

Oregon Emerald
SPORTS

OREGON 63, STANFORD 28

Ducks rip through Cardinal

Four-game winning streak has clinched a ranking of 17th in nation for Oregon

By Rob Moseley
Oregon Daily Emerald

The Oregon Ducks began the 1995 season with three victories. In week 4 the Ducks hosted Stanford. A 28-21 loss later, Oregon found itself at 3-1.

Last season, the Ducks began the year with three victories. In week 4 the Ducks traveled to Stanford. A 58-49 loss later, Oregon found itself at 3-1.

Oregon began this season with three victories. On Saturday before 43,948 fans at Autzen Stadium, the No. 20 Ducks hosted Stanford. A 63-28 win later, Oregon finds itself at 4-0 overall, 1-0 in the Pacific-10 Conference, and ranked 17th in the nation.

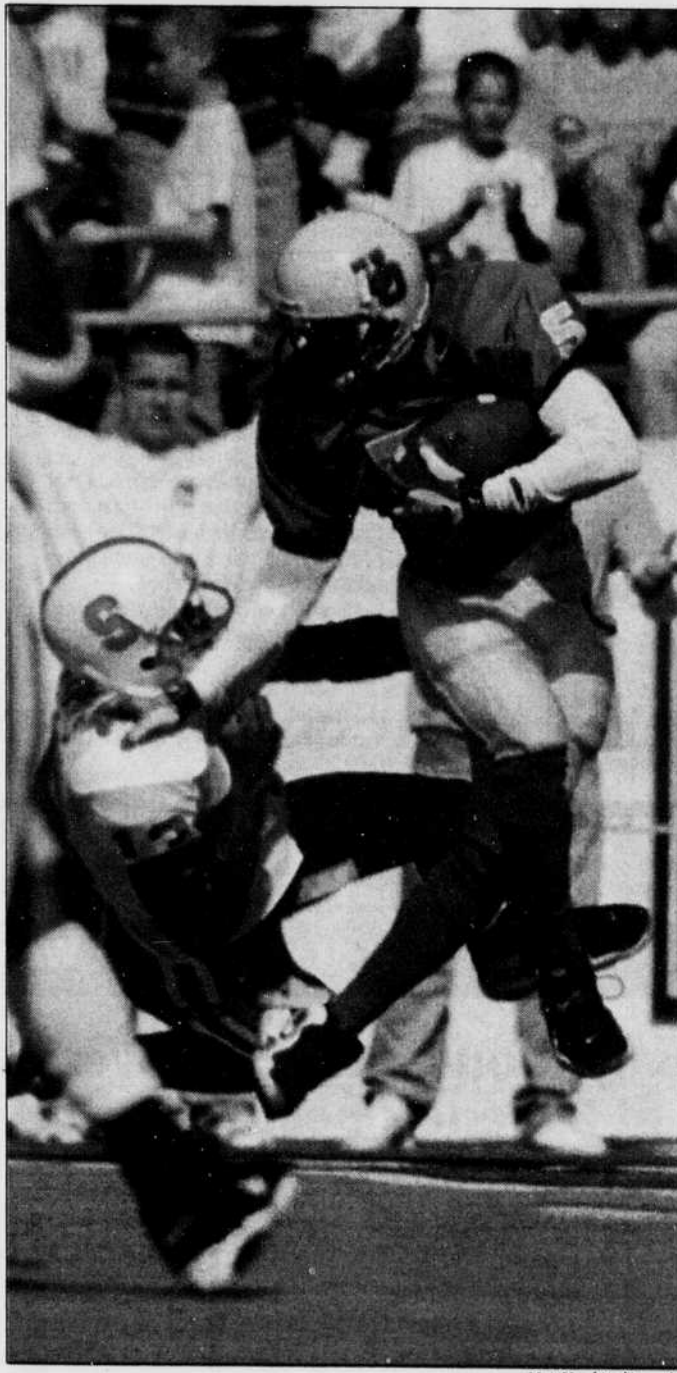
"We're playing great right now," quarterback Akili Smith said. "The only thing that can stop us right now is ourselves. The coaches are putting together a great game plan, and we're going out there and executing."

Whether Smith was referring to executing the Oregon game plan or executing the Cardinal is the question, as the Ducks rolled up 664 yards of total offense, just three short of the team record. The 63 points were an Autzen record and the highest point total for an Oregon team since a 97-0 win over Willamette in 1916.

Smith continued to have the hot hand for Oregon, completing 18 of 28 passes for four touchdowns and 357 yards. It was the second time this season that the senior has thrown for four scores and the third time in four games he has achieved his career-high for passing yards.

"At this point in time, Akili is playing at a level possibly unmatched here at Oregon," head coach Mike Bellotti said. "We're playing well, and I think Akili's a big, big factor in our offensive productivity."

In the first quarter, Smith sandwiched scoring tosses to Damon Griffin and Tony Hartley around a one-yard Derien Latimer touchdown run. Latimer started



Ducks' wide receiver Damon Griffin pushes away a Stanford defender to score a touchdown. *Matt Hankins/Emerald*

Turn to **DUCKS**, Page 13A

Win means more than Ducks let on

Akili Smith is a very good quarterback. He is a tremendous leader, a pinpoint passer, and he has a simple arrogance to his game that all the great ones seem to possess.

But he is one terrible liar. Just minutes after the Ducks' 63-28 annihilation of Stanford at Autzen Stadium on Saturday, Smith is standing in a beautifully tailored tan suit in the first floor of the Casanova Center doing his best Jon Lovitz impression for the media.

And nobody is buying it. "We weren't thinking about last year's game [with Stanford] one bit," said Smith, who threw for a career-high 357 yards and four touchdowns on Saturday. "We're just not worried about our history. It's time for us to remake history."

If you really want to know how important this win was for Oregon, ask the Duck defenders who say they were embarrassed by the Cardinal last season when they racked up 578 yards on offense and 58 points on the unit formerly known as "Gang Green."

Ask Mike Bellotti, who had never before beaten Stanford as head coach and who was positively beaming at the post game press conference while he told reporters how proud he was of what his team has accomplished so far this season.

There was nothing small about this win. Smith had touchdown passes of 37, 35 and 29 yards. Reuben Droughns ripped through the Cardinal defense for runs of 67 and 40 yards. Even the final score was a record — Oregon's previous highest point total at Autzen was 59 in a win against UNLV in 1992.

And it's no coincidence that Bellotti kept his two most explosive players (Smith and Droughns) on the field for nearly the entire second half, despite a 35-point Duck lead.

"The last two years here we lost tough

Opinion



Joel Hood

Turn to **HOOD**, Page 13A

Oregon faces numerous challenges on the court

After an uplifting season opening, the volleyball team loses its luster in California

By Allison Ross
Oregon Daily Emerald

Call it what you will — youth, inexperience, a lack of consistency — but whatever the case may be, the Oregon volleyball team must resolve vast problems if it hopes to reach postseason play.

After an authoritative Pacific-10 Conference win over Oregon State on Sept. 18 at McArthur Court, the Ducks traveled to Southern California for a difficult three-game stretch against Cal State Fullerton, UCLA and No. 8 USC.

Oregon opened the trip on a high note by beating Cal State Fullerton 15-11, 15-9, 11-15, 15-8. Once again the Ducks were led by Madeline Ernst, who recorded 24 kills and

18 digs. Ernst was aided by fellow senior Alli White, who had 19 kills, and redshirt freshman Annie Pogue, who tallied 11. Oregon finished with a .233 attack percentage to the Titans .155.

Defensively, sophomore Amy Banducci and senior Tanya Minion came through for Oregon. Banducci recorded a career-high 23 digs, while Minion added 21 of her own. The Ducks outdug the Titans 93-73 and outblocked them 14-11.

But it wasn't until the Ducks went farther south that their problems began to show. The young Oregon team dropped its second Pac-10 match of the year 15-9, 15-8, 8-15 and 15-7. Oregon committed 41 errors and combined for a lackluster .140 hitting percentage compared to UCLA's .278.



Volleyball

"We need to know that the opponents we're going to play are going to be good," head coach Cathy Nelson said. "They are going to make good plays, and we need to rebound a little bit sooner."

Oregon (6-7 overall, 1-2 Pac-10) has had a difficult time thus far playing with confidence when they are trailing, and it's an area that Nelson knows needs work if the Ducks hope to compete in this demanding conference.

"I think in both matches we had that same look on our face, like, 'oh no,' instead of just knowing that good teams are going to make good plays," Nelson said. "We need to know that we can make good plays as well. Our understanding of what we need to do to win is much clearer even than it was after the Oregon State match."

After dropping the UCLA match, the

"They're going to make good plays, and we need to rebound a little bit sooner."

Cathy Nelson
UO head coach

Turn to **VOLLEYBALL**, Page 16A

The Box

Week 4 National Football League

| | |
|---------------|-------|
| Green Bay | 37 |
| Carolina | 30 |
| Denver | 38 |
| Washington | 16 |
| Oakland | 13 |
| Dallas | 12 |
| Kansas City | 24 |
| Philadelphia | 21 |
| Jacksonville | 27 |
| Tennessee | 22 |
| Arizona | 20 |
| St. Louis | 17 |
| New Orleans | 19 |
| Indianapolis | 13 OT |
| Seattle | 10 |
| Pittsburgh | 13 |
| N.Y. Giants | 34 |
| San Diego | 16 |
| Atlanta | 20 |
| San Francisco | 31 |
| Minnesota | 31 |
| Chicago | 28 |
| Cincinnati | 24 |
| Baltimore | 31 |

Associated Press Top 25 Poll

| | |
|-----------------|-----|
| 1. Ohio St. | 3-0 |
| 3. Tenn. | 3-0 |
| 4. UCLA | 2-0 |
| 5. Kansas St. | 4-0 |
| 6. LSU | 3-0 |
| 7. Penn St. | 3-0 |
| 8. Florida | 3-1 |
| 9. Florida St. | 3-1 |
| 10. Virginia | 4-0 |
| 11. Syracuse | 2-1 |
| 12. Georgia | 3-0 |
| 13. Wisconsin | 4-0 |
| 14. Arizona | 4-0 |
| 15. Colorado | 4-0 |
| 16. W. Virginia | 2-1 |
| 17. Oregon | 4-0 |
| 18. Texas A&M | 3-1 |
| 19. Virg. Tech | 4-0 |
| 20. Wash. | 2-1 |
| 21. USC | 3-1 |
| 22. Arkansas | 3-0 |
| 23t. Missouri | 2-1 |
| 23t. N. Dame | 2-1 |
| 25. Michigan | 2-2 |



Best Bet

Tampa Bay at Detroit
5:15 p.m., ABC