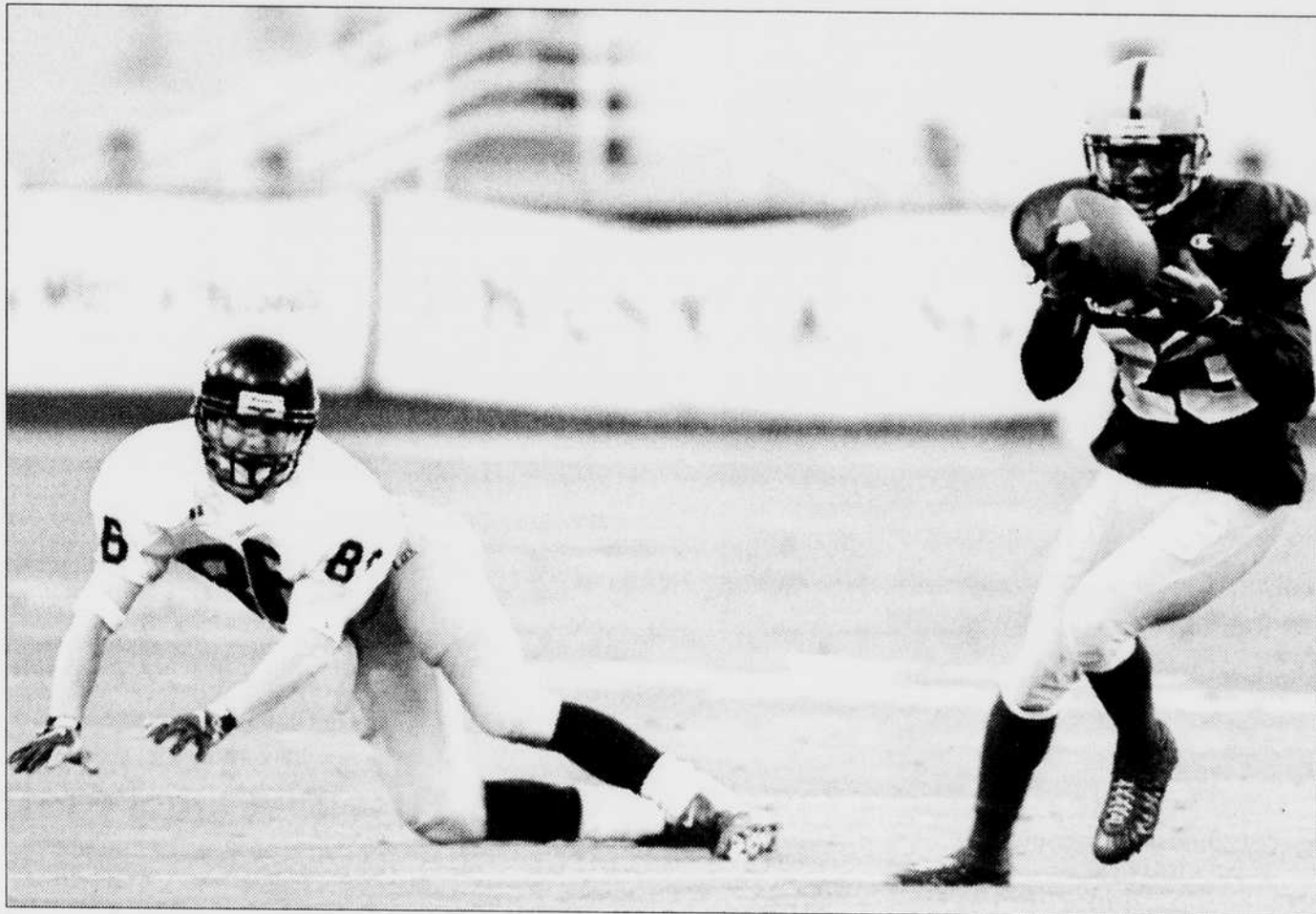


# SPORTS

WEDNESDAY  
Nov. 11, 1998

**Best Bet**  
Bowling  
Brunswick PBA  
4:30 p.m., ESPN

## ARIZONA STATE FOOTBALL



*The State Press*  
Cornerback Courtney Jackson makes an interception during the Sun Devils' 55-22 victory against California last Saturday.

*"We have to win to be bowl eligible, so we have a lot to play for."*

**Courtney Jackson**  
Arizona State  
cornerback

## Jackson key to ASU success

*Courtney Jackson faces a tough, lonely task in containing Oregon's receivers Saturday*

By Tim Pyle  
*Oregon Daily Emerald*

Although he will be performing in front of more than 40,000 green-and-yellow clad fans Saturday at Autzen Stadium, Courtney Jackson will be all alone.

As Arizona State's best cover man, the 6-foot, 180-pound cornerback will be counted on to shut down whichever of Oregon's tal-

ented receiving tandem — be it Damon Griffin or Tony Hartley — he is shadowing on a given play.

In football terms, Jackson will be on an island.

And he knows he must be nearly flawless in his protection of that island for the 5-4 Sun Devils to win perhaps their biggest game of the season to date.

"We've won three in a row, but that doesn't mean anything," Jackson says. "We've got a pretty good history against Oregon [including a

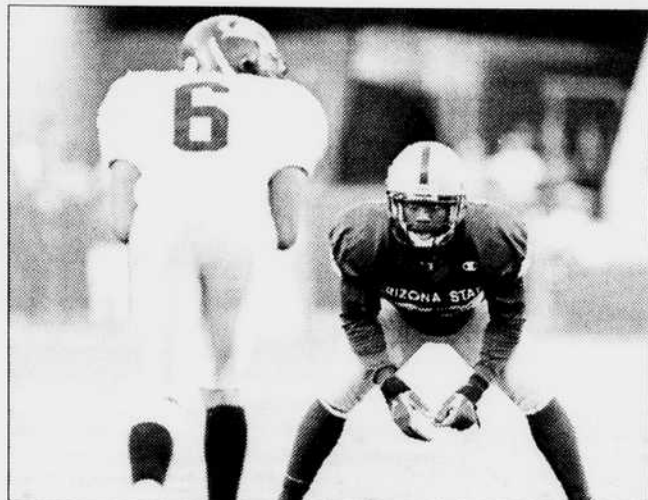
52-31 win last season], but the Pac-10 is a crazy conference. We have to win to be bowl eligible [with six wins], so we have a lot to play for."

As one of only three returning defensive starters — defensive tackle Albrecht Battle and safety Mitchell Freeman being the others — from last season's 9-3 squad, Jackson is used to the pressure.

But he knows the hostile crowd and the Ducks' potent aerial attack will intensify that pressure come Saturday's 1 p.m. kickoff.

"Hartley and Griffin are proba-

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*The State Press*  
Jackson ranks seventh in the Pac-10 this season with three interceptions.

## UCLA once again finds itself in national championship

*The Bruins regain a spot in Fiesta Bowl after their fourth straight barrowing win, this time against Oregon State Saturday*

By Rob Moseley  
*Oregon Daily Emerald*

UCLA played its fourth straight close game in beating Oregon State, 41-34, on a last-second bomb from Cade McNown on Saturday. After their overtime victory over Oregon and narrow wins over California and Stanford, the Bruins have been dodging bullets for a month.

And they've obviously been successful, as the latest Bowl Championship Series rankings have UCLA back in the Fiesta Bowl as the second-ranked team, behind only Tennessee.

"I think the conference is really strong," Bruins head coach Bob Toledo said. "I've said it before that the bottom three teams could beat the top three teams, and when you say that, that says a lot for a well-balanced conference."

Against the Beavers and Cardinal, who are a combined 1-12 in the Pacific-10 Conference this season, the Bruins won by a total of 11 points, with the outcomes of both contests still undecided in the games' final

moments.

"The last four games were close, but they're supposed to be close," Toledo said. "The other teams have scholarship players, too, they have good coaches, and we're in some tough environments, but the key thing is we did win the football games, and that's what counts."

Despite being ranked No. 3 in both the Associated Press and USA Today/ESPN polls, as well as the Sagarin and New York Times computer rankings, UCLA moved past Kansas State, from third to second. A No. 1 ranking by the Seattle Times' computer and the 10th-toughest schedule in the nation worked to the Bruins' advantage.

Should the Bruins maintain the second position and play for the national championship in Tempe, Arizona could qualify for its first-ever Rose Bowl appearance.

"We just can't think about that right now," Wildcats head coach Dick Tomey said. "We've got two tough games [against California and Arizona State]. But we know

### FOOTBALL

### Pac-10 Notes

we've got a big job, and UCLA's got a big job. Our final two games are going to be very, very tough. We're encouraging our players not to think about [the Rose Bowl]."

For the first time since 1946, however, the Rose Bowl may not include the Pac-10 and Big 10 champions. Should either champion end the season ranked first or second in the BCS poll, that team would play in the Fiesta Bowl. The Rose Bowl would then select a team from the remaining BCS teams.

The BCS is composed of the six champions from the Pac-10, Big 10, ACC, Big East, SEC and Big 12, as well as Notre Dame, should the Irish win nine games, and the next-best ranked team. Notre Dame is currently 7-1. No. 5 Florida, No. 6 Texas A&M,

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**TOLEDO**