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Bob Welch
The Register-Guard

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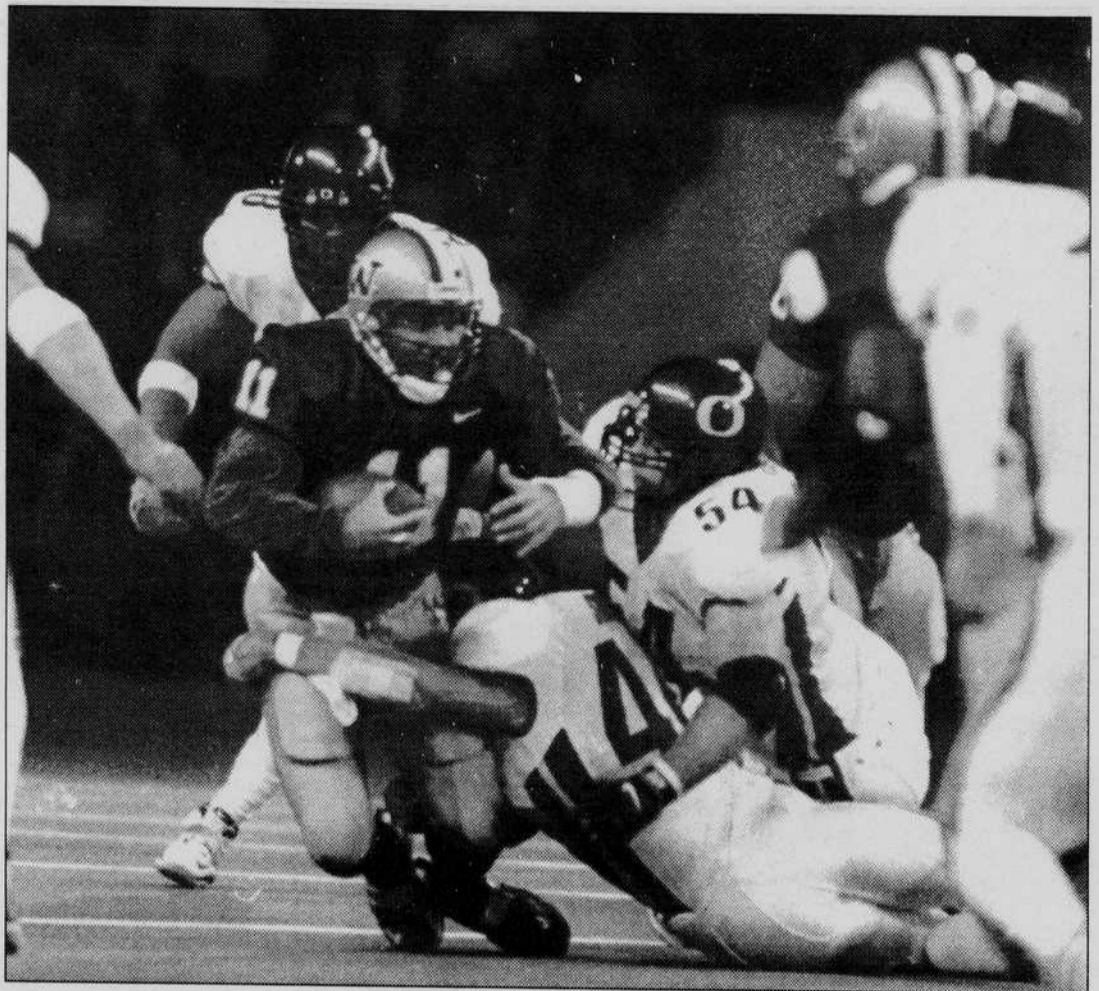
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Washington quarterback Marques Tuiasosopo (ball carrier) is shaping up to be a Heisman Trophy candidate in his senior season. Emerald

'Tui' ready to face tough crowd

■ Washington quarterback Marques Tuiasosopo, whose father was an NFL lineman, has football in his blood

By Scott Peszner
Oregon Daily Emerald

Marques Tuiasosopo is the kind of quarterback defensive coordinators have nightmares about.

He loves to pass, and he can run. His unpredictability makes him a dangerous weapon because opponents don't know how he will hit them.

"I love to throw the ball, that's my passion," Tuiasosopo said. "I'm fortunate enough to have the ability to run the ball, but I prefer throwing the ball."

Athletic greatness flows in the Tuiasosopo family. His father, Manu, went to UCLA and had an

eight-year NFL career until 1987. His younger brother, Zach, is a freshman linebacker for the Huskies. His sister, Leslie, played for the Washington volleyball team that reached the final 16 of the 1997 NCAA Championships. He had 10 cousins and one uncle who played college football, and four of them also went pro.

Now, the 6-foot-2, 220-pound Tuiasosopo, a Heisman Trophy candidate, anchors the Pacific-10 Conference's highest-ranked football team. He is the reason why many football analysts picked the Huskies to go to the Rose Bowl this season.

On the brink of rewriting several pages of the Washington football record book, this Tuiasosopo may surpass the achievements of any Tuiasosopo before him.

And he's coming to Autzen Stadium on Saturday to try and derail the Ducks' 17-game home winning

streak.

"They have a really great, hostile crowd that's really good at distracting and disturbing you," Tuiasosopo said about the challenge ahead. "They're in your ear all game long."

In the last meeting of the two teams, Tuiasosopo racked up 234 all-purpose yards en route to a 34-20 Husky victory. He called plays that picked apart the Oregon defense piece by piece, keeping the football in Washington's hands for 38 minutes, 26 seconds of the game. The Ducks' offense spent less than 22 minutes on the field.

Tuiasosopo knows that this time, the going will get tougher.

"It doesn't really matter what happened before this game because each year is different," he said. "You always know you've got to strap on

Turn to Tuiasosopo, page 9B

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