

GAME DAY

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THE BOX

Total Offense

(Pac-10 rankings)

OREGON 2nd

WASH. 4th

Total Defense

OREGON 2nd

WASH. 7th

Passing Offense

OREGON 2nd

WASH. 5th

Rushing Offense

OREGON 3rd

WASH. 1st

Passing Defense

OREGON 1st

WASH. 6th

Rushing Defense

OREGON 5th

WASH. 6th

Turnover Ratio

OREGON +4

WASH. +2

QUOTABLE

"Oregon is a defense that's going to take advantage of the fact that it's difficult to communicate in their stadium."

-UW coach Rick Neuheisel

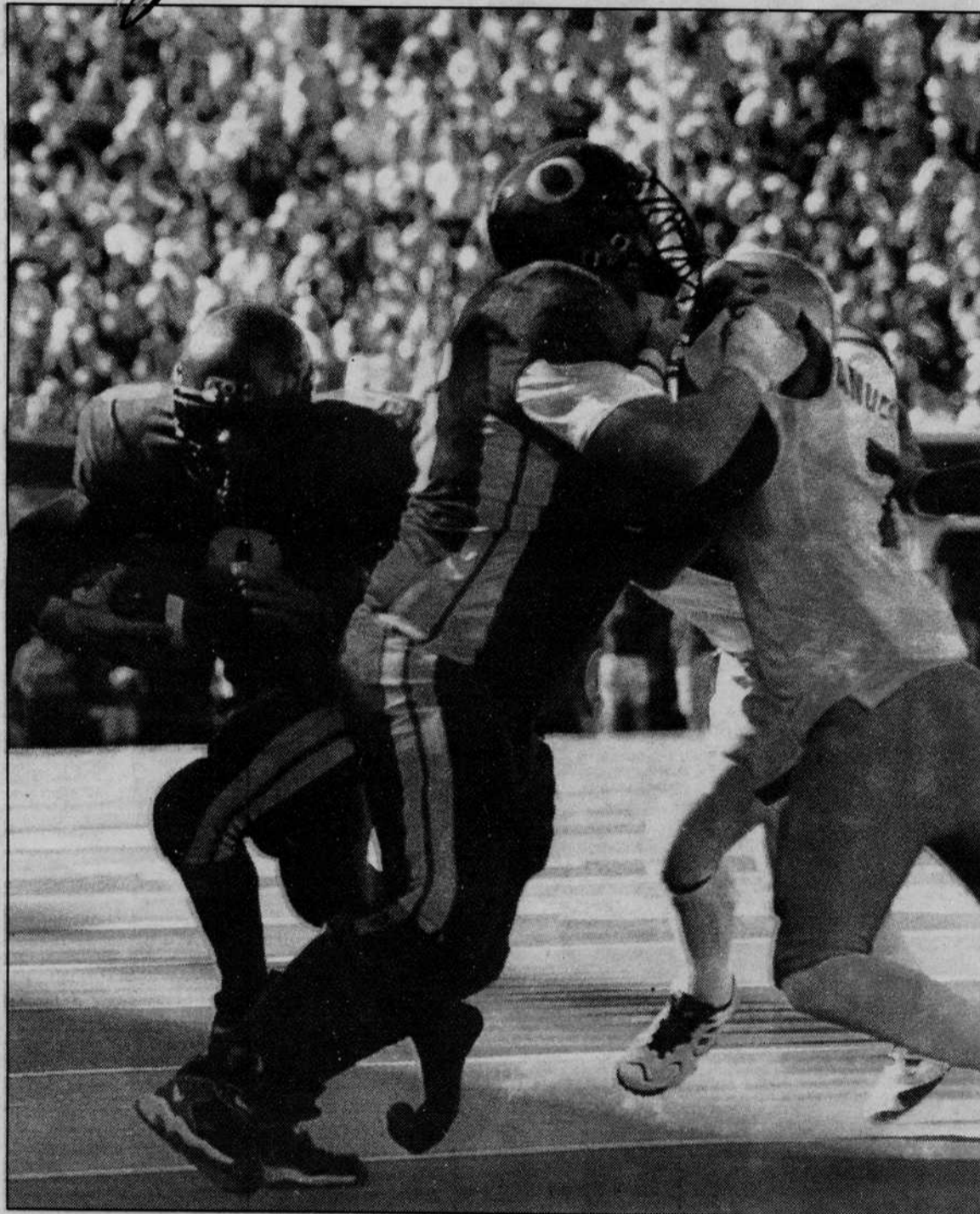
Key Player

Joey Harrington
The UO quarterback had four touchdown passes two weeks ago against Idaho, but none against UCLA.

GREAT

Expectations

Oregon's new star tailback takes the humble approach to sudden success, impressing teammates and opposition alike



Dan Brunell Emerald

Junior tailback Maurice Morris is the third-leading rusher in the Pacific-10 Conference, carrying 118.3 yards per game.

Huskies stand between Ducks and road to Pasadena



PEZ
SEZ

SCOTT PESZNECKER

Just when a Pacific-10 Conference football game seemed like it couldn't get bigger, it did. Duck fans in Eugene and elsewhere held their breaths in the days leading up to last Saturday,

when UCLA, then the sixth-ranked team in the nation, donned its gleaming gold helmets and walked into Autzen Stadium.

It's safe to say the Bruins weren't the only ones unaware of the harsh beating they were about to receive.

Not even the Las Vegas boys, who made the Ducks slight favorites, predicted a rout. Oregon was just a three-point favorite, no more advantageous than a field goal. The Duck defense took a gamble when they hounded Bruin running back De-

Shaun Foster and made sophomore quarterback Ryan McCann try to beat them.

If McCann had only connected on some more passes, the game could have fallen on the other side of that three-point betting line.

McCann didn't deliver, so Oregon won — by a lot.

Sigh.

Now, if the implications of last week's matchup weren't enough to make nerves stand on end, well, the

By Jeff Smith
Oregon Daily Emerald

Expectations are a funny thing. When one hears of a certain junior college All-American running back, you expect a whole lot in terms of this player helping a Division I college football team win a number of games.

And when you hear of his astounding numbers and by whom he was recruited, you immediately expect something else.

Cockiness.

The Keyshawn Johnson "Give-me-the-damn-ball-and-get-the-hell-out-of-my-way" cockiness.

The Deion Sanders "I'm-God-and-you-should-pray-with-me-as-I-side-step-my-way-into-the-end-zone" cockiness.

So when you finally get the chance to meet this hyped-up recruiting gem, you're taken aback by his "I'm-so-humbled-to-even-be-here-with-all-these-great-players-and-coaches" attitude.

And as it turns out, you aren't the only person pleasantly surprised by Maurice Morris, the 6-foot, 205-pound junior college tailback that had Oregon Duck boosters already smelling roses back in August.

"He's such a nice, quiet guy," senior linebacker Matt Smith said. "I mean, with all of this press and publicity coming in, it's nice to see someone with that much exposure come in and still be a level-headed guy who is really nice to talk to."

It seems the only problem in talking with Morris is that his words are sometimes spoken with the softness of a whisper that can leave people leaning forward just to catch a complete sentence.

"Everybody has welcomed me along with all of the other JC transfers and freshmen, and that's been very nice," said Morris, who arrived in Eugene early in the summer after completing classes at Fresno City College in the spring. "The coaches and the teammates are a big reason why I'm here today."

But when you think about it, it shouldn't come as that much of a surprise that Morris is the subdued hard-worker who is looking to earn respect before acting like he already has it.

After all, Morris comes from a family of six brothers and eight sisters. One can only imagine the struggle of trying to get a word in edgewise around that dinner table.

With all of those siblings, the natural thinking may be that you would want to get out on your own and be free. But with Morris, it's just the opposite. In California, he missed his family greatly, so when he made the decision to come to Oregon, he also made the decision to bring his family with him.

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necessity of beating the Huskies might do the trick.

Another No. 6 team. Been there, done that.

But the last sixth-ranked team Oregon faced was, in the words of more than 45,000 people who attended the UCLA game, "overrated." Make no mistake, Washington is anything but overrated.

Here is a Husky team that preseason analysts picked to win the Pac-10. Not by coincidence, Washington

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