

SPORTS

Monday

Best Bet

NFL Jaguars vs. Colts
ABC, 6 p.m.

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Ducks dismantle UCLA in rockin' Autzen

■ Maurice Morris and the defense lead Oregon to a big-time win over UCLA in their Pac-10 opener

By Scott Pesznecker
Oregon Daily Emerald

The Ducks made a statement under the Saturday afternoon sun, and they did so with vigor.

The scene: Oregon up, 22-10, with time winding down. Ryan McCann, UCLA's sophomore quarterback, had struggled with his arm all day and needed a football miracle for his team to win. The crowd was roaring, the Autzen Stadium scoreboard read first-and-10 on the Bruins' 18-yard line, and then the snap—and the fumble—and the ball disappeared under the diving frame of Oregon linebacker Matt Smith.

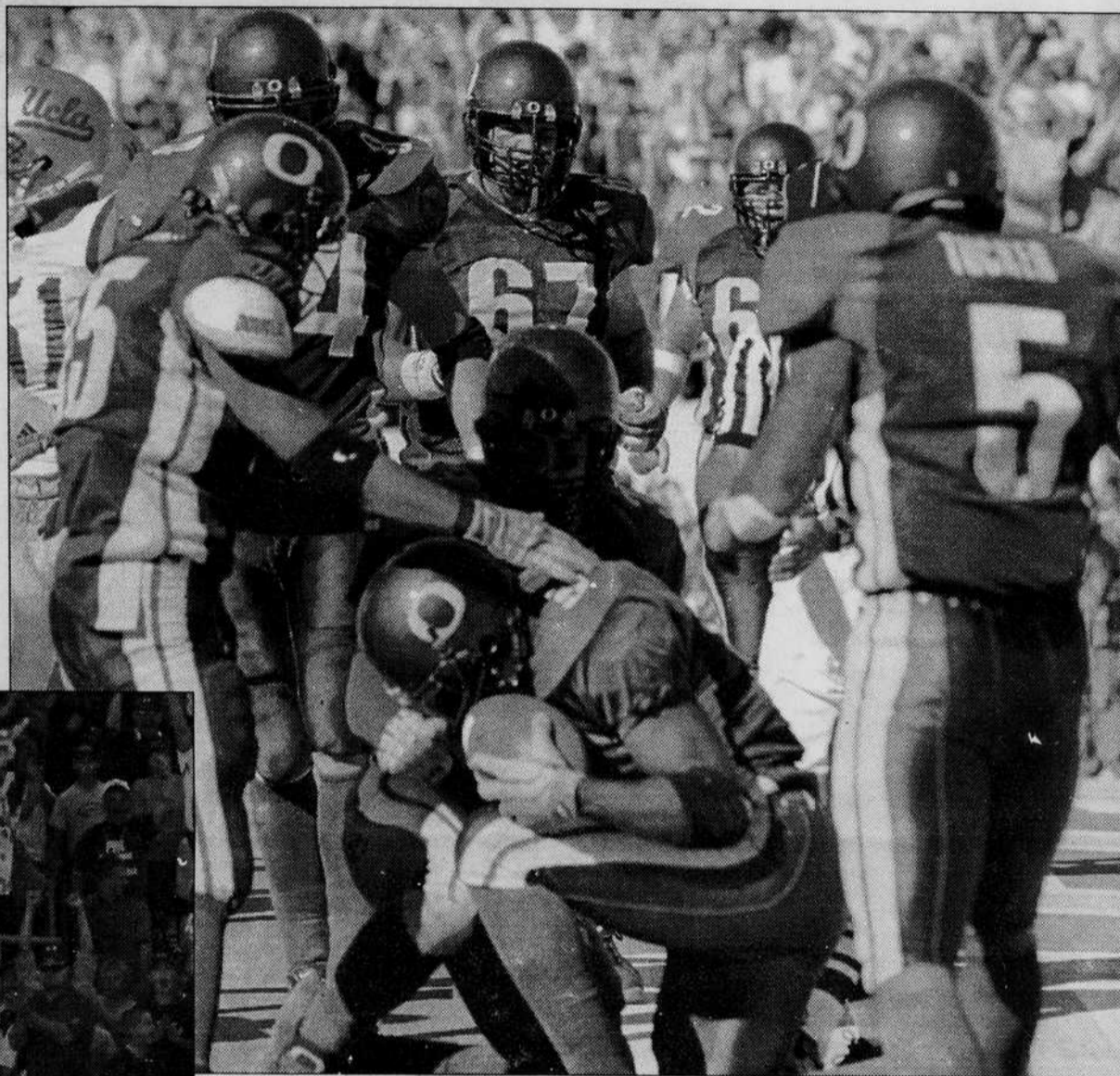
There would be no game-saving miracle. All that then-No. 6 UCLA could do, besides wait for the clock to

expire, was try to endure the mocking chant of "overrated" from more than 45,000 Duck fans.

But Oregon wasn't done. Two plays later, junior tailback Maurice Morris capped 139 yards of rushing on 37 carries with his second touchdown of his Pacific-10 Conference debut, a six-yard dance into the end zone. Then the defense joined in, sacking McCann twice during UCLA's last drive.

The crowd stormed the field with 10 seconds left, and Oregon (3-1 overall, 1-0 Pac-10) won in a big, big way, 29-10, humbling the Bruins (3-1, 0-1) in front of a sell-out crowd and a nationally televised audience.

"Beating the No. 6 team, it was a great welcome," Mor-



Dan Brunell Emerald

(Left) Senior defensive end Saul Patu sacks UCLA quarterback Ryan McCann to further spread icing on the cake, less than a minute after (above) running back Maurice Morris scored Oregon's final points on a six-yard touchdown run.



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Emotions run high as sweet victory engulfs UO



Jeff Smith

One by one, as the final seconds ticked away, Oregon players and their coach shared in the jubilation, the triumph and the emotion.

Head coach Mike Bellotti hugged defensive stalwart Saul Patu and James Rose.

Senior defensive end Jason Nikolao put his right arm on Bellotti's shoulder, smiled widely

and went in for the bear hug.

Bellotti then embraced senior wide receiver Marshaun Tucker, looked proudly at the young man and kissed him on the cheek.

As Joey Harrington took a knee, and the students charged the field 10 seconds too soon, you just knew that Saturday's 29-10 win over sixth-ranked UCLA was more than a game.

It was a statement.

A statement of courage, a statement of togetherness, a statement of dominance, but most importantly, it was a statement of awareness.

Just last week in Knoxville, Tenn., on ESPN's "College GameDay", analyst Lee

Corso asked, "Where is Eugene?"

Well on Saturday, Corso knew exactly where Eugene was located as he was in town to film "GameDay", and it is safely assumed that he will never forget the locale.

Because along with the emotion on the field, there was the madness in the crowd.

The game-time atmosphere certainly lived up to its hype, and helped the Ducks secure its 17th-straight home victory.

It was loud. It was crazy. It was, well, Autzen Stadium.

"Our crowd was outstanding today, and they were in the game for all four quarters of play," said sophomore wide receiver Jason Willis, who piled up 48 yards of total offense on five plays. "More importantly was that they never let up and they helped us against a tough UCLA team."

While the victory is huge for the simple reason that it was Oregon's Pacific-10 opener, the fact that it was on national television and that it was against the Bruins made it even more so.

No Oregon player had ever beaten the Bruins in their careers, and for the seniors that was motivation enough.

"It's awesome," Patu said. "We feel like we should have gotten this win a couple years ago. We let some chances slip by us

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Women's basketball team loses its leading scorer

■ Shaquala Williams, point guard for the Oregon women's basketball team, will miss the season with a torn A.C.L.

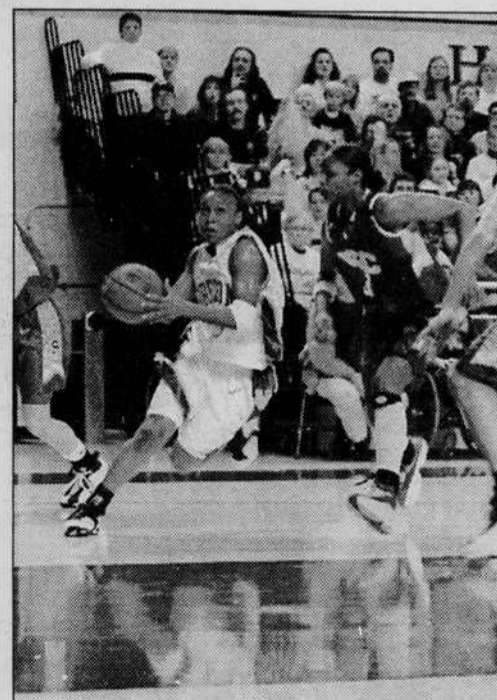
By Scott Pesznecker
Oregon Daily Emerald

Ironically, the greatest challenge of Shaquala Williams' college basketball career may take place off the court.

Williams, the Oregon women's basketball team's star point guard, will miss the 2000-01 season after tearing the anterior cruciate ligament in her left knee, an MRI revealed last Monday.

Williams said she sustained the season-ending injury in a pickup game at McArthur Court on Sept. 16. Surgery should take place this week at Sacred Heart Medical Center. According to head coach Jody Runge, rehabilitation will take six to nine months.

"I'm proud of the way she's handling this," Runge said. "Obviously a grieving process will come, and



Emerald

Shaquala Williams will sit this season out with a torn ACL.

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