

SPORTS

WEDNESDAY
Oct. 7, 1998

Best Bet

MLB
Cleveland at New York
1:07 p.m., NBC

Ducks continue losing streak with loss to Pilots

Oregon, looking for an NCAA tournament berth, will resume Pac-10 play Friday against Washington

By Allison Ross
Oregon Daily Emerald

It appears there is a dark cloud hovering above the Oregon volleyball team, suffocating its chances for success.

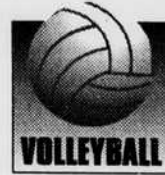
The Ducks headed to Portland last night with hopes of ending a four-game losing streak that began on Sept. 25.

But the woes continued with the Ducks' 15-9, 15-7, 13-15, 15-13 loss to the Pilots. Oregon's record dropped to 6-10 overall, 1-4 in the Pacific-10 Conference, while the Pilots increased their overall record to 7-7, 1-1 in the West Coast Conference.

It was a devastating blow for

the Ducks, who are in search of an NCAA tournament berth and were looking to gain momentum before continuing Pac-10 play against Washington this Friday.

"We are struggling to find a rhythm," Oregon head coach Cathy Nelson said.



"We are struggling to have a killer instinct. It has been difficult to find a way to win. We had a very disappointing performance tonight and really had a low point in our season. It is a mental chal-

lenge for our team to get over this hump and to figure out how to win."

All-American candidate Madeline Ernst led all attackers with 26 kills but committed 15 errors for an overall attack percentage of .200. Alli White and Amy Banducci contributed 12 and 11 kills, respectively.

The Pilots had control of the match, recording a .265 attack percentage in Game 1 and a .432 in Game 2, but then slipped to a .161 in Game 3, allowing the Ducks to take the win and avoid a sweep.

It was all middle blocker Cathy Cook for the Pilots. She recorded 21 kills and commit-

ted only five errors for an overall attack percentage of .400. Five of the Pilots' eight players recorded kills in double digits.

Oregon managed to outblock the Pilots 13 to 11 and outdig them 62-59, but the Pilots' overall attack percentage of .266 and nine service aces diminished the Ducks' hopes of coming away with the win. Oregon finished the match with an overall attack percentage of .200.

"There is no place to go but up," Nelson said. "Hopefully we will start to reverse our trend this weekend in Washington."

Leaders

KILLS:	
Ernst	26
White	12
ASSISTS:	
Gerlach	58
DIGS:	
Banducci	13
Minion	10

WASHINGTON STATE

Thompson leads resurgent Cougar defense

Thompson establishes himself as the best cover-safety in the Pac-10 without losing perspective

By Joel Hood
Oregon Daily Emerald

The best cover-safety in the Pacific-10 Conference loves poetry.

Don't mention a word of this to his Washington State teammates, but the best cover-safety in the Pac-10 has even tried writing poetry himself.

It happened four years ago when Lamont Thompson enrolled in a 10th-grade English class at El Cerrito High School outside Oakland, Calif.

It must have seemed strange to others that Thompson — who at the time was being heavily recruited by some of the top college football programs on the West Coast — could enjoy detailing his fondest childhood memories in such a delicate fashion.

But it wasn't strange for Thompson. He liked it.

And if it were socially acceptable for Cougar defensive backs to admit they like to read poetry, the best cover-safety in the Pac-10 would probably bring a collection of Maya Angelou's poems with him to practice every day.

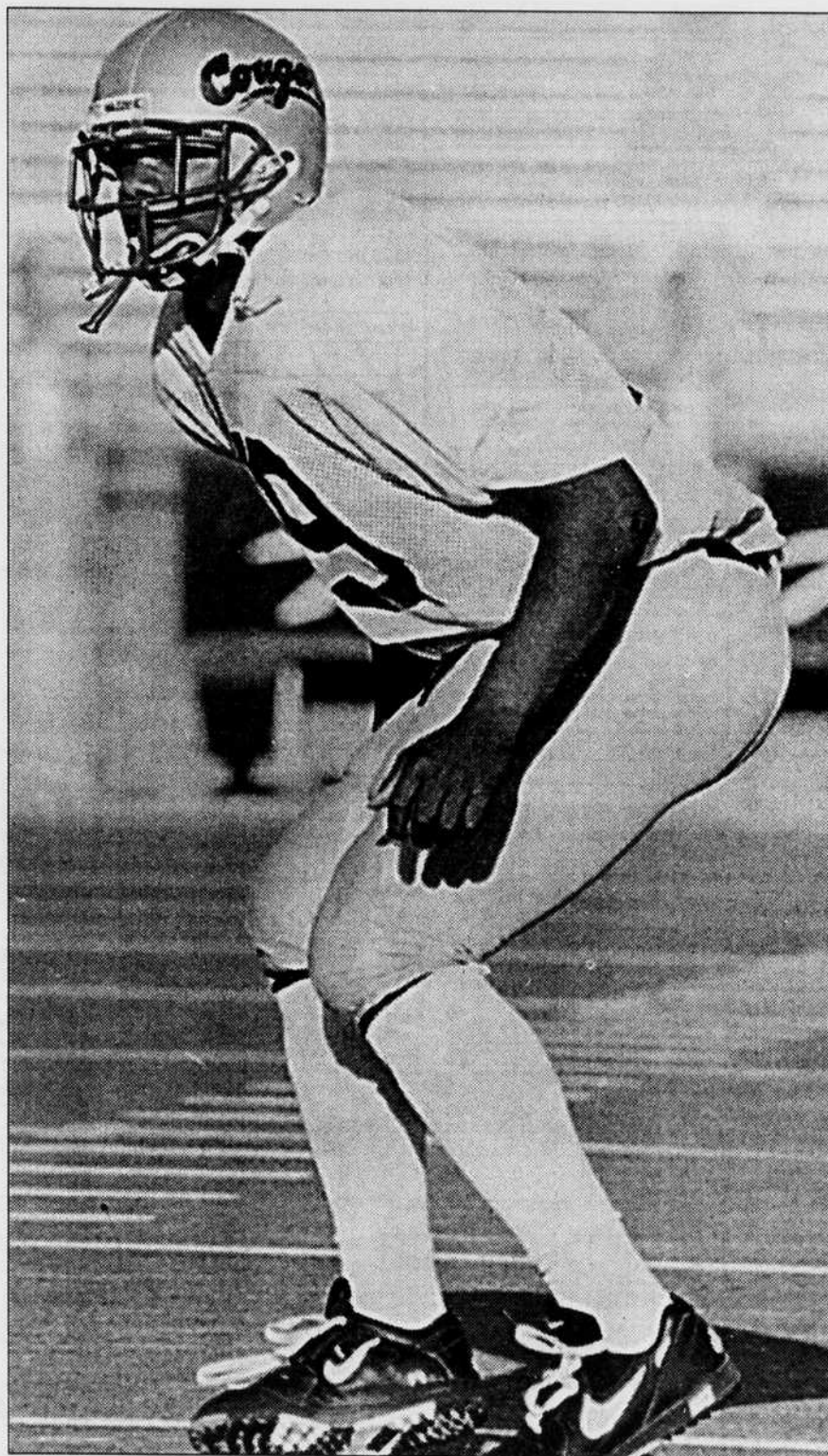
"My teammates think it's kind of odd," the 6-foot-1, 204-pound Thompson says. "I really used to be into it when I was younger. But now I just don't bring it up around the guys."

Besides, when you're the best cover-safety in the Pac-10, there are plenty of other things to talk about.

Only 11 games into his collegiate career, Thompson has already nabbed 10 interceptions. To put that into perspective, the all-time Cougar mark is only 14. As a true freshman a year ago, Thompson led the Pac-10 with six interceptions by beating out UCLA's Larry Atkins and Arizona State's Mitchell Freedman, both of whom are considered possible first-round NFL draftees this April.

Even more impressive, Thompson started four critical games down the stretch for the Cougars during Washing-

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Lamont Thompson was a key performer in Washington State's Rose Bowl run last season. He ranks first in the Pac-10 with two interceptions this season.

The Daily Evergreen

Croskrey leads Ducks to podium

Duck men take first in Corvallis, while the Oregon women slip to eighth in Bama Preview

By Scott Pesznecker
Oregon Daily Emerald

In what head coach Steve Nosler called a balanced team effort, the Oregon men's golf team tied for first place in the Northwest Classic in Corvallis Tuesday with a final score of 856.

The Oregon women weren't so fortunate, dropping to eighth overall in the prestigious Bama Fall Preview with a first-round score of 309.

By placing first in the Northwest Classic, the men topped all other teams for the second straight Invitational. The victory was a true team effort, Nosler said.

At the conclusion of Monday's 36-hole competition, the men were tied for third place, trailing leader UCLA by only four strokes.

The men climbed out from their stroke deficit on Tuesday, led by Derek Croskrey's three-round total of 212, to tie for first place along side UCLA and Washington. UCLA eventually won the tournament in a playoff on the 16th hole.

"Everybody hung in really well, the kids gutted it out," Nosler said. "Derek played extremely well, but everybody contributed."

Croskrey's score earned him a three-way share in sixth place, and Andrew Tredway tied for 12th with 215. Ryan Lavoie and Ben Crane both finished 17th overall with scores of 216, and Adrian Burtner finished 26th.

The Ducks' goal is to come out solid in each invitational this season. So far, that is exactly what they have done, finishing third in their first invitational on Sept. 21 and taking home first in the final two.

"So far I'm really impressed," Nosler said. "I would love to have taken first in the one we placed third in, but we played well. We haven't done anything we haven't expected to do."

Brigham Young finished fourth in Corvallis with a score of 858, and San Diego State finished in fifth place with a score of 860. The individual champion was UCLA's B.J. Schlagenhauf, who finished eight-under-par with a score of 208.



GOLF

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