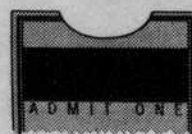


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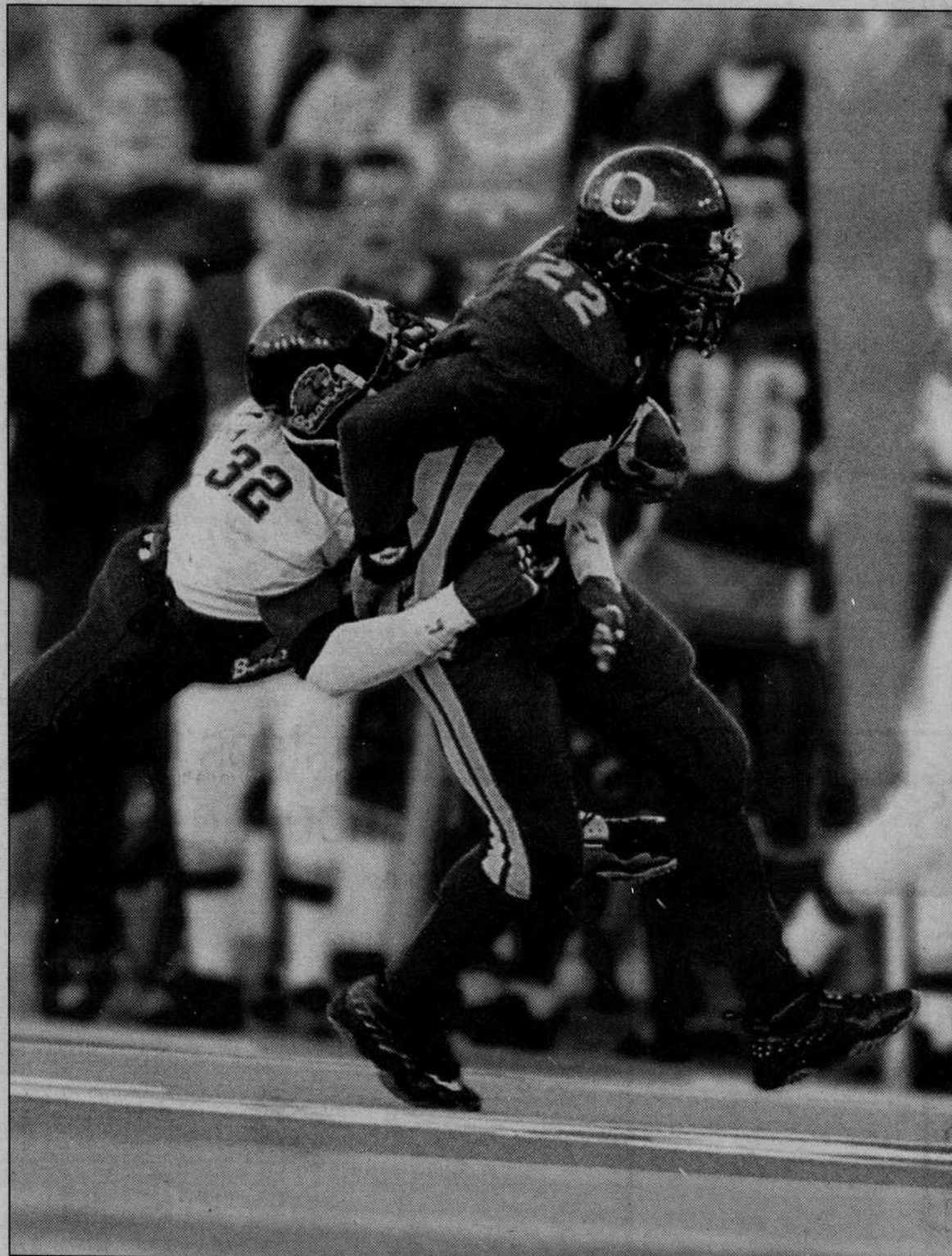
Sports

Sun Bowl Tickets

Tickets for the Dec. 31 Sun Bowl go on sale at 9 a.m. at the Casanova Center. Reserved seats cost \$35 for the game in El Paso, Texas.



Droughns, D make all the difference



Oregon senior tailback Reuben Droughns proves to be too much for linebacker Calvin Carlyle and the Oregon State defense to handle.

■ Tailback Reuben Droughns and a stifling defense lead Oregon to an impressive Civil War win

By Tim Pyle
Oregon Daily Emerald

Akili Smith wasn't around for this season's version of the Civil War, but the Oregon football team didn't need him.

Instead, it was Reuben Droughns — absent from last season's 44-41 double-overtime defeat because of injury — who proved indispensable to the Ducks yet again.

The senior tailback, coupled with a dominant run-stopping performance by the defense, was what made the difference in Oregon's 25-14 win Saturday, its 20th in the last 25 Civil Wars.

After being outgained on the ground 186-31 in last season's loss in Corvallis, Droughns and the Ducks turned the tables on Oregon State.

The 6-foot, 210-pound Droughns made his first and last Civil War a memorable one with 197 yards rushing — the most ever in a Civil War — and one touchdown on 38 carries.

"I would call him a difference-maker," Oregon head coach Mike Bellotti said. "He wanted this one a lot, and I think that showed and carried over to the rest of the team."

Droughns agreed with his coach. "I was pumped up for this game," Droughns said. "I knew it was gonna be an aggressive game."

The Duck defense, meanwhile, continued its recent trend of great play by holding tailback Ken Simonton and the Beaver offense to just 27 yards rushing and 275 yards total.

Last season, Simonton was the No. 1 Duck-killer with 157 yards rushing and four touchdowns in the Civil War. But this time, the 5-foot-7, 175-pound sophomore who broke Oregon State's single-season rushing mark this season was held to

Reuben Droughns



Position:
Tailback
Year: Senior
Height: 6-0
Weight: 210
Hometown:
Anaheim, Calif.

1999 Civil War: 38 carries for a game-high 197 yards rushing and one touchdown

1999 season: 256 carries for 1,139 yards rushing and nine touchdowns despite a rib injury that caused him to miss all of one game and parts of two others

Quotable: "He's so versatile. He can run over you, or he'll run by you. Defenses know that. And they definitely don't wanna stand in his way. So what do they do? I mean, he's awesome." — UO flanker Tony Hartley

just 63 yards on 24 carries.

"That's one of the best running backs in the Pac-10," Oregon quarterback Joey Harrington said. "He was leading the nation at one point. For us to stop him like that, you can't say enough about our defense."

The Ducks showed Simonton from the get-go that this Civil War would be a different story. Averaging five yards per carry entering the game, Simonton was dropped for a combined loss of 12 yards on his first three carries. He ended the first half with 12 carries for just eight yards.

"We were just flying around," said senior linebacker Peter Simon, who also missed the 1998 Civil War with injury but made amends with 10 tackles, one fumble recovery and one sack. "We had a great game plan, and there was just good execution."

After directing the Beavers to their first winning season since 1970, first-year head coach Dennis Erickson was unable to emerge victorious in his first Civil War. A disappointed Erickson knew Droughns had a lot

Turn to **Droughns**, Page 13

Fittingly, Duck seniors go out in splendid style



Tim
Pyle

Two winning teams clashing in the Civil War for the first time since 1970.

The third-largest crowd in Autzen Stadium history at 46,115, most of which was on its feet and screaming throughout.

And ultimately, a sweetly satisfying 25-14 win for Oregon that paid Oregon State and its fans back for a year of gloating following last season's double-overtime

Beaver victory in Corvallis.

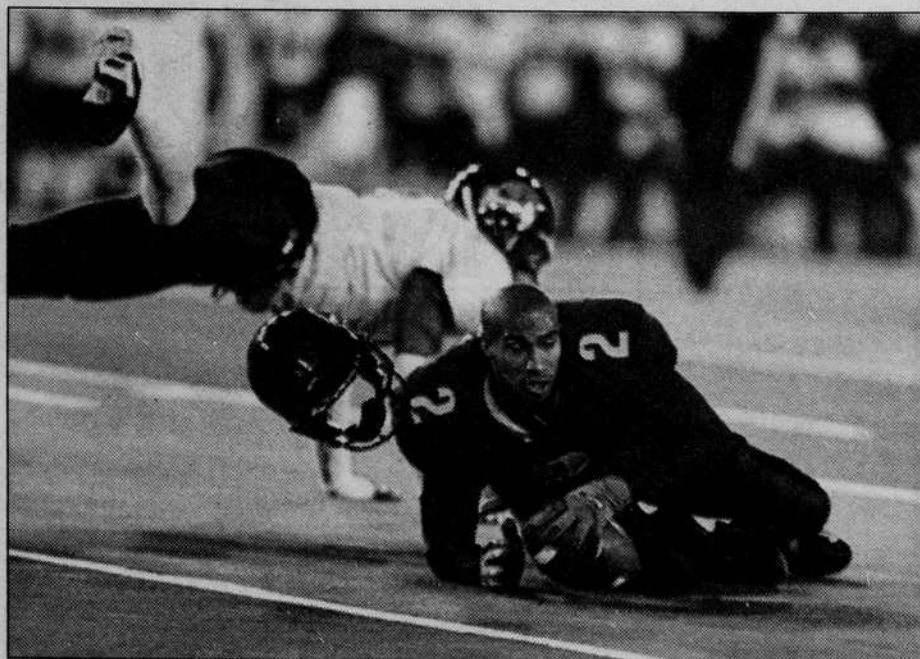
For a senior Duck, of which 22 played at Autzen for the last time Saturday, there isn't much else you can ask for in a finale.

Following the game — a punishing, pounding affair in which Oregon outgained Oregon State 210-27 on the ground to provide the difference — those seniors who have given so many Duck fans so much to root for during the last four seasons gave something else.

They gave their thanks.

Their thanks for a home-field advantage that has helped Oregon win a Pacific-10 Conference-leading 14 straight home games and has played a large part in the Ducks drive to a school-record three straight bowl games, the third of which will come on the eve of a new millennium when Oregon plays Dec. 31 in the Sun

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Senior flanker Tony Hartley loses his helmet on this first-half reception, but he holds on to what really matters, the ball, on his way to grabbing a game-high eight receptions for 100 yards.

Scott Barnett Emerald