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Reluctant Star

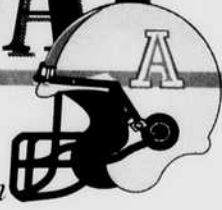
Sophomore Saul Patu is thriving at defensive end after spending his high school career at line-backer / PAGE 2



GAME DAY



Oregon Ducks vs.
Arizona Wildcats
3:30 p.m. at Arizona Stadium



Oregon Emerald

the Box

Scoring	
Offense	
Oregon	1st
Arizona	3rd
Total	
Offense	
Oregon	1st
Arizona	3rd
Rushing	
Defense	
Oregon	5th
Arizona	1st
Total	
Defense	
Oregon	7th
Arizona	1st
Turnover	
Margin	
Oregon	8th
Arizona	4th

* Pac-10 rank

Quotable

"Ortega, or Ortega, or whatever his name is..."
— Saul Patu, UO defensive end, on Arizona quarterback Ortega Jenkins

"Traditionally when you think of Arizona you think of 'Desert Swarm' and their great defenses, and they're back doing the same things."
— Mike Bellotti, Oregon head coach

Challenge awaits Oregon — again



Matt Hankins/Emerald

The Oregon defense will have to repeat last week's performance against Chad Morton and Southern California to beat Arizona on Saturday.

The Ducks will have to repeat last week's defensive showing Saturday against Arizona

By Rob Moseley
Oregon Daily Emerald

A nationally ranked opponent, one of the better rushing defenses in the Pacific-10 Conference, a hostile environment and a national TV audience.

For the second time in three weeks, the No. 12 Oregon football team will face all these factors when it meets No. 13 Arizona in Tucson on Saturday at 3:30 p.m.

"Their offense has gotten the majority of the publicity, but their defense is No. 1 in the conference in three categories," Oregon head coach Mike Bellotti said. "Traditionally when you think of Arizona you think of Desert Swarm and their great defenses. They're back to doing the same things."

The Wildcats (7-1 overall, 3-1 Pac-10) are allowing just 315.5 yards per game to lead the conference in total defense and are first against the run (116.5 ypg) and in scoring defense.

All of which make this game resemble a meeting between the unstoppable force and the immovable object. The Ducks (6-1, 3-1) are first in total offense with 504.4 yards per game, first in rushing offense (229.7 ypg) and first in scoring offense in the conference.

The Ducks will again start junior Derien Latimer at tailback in place of injured Pac-10 rushing leader Reuben Droughns. But Bellotti said he will not rely on the pass.

"We will try to stay balanced," Bellotti said. "We're only averaging about 30 passes a game. Our best chance for success is to establish a solid ground game that allows us to do play action off it and allows us to throw when we want to throw."

Latimer rushed for 87 yards in Oregon's 17-13 win over Southern California last week. The Ducks relied predominantly on their defense for the first time this season,



Think these teams are opposites? Think again

Opinion



Joel Hood

And then there were two. With UCLA off and running toward an unbeaten season and a Pacific-10 Conference title, Oregon and Arizona will try to nab that No. 2 spot and a possible Rose Bowl berth on Saturday.

On paper, these two teams couldn't be more different. The Ducks rank first in the Pac-10 in rushing, scoring and total offense. Arizona ranks first at stopping the run, defending the score and total defense. The Ducks play in the rain, the Wildcats play in the sand. Oregon is the land of a million trees, Arizona is the land of one

tree.

But these two teams are more similar than one might think. Five of their last seven meetings have been decided by a touchdown or less. And both these teams will have to run the table the rest of the season to go to the bowl game they deserve.

Before the season started, Arizona and Oregon were predicted to finish fifth and seventh, respectively, in nearly every national publication. So much for the experts.

These teams are guaranteed to get bowl

Turn to HOOD, Page 2B

Turn to DUCKS, Page 3B

Defensive-minded Wildcats now on the offensive

With two athletic quarterbacks and a talented receiving corps, Arizona can score in a hurry

By Tim Pyle
Oregon Daily Emerald

This Oregon-Arizona matchup could easily have been a showdown between unbeaten national-title contenders.

If the Wildcats had not collapsed in the fourth quarter against UCLA three weeks ago and allowed 28 straight points in their 52-28 loss, they could be 8-0.

If the Ducks had not been plagued by a severe case of the fumbles in their 41-38 overtime loss to the Bruins two weeks ago, they could be 7-0.

Both teams may feel bewitched by those close calls entering Saturday's game in Tucson, but the contest still has rosy implications. Come Halloween night, Rose Bowl inspirations will continue to dance, but only i

the victor's head.

Speaking of that delicious holiday, Wildcat fans are probably still waiting for their team to toss aside its disguise. For the first time in head coach Dick Tomey's 12-year tenure, Arizona's offense is its defining element.

Gone are the days of the Desert Swarm defense. These days, the prolific quarterback tandem of Keith Smith and Ortega Jenkins directs a potent Arizona offense, which averages 32.5 points and more than 420 yards per game. Jenkins and Smith have combined for 1,942 passing yards and 14 touchdown passes.

"Keith is probably the more accurate passer, although Ortega is probably the bigger playmaker," Oregon head coach Mike Bellotti said. "They're both great quarterbacks and they compliment each other

well."

The quarterbacks throw to perhaps the Pacific-10 Conference's best pair of receivers in Dennis Northcutt and Jeremy McDaniel. Northcutt has 49 catches for 759 yards and six touchdowns, while McDaniel has grabbed 42 passes for 614 yards and eight touchdowns.

Tailbacks Trung Canidate and Leon Callen and fullback Kelvin Eafon give the Wildcats a well-balanced rushing attack that averages more than 176 yards per game. Canidate leads the team with 494 rushing yards and a 4.7 yard-per-carry average, while Eafon has made the end zone his home away from home, visiting it 11 times.

But Tomey said the offensive line's development has been the key to his offense's success.

"We did have some [offensive] skill coming into this season, but the offensive line was a question mark," Tomey said. "I think

Turn to ARIZONA, Page 3B

On tap

WHO: Oregon (6-1, 3-1) vs. Arizona (7-1, 4-1)
WHERE: Arizona Stadium, Tucson, Ariz.
WHEN: 3:30 p.m.
TV: FoxSports Northwest (TCI, 23)
RADIO: KUGN 590 AM

Key Player

Derien Latimer

The junior tailback earns his second straight start in place of injured Pac-10 rushing leader Reuben Droughns.

