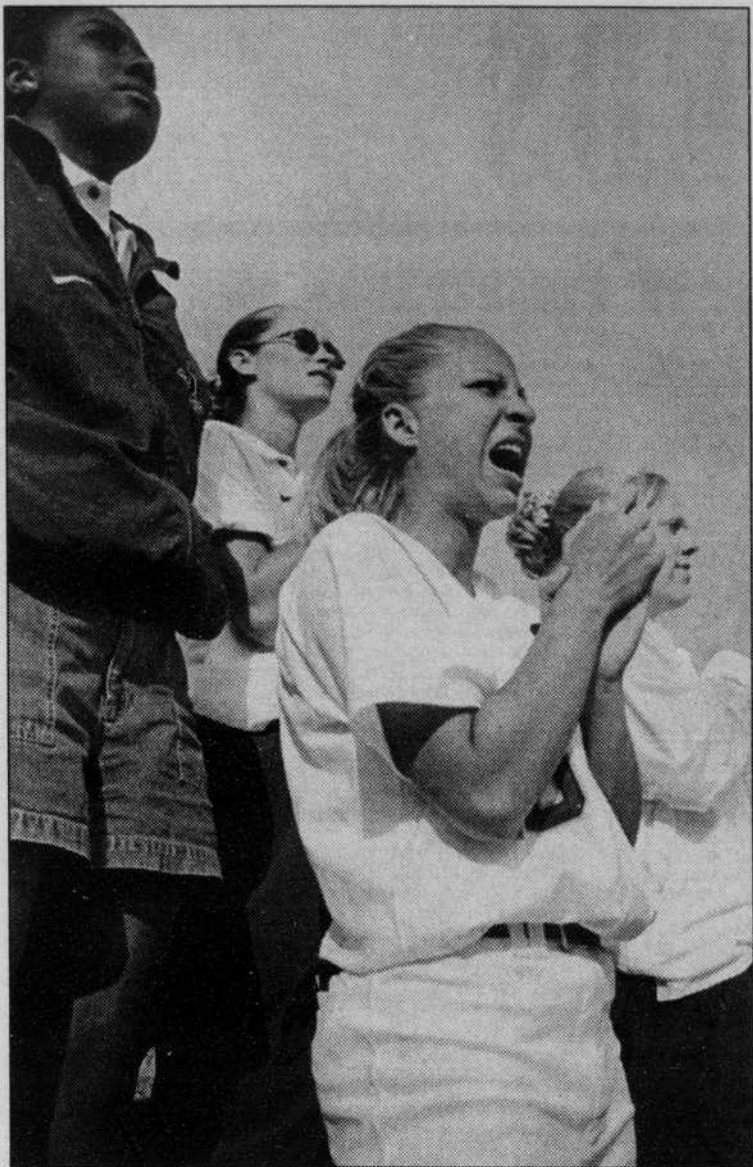




Missy Coe cheers with her teammates during the second game against Washington last Sunday.

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pletely different, and it's for the best. I feel a lot more confident in it, but it's all because of the Oregon coaches.

On the contrary, Gamez said the biggest improvement he has witnessed so far in Coe's game has come defensively behind the plate.

"The big thing that we continue to stress is that we work on her footwork," Gamez said. "If she keeps her feet moving and her feet in good, ready position, it just helps her a lot from the catching standpoint. But defensively, she's done a good job."

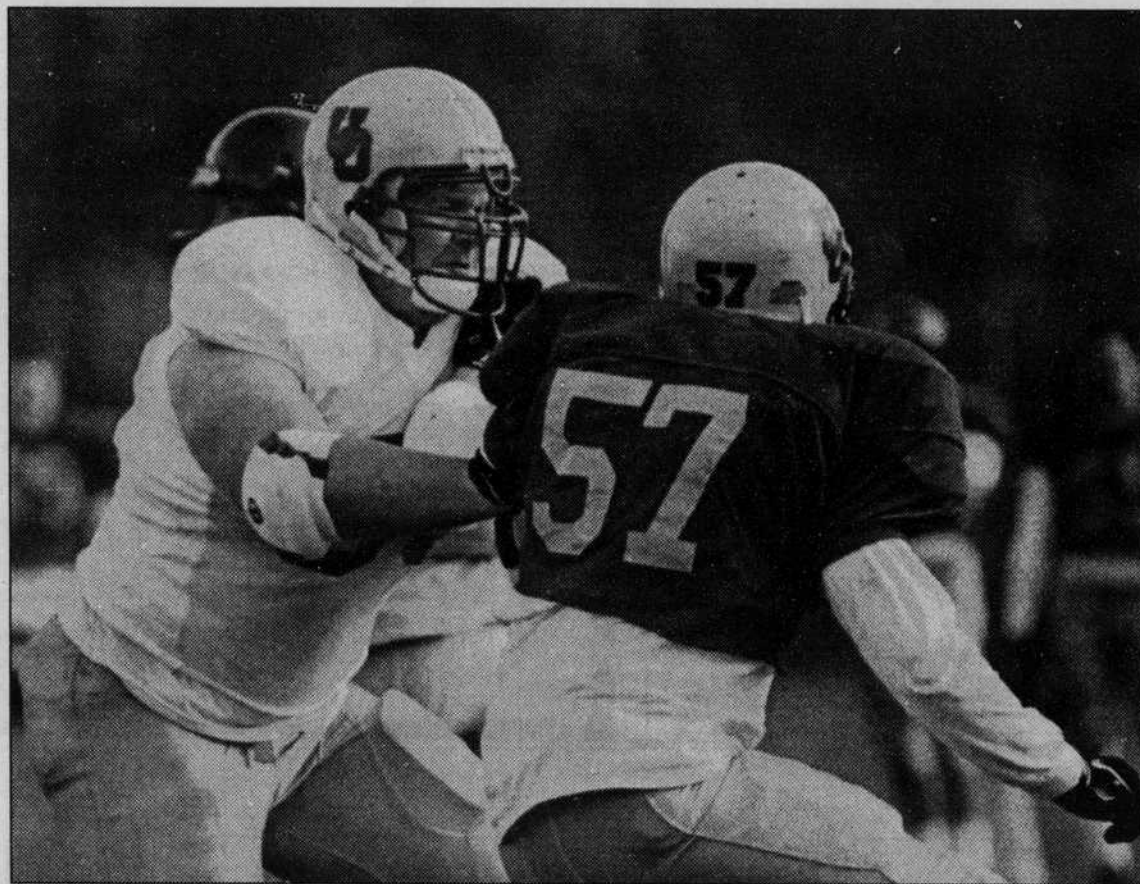
Recently, Gamez has often started Coe at catcher in the first game and then kept her potent bat in the lineup in game two as the designated player or in left field.

"Obviously, we want to get as many bats that are going well as we can in the lineup," Gamez said, "and that's one of the ways we can try to keep her in there."

In the second game of Sunday's doubleheader loss to the Huskies, Coe even showed off some outfield skills. When Washington's Jennifer Spediacci drove Danielle Haag's pitch to deep left in the top of the second inning, Coe retreated, twisted, turned and made the catch against the fence.

She'll "do whatever it takes to be successful, and that says a lot about her as an individual," Gamez said. "She wants to succeed regardless of who she's playing against."

Even if she is playing against third- and fourth-grade boys in little league.



Offensive lineman Josh Beckett blocks linebacker Billy Prince during spring practice earlier this week.

Football

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current offensive-line problems.

"We're doing the same stuff — we have the same plays and everything," Beckett said. "But you learn one position, and you get to know that position, and then you come back and [Zoumboukos] is always changing us around."

But the line is not denying the fact that it has much room for improvement. Moen said there is "nothing that [the line] is doing exceptionally well."

"We need to work on our pass protection and just overall communication," Moen said. "Even

though we haven't shown it in the scrimmages, we're working hard out here on the practice field, so I think we'll come along here before too soon."

The offensive line faced major setbacks because of injuries last season. Left tackle Scott Fergus was sidelined most of the season with an injured shoulder, but he received a medical redshirt year and will be able to play this season.

However, Fergus' shoulder still has him watching from the sidelines.

"It's unfortunate because he will be a senior next year," Zoum-

boukos said. "But Scott is not helping himself by all this time he's missing. It's through no fault of his own. Until he gets back out here, we have to make do without him."

Until Fergus returns to the line, Zoumboukos said Moen and Beckett will be critical in uniting the offense.

"Both of those players will have been in the Oregon program for five years," Zoumboukos said.

"They have to be leaders. They're both very quiet individuals, so they're the type that will lead more by example than by any words."

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