

Arizona State hobbled by numerous injuries

■ The loss of key players has hurt the Sun Devils' postseason hopes, but they're still in the running

By Robbie McCallum
Oregon Daily Emerald

They say adversity can bring a team together.

Well, adversity is what Arizona State has faced this year in 10 key injuries to its projected starters. One wouldn't know it from the Sun Devils' record, though.

The surprising Sun Devils are 5-2 on the season and 2-2 in Pacific-10 Conference play. But injuries

career yardage list at Arizona State.

Redshirt freshman Jeff Krohn had been filling in for Kealy nicely, completing 36 passes for 869 yards in seven games. Krohn has since been limited by mononucleosis and a mid-season concussion.

Third string senior Griffin Goodman has filled in but has been inconsistent in two starts, throwing for 394 yards against California but only 32 against Washington.

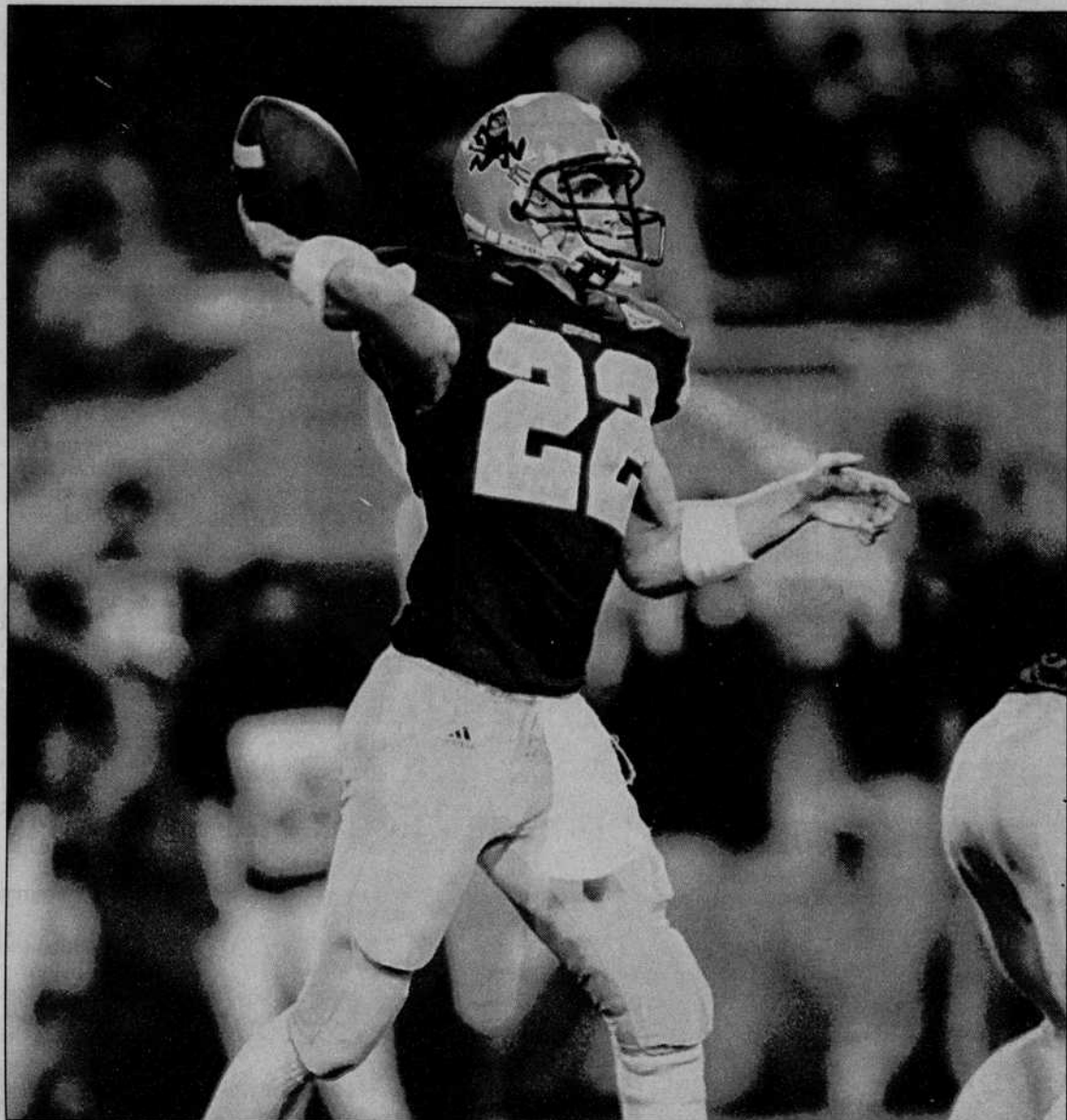
Added to the mix is the loss of running back J.R. Peroulis, who quit the team this summer, citing lack of playing time.

The tailback position, which looked to be Arizona State's deepest, has also been decimated by injuries. The first came in a pre-season scrimmage when senior Delvon Flowers suffered a season-ending knee injury in mid-August.

Since then, junior Davaren Hightower and true freshman Mike Williams have earned and lost the starting tailback spot. Junior Tom Pace will take the field against Oregon on Saturday, although head coach Bruce Snyder said that Hightower and Williams "will continue to be involved in the mix."

In addition to major season-ending injuries, the Sun Devils have also been hampered by nagging injuries to key role players. Arizona State's defensive line and secondary have taken heavy tolls this season. Free safety Alfred Williams and strong safety Willie Daniel were out with leg injuries but are expected to play sparingly against the Ducks.

Redshirt freshman Chad Howell now fills in for injured Terrell Suggs at the defensive end position. Another redshirt freshman, Regis



Redshirt freshman quarterback Jeff Krohn fills in for senior Ryan Kealy, who had a career-ending knee injury earlier this season. Courtesy of Arizona State media services

« What gives me hope and strength is our team. I think we are just going to keep pounding it and we'll get better.

Bruce Snyder
Arizona State head coach



have made their lineup inconsistent this season.

The first blow of the season came before Arizona State had even taken the field. Injury-plagued senior Ryan Kealy was expected to sit out the Sun Devils' first three games while recovering from off-season ACL surgery. Kealy did return for two brief outings against Utah State and UCLA, but re-injured his knee against the Bruins.

Kealy's sixth knee injury in his five years at Arizona State was the final straw. Kealy ended his career with the Sun Devils fourth on the

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