

Smith

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when they were No. 2 in the nation in 1998 and last year when we lost at the one-foot line. So it's a really great feeling."

Senior Lee Gundy, a native of Marysville, Calif., admitted that when Oregon went up 22-10 in the fourth quarter, the feeling of finally beating the Bruins started sinking in.

"We were up by 12 at one point, and I look up and I was like, 'Wow, this is going to happen. This is really going to happen,'" Gundy said. "But I didn't want to really believe it because there was still five minutes left. Then when we got the ball back and scored again, man, simply an unexplainable feeling."

It was certainly a pride-filled group of seniors following the win. On one corner of the interview room was Matt Smith talking about the character of his team. To his left was Nikolao, boasting about shutting down Bruin running back DeShaun Foster and holding him only to 49 rushing yards.

But if you took a look on the other side of the room you'd see a player, all by himself, leaning against the wall with a proud smile on his face.

Meet Jeff Austin. The 6-foot-1, 265 pound senior was also very happy to have finally beaten UCLA, but more importantly, he was thrilled just to have been a part of the win. You see, the walk-on center made his first career start on Saturday because regular center Ryan Schmid moved over to guard to replace the injured Josh Jones.

Austin is a graduate of Beaverton High, where he earned all-Metro League honors for both defense and offense, and has been at Oregon for the past five years without a scholarship. He saw his first

action last year against UTEP, Nevada and Washington St., and was really surprised to see himself in the starting line-up on Saturday.

"I was nervous, but it just felt so great to be in there," Austin said. "I've waited five long years for something like this."

Just as all of the Duck players, coaches, fans, etc., have endured that same long wait to celebrate a

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Lee Gundy
Marysville, CA

victory over UCLA.

So when the clock showed 0:00, there was indeed some celebration.

But not too much. As most Oregon players reminded people, the revelry of the UCLA win will last for "about eight hours", and then all talk and focus will turn to next week's "big-time" game that will again be nationally televised.

"All this week did was make next week's game against Washington that much bigger," Smith said. "That's what you want."

The Ducks also wanted to get into the national spotlight.

Well, with the win, Oregon has clearly opened some eyes. And if the Ducks keep performing with such passion and emotion, those eyes could stay glued on them all season long.

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Bruins

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game, Toledo decided against blasting loud noise during practice to simulate what it would be like to play at Autzen because he doesn't like "those blaring speakers." Instead, he opted for "whisper drills", forcing his players to pay attention to the snap counts in silence.

His drills didn't seem to help his players that much as the offense was out of sync all afternoon. No more so was that evident than in a defining series at the 4-minute mark of the first quarter.

It was a first-and-ten for the Bruins at its own 38-yard line. McCann attempted to call out the play amidst the charged-up crowd, but to no avail. Result: False start.

It was then a first-and-15 from its own 33. Again the crowd was going berserk. Result: False start.

Now it was first-and-20 from its own 28. The fans were loving it. The Duck defense was getting fired up. The Bruin offense was sputtering. Result: A third straight false start.

"We've had adversity in the past, and we've come back from it," said McCann, who was 13-for-33 for 152 yards. "We had that today, and we didn't execute when we needed to."

Many of the Bruins cited Autzen Stadium's worn down turf — installed in 1991 — as one of the reasons for their poor play. McCann said he felt a hamstring pull while running on the turf.

"It was different," McCann said. "We're not used to it. We could simulate the crowd noise at home, but not the turf, but it really shouldn't come down to that."

Bruin wide receiver Freddie

Mitchell also had a complaint. Mitchell, who had eight catches for 158 yards, did not come away impressed with Oregon cornerback Rashad Bauman.

Mitchell, who said that the crowd didn't really have a big affect on him, was not too pleased with Bauman's mouth.

"He's the easiest cornerback I've played against all year," Mitchell said. "And I felt that he was so easy

“If you stop DeShaun Foster then you shut down the UCLA offense.”

Rashad Bauman
Oregon cornerback

to beat, but he talks so much. It's so disrespectful for him to talk so much."

Bauman called Mitchell a "decent receiver", but says that the key to beating the Bruins isn't by stopping its receivers, but rather shutting down the run.

UCLA running back DeShaun Foster, who had averaged 141 yards in the previous three games, was targeted all game long and finished with only 49 yards on 19 carries. Due to quarterback sacks against them, the Bruins finished with a net rushing yardage of minus-nine.

"If you stop DeShaun Foster then you shut down the UCLA offense," Bauman said. "And if he isn't running the ball then their offense isn't running neither."

The loss hurt the Bruins in the polls, as UCLA dropped from No. 6 to No. 15 in The Associated Press poll and from No. 8 to No. 17 in the USA Today/ESPN coaches' poll.

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