oregon went to the Cotton Bowl, Stanford humbled the Ducks 28-21 in Eugene. The last time Oregon defeated the Cardinal was in the 1994 Rose Bowl season, when the Ducks blew out Stanford 55-21.



Head coach Tyrone Willingham is 3-0 against Oregon, but he says he doesn't know why.

"[I can't explain it] at all," Willingham said. "We've just been very fortunate to win some close ball games."

So history is on the Cardinal's side. However, recent records are not.

After starting last season 4-1, the Cardinal has lost seven of its last nine games. This season, Stanford began by losing home games to San Jose State, 35-23, and Arizona, 31-14.

Last week, the Cardinal rebounded with a scintillating 37-34 defeat of North Carolina, which was ranked in the top 10 this preseason. Kevin Miller provided the win-

ning margin with a last-second field goal.

Stanford's early-season inconsistency has Willingham puzzled.

"I don't really know where we are; we're still growing," Willingham said. "But I do believe that we have improved from week 1. Last week against North Carolina, we feel like we made some gradual improvement and made some plays much better. But we felt fortunate to win against a good football team."

Quarterback Todd Husak, who became the starter when Chad Hutchinson decided to play professional baseball full-time in the off-season, is coming off the best game of his career. He completed 23 of 38 passes for 313 yards and a touchdown against the highly regarded Tar Heel defense, which includes preseason All-American Dré Bly in its secondary.

That performance came with star wide receiver Troy Walters sidelined by an ankle injury. In Walters' absence, wide receivers DeRonnie Pitts, Dave Davis and Jeff

Turn to STANFORD, Page 5