

Tony Hartley was Oregon's leading receiver last week against Southern California.

Arizona

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what we've been able to accomplish so far is directly relative to their development, as well as the play of our quarterbacks.

Oregon defensive end Saul Patu said he hopes to take advantage of the inexperienced Wildcat line. Only guards Yusuf Scott and Edwin Mulitalo are returning starters from 1997.

"They move around a lot for being a big line," Patu said, "but they're also a young offensive line, so we're looking for them to make some mistakes.

Defensively, Arizona knows it is faced with a daunting task in trying to shut down the Pac-10's No. 1 team in both scoring and total offense

'We really have not played an offensive team — with the possi-ble exception of UCLA — like Oregon," said Tomey, who is 3-5 against the Ducks. "I think Akili Smith is, at this point of time, having the best year of any quarterback in the league."

But the Wildcats, who are ranked first in the conference in total defense, have the horses to slow down Oregon's scoring brigade.

"They're very impressive in terms of the energy and the effort they give," Bellotti said. "A defensive coach would be very proud of what they do.'

Linebacker Marcus Bell leads the Pac-10 with 86 tackles for an average of 10.8 per game. He also has three sacks

Fellow linebacker Scooter Sprotte has also put up big numbers, making 39 tackles, forcing four fumbles and intercepting three passes.

After four straight losses to the Ducks, three of which were by less than seven points, Tomey and company are eager for revenge. But the Wildcats know Oregon will not arrive at Arizona Stadium in a zombie-like trance and allow its Rose Bowl hopes to be squashed easily.

Ducks

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and Bellotti said that could be the case again on Saturday.

Arizona boasts a pair of quarterbacks in Keith Smith and Ortege Jenkins who could test the resolve of the Oregon defense.

"We're going to try to keep those guys contained, because they're both good runners," Oregon defensive end Saul Patu said.

Oregon cornerbacks Eric Edwards and Rashad Bauman combined to limit Trojan all-purpose threat R. Jay Soward to the lowest yard total of his career last week. They will be expected to do the same against Arizona's duo of Dennis Northcutt and Jeremy Mc-Daniel.

"They are probably the best tandem of receivers we'll face all year long," Bellotti said. "The thing

that makes it difficult is you may have to cover them longer because of the mobility of Smith and Jenkins. Those guys can buy time in the pocket, so it's not just covering the receivers for 2.8 seconds or 3.5 seconds. You may end up having to do it for quite a while.

While Edwards and Bauman helped shut down the Trojans top receiving threat last week, USC's cornerbacks reciprocated. Oregon's leading receiver, Damon Griffin, who was second in the Pac-10 in receiving yards per game entering last Saturday, fell all the way to sixth with his twocatch, 30-yard performance against the Trojans.

Although junior Tony Hartley more than made up the slack with his six catches for 118 yards and a touchdown, Bellotti knows his se-

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nior will have to perform well against the Wildcats.

"There's no secret that Damon Griffin is a guy we're going to go to and ask to make big plays," Bel-lotti said. "We didn't ask much of him last game because of the nature of what they did. I have every confidence that Damon will not disappear from the game plan. He doesn't care what the coverage, he's going to say, 'Put the ball in my area.'

Oregon enters the game on the strength of a four-game winning streak against the Wildcats. The last time Arizona beat the Ducks was 1993, when the Wildcats won 31-10.

Oregon won 16-9 to open last season when Saladin McCullough took the opening kickoff 93 yards for a touchdown.

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