

Oregon tailback Derien Latimer, shown here eluding a would-be Colorado tackler, rushed for a game-record tying three touchdowns in the Aloha Bowl after scoring just two in nine regular-season games in 1998. Latimer's 74 yards were nearly triple his season average.

## Latimer shines under the sun

*The Oregon tailback scored three times against Colorado*

By Joel Hood  
*Oregon Daily Emerald*

HONOLULU — For 11 games this season, tailback Derien Latimer was a football player without a role.

That all changed Christmas Day after the Ducks pulled starting tailback Herman Ho-Ching following two first-quarter fumbles that put Oregon on the brink of a blowout.

With Ho-Ching on the bench with his head down at his feet and the season's No. 1 starter, Reuben Droughns, next to him on crutches and in street clothes, Latimer rushed to the forefront. By the end of the day, he had tied the Aloha Bowl record with three rushing touchdowns and 74 yards on 19 carries.

And in doing so, Latimer brought the Ducks — and quite possibly his career — back from

extinction.

Latimer, a native of Colorado Springs, Colo., earned the state of Colorado's offensive player of the year honors in 1995 following his senior season at Air Academy High School. Latimer rushed for more than 300 yards six times and twice scored six touchdowns in a game his senior season. He concluded his prep career with 3,150 yards in just 241 carries and 38 touchdowns.

After the game, Latimer admitted there was a little extra incentive for him against Colorado.

"I wanted to step it up a little this game," he said. "I knew that all the people back at home who wondered what ever happened to me would be watching this game. It was important to me to play well."

Latimer, a junior, began the season third on the Oregon depth chart at tailback but was thrust into the starting lineup in week four following injuries to both Droughns and Ho-Ching. However, Latimer carried the ball just

four times in that game for 14 yards. He went on to average just more than three yards per carry during the regular season and was listed as fourth on the Ducks' postseason depth chart at tailback behind Ho-Ching, junior Jerry Brown and sophomore Jason Cooper.

How quickly things can turn around.

With Colorado defenders keying on quarterback Akili Smith and the Ducks' receiving corps, Oregon needed to establish a running attack. Latimer responded with touchdown runs of 11 and 4 yards in the second quarter to cut Colorado's lead to 27-14.

Latimer jump started Oregon's offense again at the start of the fourth quarter with a 1-yard touchdown run that started a furious second-half comeback that would bring the Ducks within eight points of the lead with less than six minutes to play.

His three total touchdowns were one more than he had scored the entire regular season.



43



51

	1	2	3	4	Final
Oregon	0	14	7	22	43
Colorado	17	20	7	7	51

	Oregon	Colorado
First Downs	27	13
Rushing Att.	35	35
Rushing Yards	79	176
Passes Att.	46	24
Passes Comp.	24	12
Passing Yards	456	221
Total Yards	535	397
Penalties	4-30	8-75
Possession Time	33:18	26:42
Third-down con.	7-13	3-14
Fourth-down con.	0-2	0-1
Kickoff returns	7-138	5-114
Punt returns	3-56	3-1
Interceptions	0-0	2-52
Fumble returns	0-0	1-23
Punts	4-193	6-309

Rushing				
Oregon	Att	Yds	Long	Avg
Latimer	19	74	13	3.9
Colorado				
Cherrington	Att	Yds	Long	Avg
Cherrington	10	92	59	9.2
Passing				
Oregon	Att-Comp-Int	Yds	Long	TD
Smith	46-24-2	456	51	2
Colorado				
Moschetti	Att-Comp-Int	Yds	Long	TD
Moschetti	23-11-0	213	72	4
Receiving				
Oregon	No.	Yds	Long	TD
Griffin	8	146	51	0
Colorado				
Chiaverini	No.	Yds	Long	TD
Chiaverini	3	96	72	1

## Oregon introduces new-look uniforms for next season

*A new logo incorporates both Hayward Field and Autzen Stadium*

By Joel Hood  
*Oregon Daily Emerald*

Seeking a more comfortable and "intimidating" look for next season, the Oregon football team unveiled its 1999 uniforms to the media two days prior to the Ducks' 51-43 loss to Colorado in the Aloha Bowl on Christmas Day.

The Ducks' first chance to don their new duds, which were designed by Nike, in action will be against Michigan State in East Lansing on Sept. 4. However, Oregon players and coaches have already said benefits of the striking new look are numerous.

"We wanted a more dominating kind of a look," junior linebacker Peter Sirmon said. "Our old uniforms were not as comfortable as these new ones. Our new jersey fits tighter in the chest and feels more like we were wearing a tank top."

Nike representatives said the new uniforms are a combination of mesh, cordura and lycra that give the jerseys a shrink-wrap fit that still allows freedom of movement. The mesh body

panels on the front and back of the jerseys provide improved ventilation, and the stretch cordura fabric is form-fitting and works to cinch the jersey to the body.

"I think this really improves our look, but it also lets us move around easier on the field," junior tailback Reuben Droughns said. "We're all very excited."

There are other improvements as well. The new pants contain a pad retention system that holds the thigh and knee pads in place. The old system allowed the pads to slid in and out of a sleeve inside the pants but also allowed the pads to shift during the game.

Nike representatives said the new helmets also represent the cutting edge in sports technology. The helmets, mallard green in color, capture and bend the light with the same effect as a Mallard duck turning its head in the sunlight. It will mark the first time the football team has returned to green helmets since the 1971 season.

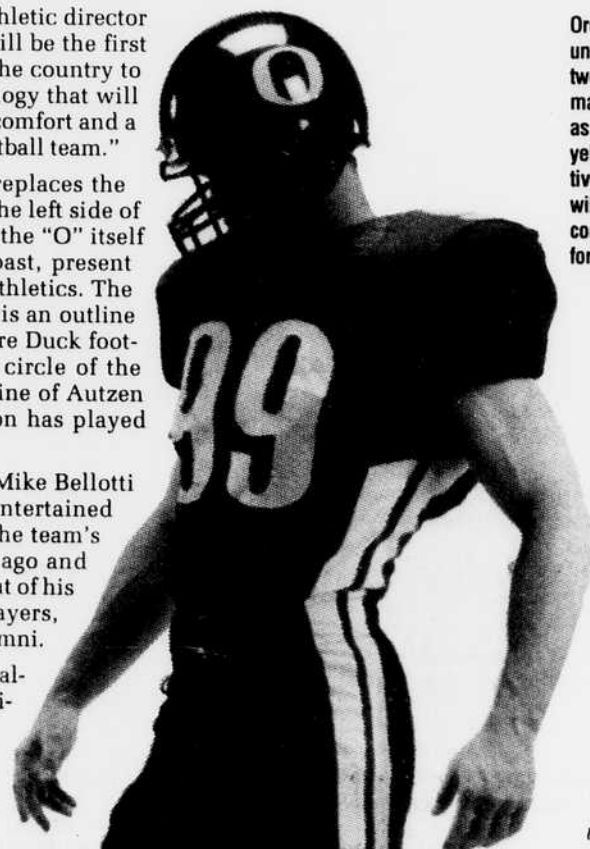
"The distinctive new design of the uniforms is yet another example of our efforts to establish ourselves as innovative leaders in the area of inter-

collegiate athletics," athletic director Bill Moos said. "We will be the first collegiate program in the country to enjoy this new technology that will provide performance, comfort and a unique look for our football team."

A single letter "O" replaces the interlocking "UO" on the left side of the helmet. The cut of the "O" itself is said to reflect the past, present and future of Oregon athletics. The inner circle of the "O" is an outline of Hayward field, where Duck football began. The outer circle of the "O" represents an outline of Autzen Stadium, where Oregon has played since 1967.

Oregon head coach Mike Bellotti said that he first entertained thoughts of changing the team's appearance two years ago and began to solicit the input of his assistant coaches, players, school officials and alumni.

Nike accepted the challenge from the University to create a new look that Bellotti said will carry the Ducks into the new millennium.



Oregon's new home uniforms will employ two shades of green, mallard and spruce, as well as lightening yellow in an innovative new design that will provide added comfort and mobility for the Ducks.

UO Athletic Department