

Oregon Daily
Emerald
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Sports

Best Bet
NFL Football
Dallas vs. Minnesota
6 p.m., ABC



Ducks spare the drama in blowout win

■ Spurred by a solid all-around effort, Oregon scores 45 straight points after trailing 3-0

By Mirjam Swanson
Oregon Daily Emerald

It just wouldn't be like the Oregon football team to let fans go home without some late-game heroics.

And so with 13 seconds left, junior cornerback Jermaine Hanspard pummeled Washington State wide receiver Collin Henderson, jarring the ball loose. Senior linebacker Nathan Naggi immediately scooped up the fumble and dashed 47 yards for a touchdown.

For the fourth time in seven games, the Ducks (6-3 overall, 4-2 Pacific-10 Conference) scored on their final possession.

Only this time, it wasn't at all dramatic. Naggi's touchdown — a fulfilling moment for the hard-working role player — served mostly as quick payback for the Cougars' (2-7, 1-5) first touchdown, which came with 28 seconds left.

It was merely icing on a most-convincing 52-10 Oregon victory.

"I'm just glad we got to score right after they scored," Naggi said. "We had a great defensive effort, and that last play just reflected that."

The win, a good overall performance by the Ducks both offensively and defensively, was significant for several reasons.

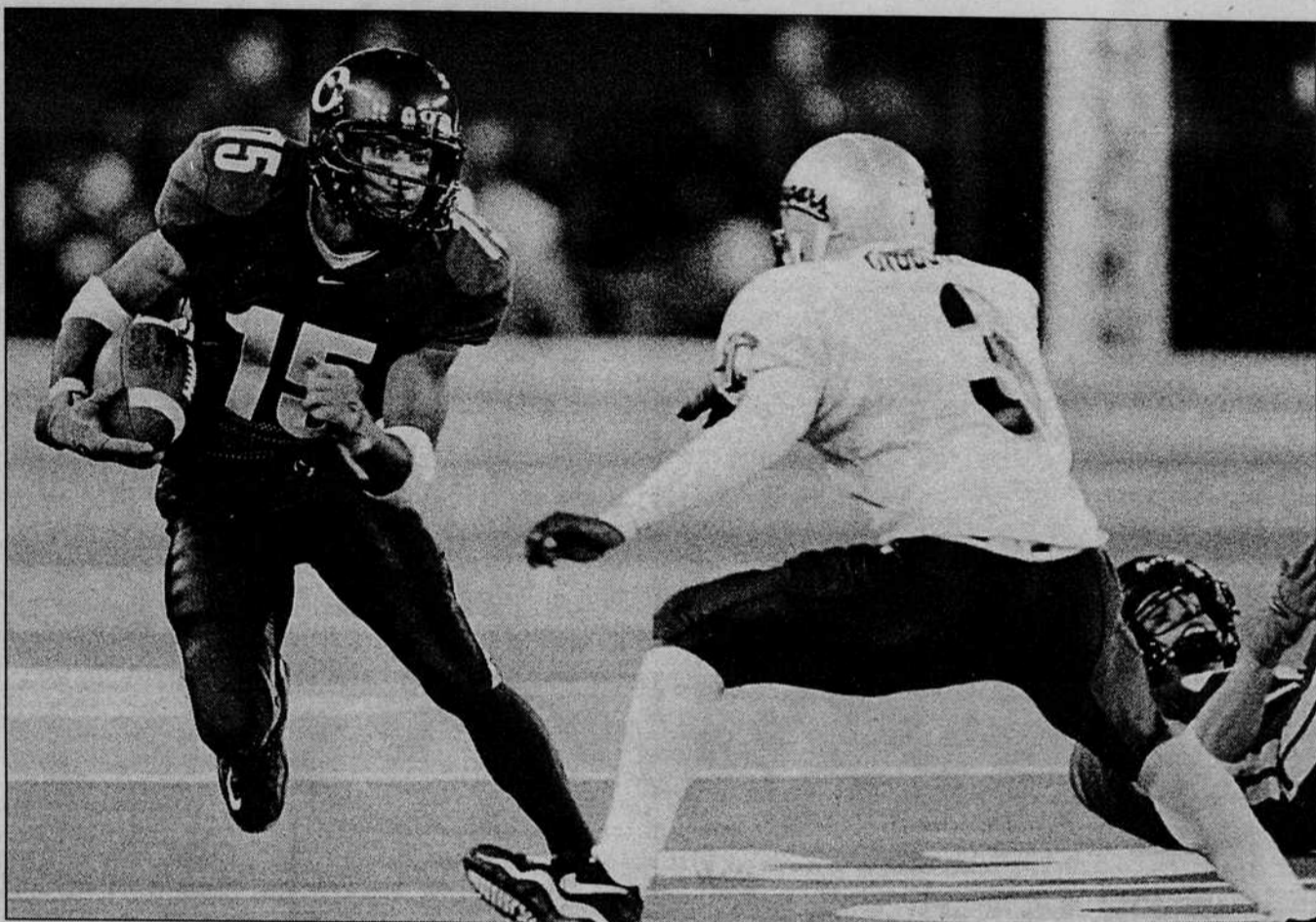
With its sixth win, Oregon is bowl-eligible — for the sixth consecutive season. The Ducks haven't had this kind of extended success in 60 years.

It was also win No. 100 at Autzen Stadium, coming in front of 44,090 appreciative supporters who cheered Oregon on as it increased its conference-leading home-winning streak to 13.

"It's great that I'll be able to say I was on that team that accomplished all of those things," said senior linebacker Dietrich Moore, whose team-leading contribution of eight tackles and two sacks was one of many standout Duck performances.

"Our defense played a whale of a

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Jeffrey Stockton Emerald

Freshman wide receiver Keenan Howry secures one of his four receptions for a team-high 68 yards against the Cougars. His long was a 28-yard touchdown.

Harrington shows his starting stuff



Tim
Pyle

Head coach Mike Bellotti may not be saying it, but the rest of the Oregon football team knows it:

Joey Harrington is now the man at quarterback for the Ducks.

His performance Saturday night at Autzen Stadium — although it came against dreadful Washington State — only solidified Harrington's claim to the starting spot.

The sophomore from Portland has won the respect and support of his teammates with his fiery demeanor, rocket right arm and elusive mobility.

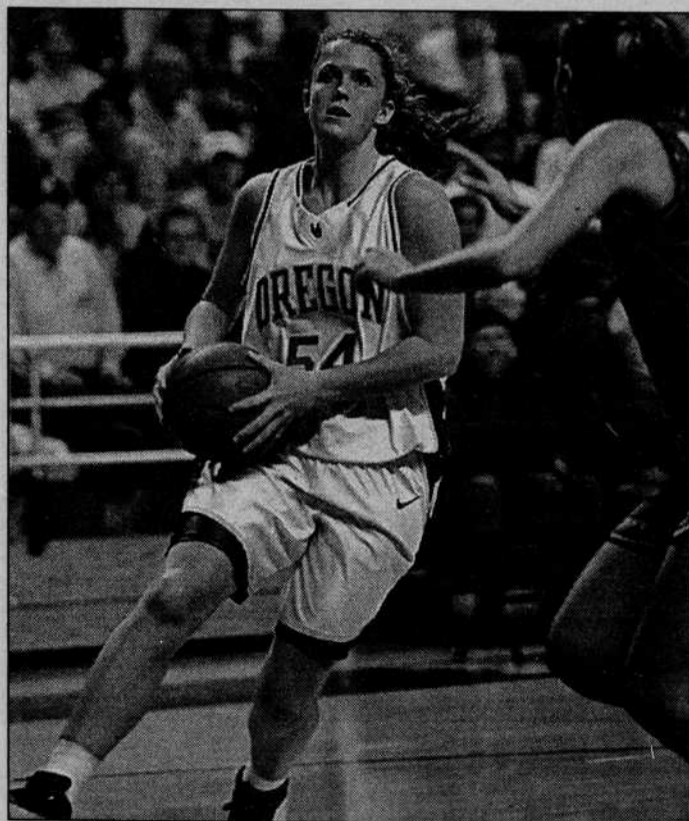
Skill-wise, he may not be that different

from junior A.J. Feeley, as Bellotti repeatedly points out, but Harrington's knack for running the option and escaping from would-be tacklers has set him apart.

"I've seen Joey get out of some things that it didn't look possible to get out of," said senior flanker Tony Hartley, who became No. 1 on Oregon's all-time receiving-yardage list Saturday.

Although Feeley has proven himself a

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Jeffrey Stockton Emerald

Brianne Meharry goes up for two of her 18 points in Sunday's exhibition win.

Meharry sparks UO's exhibition win

■ In front of 3,321 fans, the Ducks pull away to beat Lokomotiva Kosice 74-59 in Sunday's exhibition game at McArthur Court

By Mirjam Swanson
Oregon Daily Emerald

Freshman guard Kourtney Shreve said she was "soooo nervous" before the first game of her collegiate career at McArthur Court on Sunday.

Meanwhile, Paulette Fredrick, sophomore forward Alyssa Fredrick's mother, said she was popping antacids down in San Diego, anxiously wondering how her daughter and the rest of the Oregon women's basketball team were doing.

Junior forward Brianne Meharry? She wasn't sweating a thing during the Ducks' 74-59 exhibition win against Lokomotiva Kosice, a traveling club team from Slovakia.

Telling teammates and coaches that she preferred to come off the bench this time, Meharry yielded her starting spot to fellow junior forward Angelina Wolvert.

"Before the game we drew names out of a cup because I don't really feel that anyone's playing poorly enough for two of the three to start," said head coach Jody Runge about having three proven post players to fill two starting post positions. "Ange drew names, and the names came out Bri and Jenny [Mowe]. Bri said, 'No, I'd rather come off the bench. You start Ange.'"

So Meharry reclined for 4 1/2 minutes before immersing herself in the game. She finished with 18 points, four

rebounds and a steal in 20 minutes.

"Bri is a winner," Runge said. "She finds ways to make things happen. She's as good as it gets as far as having a sense of the game. We're glad to have her back running on all cylinders."

Meharry's play made it evident that the torn anterior cruciate ligament she suffered midway through her freshman season is distant history as she maneuvered her way up and under defenders for most of her points.

Her steady contribution helped Oregon overcome a slow start in which the Ducks couldn't shake their persistent and crafty opponents.

"At the beginning, it was a little frustrating," said point guard Shaquala Williams, who had 12 points and three assists in 24 minutes. "But once we figured things out, we were fine. This team did a great job of exposing our weaknesses, and we just have to go back and work on them."

She was spelled by junior Karen Piers and then by Shreve, who didn't score but made her presence obvious anyway with 10 minutes of crowd-pleasing, rough-and-tumble hustle. Freshman forward Courtney Moore also had a good debut as a Duck. She finished with eight points in eight minutes.

"The freshmen came in and put on a show," Meharry said. "That was especially fun for the crowd."

The 3,321 in attendance got to see every member of the Oregon roster participate.

"You always expect to play everybody as much as you can [in an exhibition]," Runge said. "It helps the young players, getting out there in the bright lights."