

## SPORTS

Wednesday

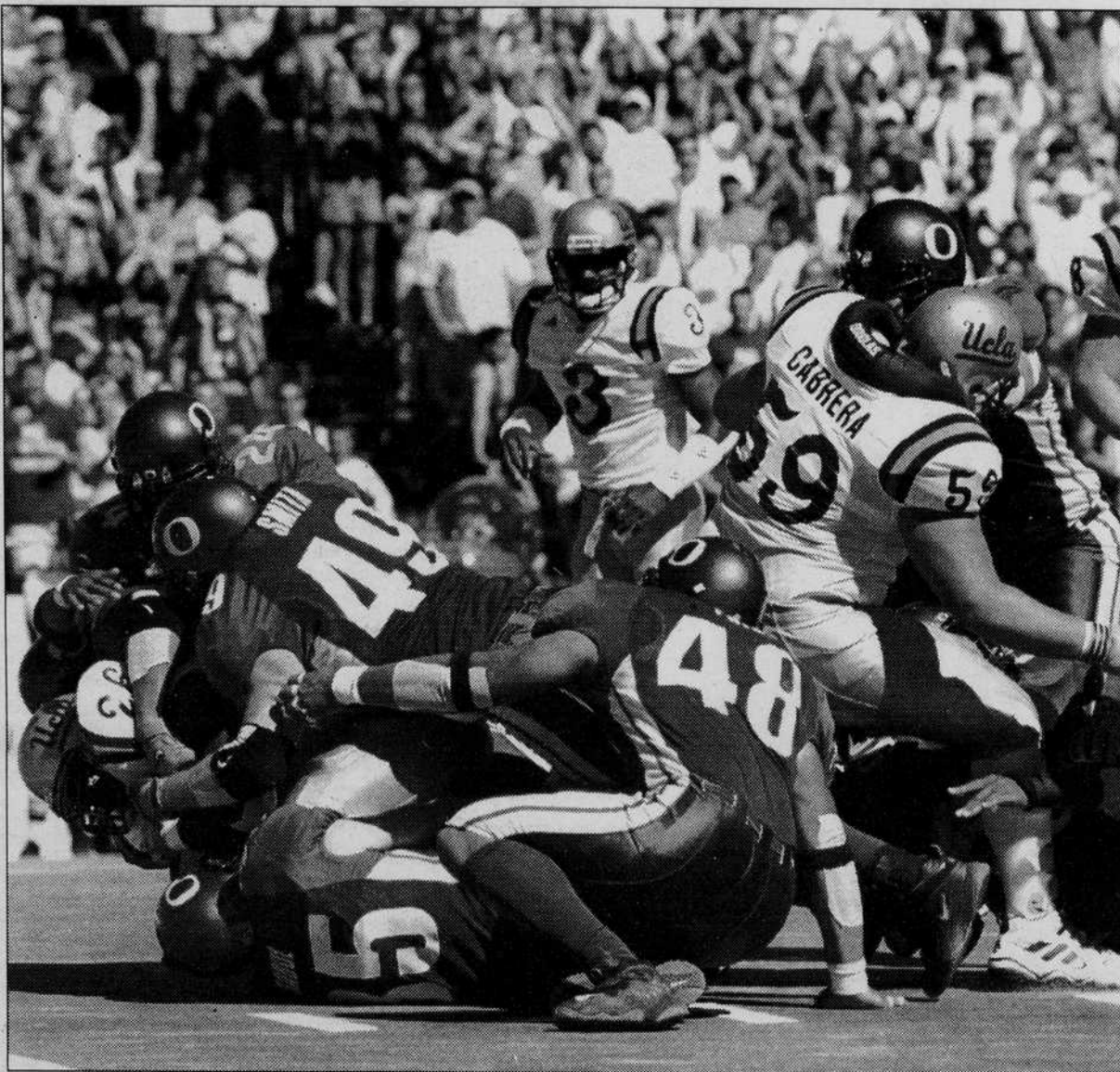
Best Bet

MLB: Texas Rangers at Seattle Mariners  
Fox Sports Net, 7 p.m.

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# Lickin' his chops



Seattle native Saul Patu has never lost to the Huskies in a game that he has played and hopes to keep that streak alive this Saturday

By Jeff Smith  
Oregon Daily Emerald

Saul Patu's eyes grew a little larger, his mouth opened a little wider and his voice got a little lower.

"It's Husky week," he said.

For defensive end Patu, this is the game that he has been eyeing on his calendar since the schedule was released. The Seattle, Wash., native is well aware of the bitter Oregon-Washington rivalry, seeing how he grew up in Husky territory.

"This game is always in the back of my mind, and when it comes time to think about it, I kind of lick my chops and can't wait," Patu said. "It's fun because I grew up wanting to be a Husky. So this is a special game for me."

Patu missed last season's 34-20 loss to Washington up in Seattle due to injury, and was forced to watch the game from the sidelines. With this being his senior year, he is healthy and ready to "put on a show" in front of about 30 family and friends.

Patu will have his parents, grandparents, sisters, brothers, nieces, nephews and some high school friends in attendance at Autzen Stadium on Saturday.

"Last year was tough to not contribute in that heartbreaking loss, but I'm more than ready this week," Patu said.

Patu and the rest of the surprising Oregon defense will have quite a challenge this week in stopping Husky quarterback Marques Tuiasosopo and the offense's tricky option schemes.

When the season began, Patu was one of the "sure things" on a defense that was loaded with question marks. But after the first four games, the defense has proven to be the team's strength and heads into this weekend ranked 11th

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Saul Patu  
Oregon  
defensive end

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Catharine Kendall Emerald

Defensive end Saul Patu (48) and the rest of the Oregon defense held UCLA to a net -9 yards rushing, but knows that will be tough to do this week.

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## Duck kickers confident, look ahead to Florida St.

■ The Oregon soccer team will try to carry its momentum from a victory against James Madison into this weekend's matchup with Florida St.

By Peter Hockaday  
Oregon Daily Emerald

As the Oregon women's soccer team prepares to open the month of October against yet another Top-25 opponent, head coach Bill Steffen says the Ducks' 3-7 record is just water under the bridge.



"Obviously we'd love to win more," said Steffen, who is 0-4 against Top-25 teams this season. "But the real question is 'Did we develop?' We will see our development later on, maybe even into next year."

Oregon won its first game in eight tries on Sunday, a 3-2, come-from-behind victory against James Madison. The Ducks play No. 21 Florida State on Sunday at Papé Field at 1 p.m., only their second home game since

August 27th.

### Get up, stay up

One word that the Ducks have used a lot this week is confidence.

"It was a sigh of relief," junior defender Starr Johnson said about the Ducks' win over James Madison. "Hopefully, it will bring back our confidence."

"I will always have confidence in this team," goalkeeper Sarah Peters said. "I know we have the ability to play as well as the (top-25) teams."

Peters said the Ducks have always had that confidence before their games, but often lose it when on the field. Steffen knows his team needs to keep up that confidence for Sunday's game.

"We need to maintain a tremendous level of intensity, a very high level of execution and be very, very sharp mentally," Steffen said. "If we do those things, we can win the game."

### David's domination

Crystal David, the junior transfer from the University of San Francisco, has emerged as one of the Ducks' most potent

Turn to Soccer, page 16

## Oregon fans need lesson in courtesy, respect for others



SCOTT PESZNECKER

All right, here it goes.

I've always hated columns like these, the one when the columnist takes on an "I am holier than thou" attitude and tries to make him or herself seem quite saintly, compared to all the other heathens out there in the world.

Truth is, I, like everyone else on this little planet, am not a saint. I'm not a wild party animal who wakes up every Sunday morning face down in my own mess, but I'm not perfect either.

Say I were at a sports game, watching one of my favorite teams, and my team had just finished beating the stuffing out of an archrival. Now, if some of those opponents were headed my way, then sure, I might take the opportunity to greet those players with a few sarcastic statements.

But is that the right thing to do?

No, really, it's not. It's just a game, right? Home-field advantage is key because fans can get in the head of opponents during the course of the game. But in no way should the home-field advantage inflict physical threats or verbal abuse on athletes who are merely playing a game for another team.

Such incidents occurred after the Oregon football team trounced and bounced UCLA last Saturday.

Several Bruins were taunted, some with obscene words and gestures, as they tried to make their way from the field through the west end of the stadium and to their lockers in the Casanova Center. Players had to be pulled away from fans by UCLA administrators and assistant coaches.

So goes collegiate sports.

Oregon athletes are not professionals, but are our peers. Some of us have classes with them, eat with them, party with them or even live with them. While some of them may have wealthy pro careers ahead of them, they are more tangible to us than any other class of athletes because they are of our walk of life.

So, with that in mind, nobody expects to see a perfect aftermath to a college football

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