

# Pyle

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rors its on-field maturation. After two seasons of playing home games at parks and schools throughout Eugene, Oregon now has a permanent home at spacious, plush Papé Field. The Ducks have adapted well to their beautiful new surface, posting an undefeated home mark of 3-0-2 so far this season.

With the improvement of both the team and facilities comes increased recognition, which transforms into recruiting benefits.

And those benefits have already begun to reverberate through the program.

Freshmen Chalise Baysa and Starr Johnson have established themselves as starters at forward and fullback, respectively. And Baysa, with seven goals, has already passed the highest scorer from 1997. Another freshman, forward Beth Bowler, was also making a significant contribution to the team before suffering a season-ending knee injury.

Transfers Laurie Duhrkoop and Ally Hill have also embedded themselves in the playing rotation. Duhrkoop usually

starts at central midfield, while Hill generally plays about half a game at outside midfield.

Add to that mix 10 juniors and three sophomores who play regularly, and the Ducks definitely have a solid foundation upon which to build next season.

But before then, Oregon still has eight Pac-10 games to play this season. The Ducks look primed to win more conference games than ever before, at the very least.

At the very most, they will continue to improve by leaps and bounds, rise into the conference's upper echelon and — who knows? — maybe even grasp their first-ever postseason berth.

"We need to keep focusing on what's ahead," Steffen said. "Not so much how far we've come, but how far we can go."

One thing is for certain:

If Oregon can continue to improve at its current rate, moral victories will never be mentioned again.

Tim Pyle is a sports reporter for the Emerald. He can be reached at [tpyle@gladstone.uoregon.edu](mailto:tpyle@gladstone.uoregon.edu).

# Media onslaught not distracting players

By Rob Moseley  
*Oregon Daily Emerald*

With the No. 11 Ducks' nationally televised matchup with No. 2 UCLA just days away, Oregon head coach Mike Bellotti is trying to keep his players focused on the task at hand.

"The biggest thing is that we keep this whole thing in perspective," Bellotti said. "This is a great opportunity to, one, challenge the No. 2 team in the nation, and two, show the rest of the nation the type of football program we have."

The pregame hype for the game has grown exponentially over the past few days, with CNN, ESPN and ABC sending reporters to Eugene.

With news media from as far away as Chicago, New York and Washington, D.C., as well as Sports Illustrated, on hand for the game, the Ducks are facing a media onslaught usually reserved for the Floridas and Nebrasas of the college football world.

"I don't call it pressure. I think it's positive pressure in terms of what [the Ducks] have done to make this a big game," said Bellotti, whose team is undefeated entering Saturday's game. "I think our kids are real-

ly excited, and certainly it's an advantage to us to go back where they feel a comfort zone with the place they're going to play."

Fifty of the 110 players on Oregon's roster hail from California, with roughly half of those 50 from the greater Los Angeles area.

## Smith, Droughns under spotlight

While the entire Oregon team is experiencing increased attention, quarterback Akili Smith and tailback Reuben Droughns are absorbing the brunt of it.

The athletic department has set aside an hour of Smith's time each Monday morning for dealing with the national media, while Droughns has become more tight-lipped as the season has progressed.

"I wouldn't want to be their press agent this week," Bellotti said. "It's been a tough week for them. I don't know how they juggle all the rest of it."

Despite the attention, Bellotti said, he has been pleased with

his team's focus.

"In practice I have seen nothing but a great attention to detail and focus by our entire team," he said. "Everybody welcomes attention, and our kids have handled it extremely well. We haven't made a big deal out of any of it. We all realize the magnitude of this game, but we also realize how we got where we're at right now."

## Containing McNown a key

One major concern of Bellotti's is the Oregon defense's ability to keep UCLA quarterback Cade McNown in the pocket. Another mobile quarterback, Washington State's Paul Mencke, scrambled for a touchdown against the Ducks last week, and McNown is one of the Pac-10's more mobile signal-callers.

"It scares the dog out of me," Bellotti said. "I would assume they will have some quarterback-run opportunities in their game plan. Based on last game, we've talked about ways to handle a mobile quarterback and what we need to do in terms of providing a lookout, so to speak, to be keying him. That's something we'll have to pick and choose when we're doing, and hopefully we'll be right."

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## Horoscope by Frances Drake

For Thursday, Oct. 15, 1998

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(March 21 to April 19)

You are driven to organize the clutter that has accumulated in the past few months. Don't question this sudden frenzy; just act on your impulse.

### TAURUS

(April 20 to May 20)

You are filled with a sense of well-being and fulfillment. You feel healthy, complete and eager to share your pleasant state with others.

### GEMINI

(May 21 to June 20)

Rediscover your powers of communication, although you may have to dig deep to find them. Use these powers to resolve issues within your family.

### CANCER

(June 21 to July 22)

All the feelings that normally defy verbal expression can suddenly be articulated. You are able to effectively combine words with emotions.

### LEO

(July 23 to Aug. 22)

Family and friends may shock you with displays of capitalism and opportunism. Don't be angry — just keep the checkbook to yourself.

### VIRGO

(Aug. 23 to Sept. 22)

You can almost live up to your own expectations of perfection, and if you fall a little short, it doesn't seem to matter. You have the last word on every subject.

### LIBRA

(Sept. 23 to Oct. 22)

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Keynote speakers include Myrlie Evers-Williams, former chair of the NAACP; Delores Huerta, secretary-treasurer of the United Farmworkers of America; and Lance Hill, director of the Southern Institute for Research and Education that stopped the David Duke campaign. More than 30 national experts will be conducting workshops.

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