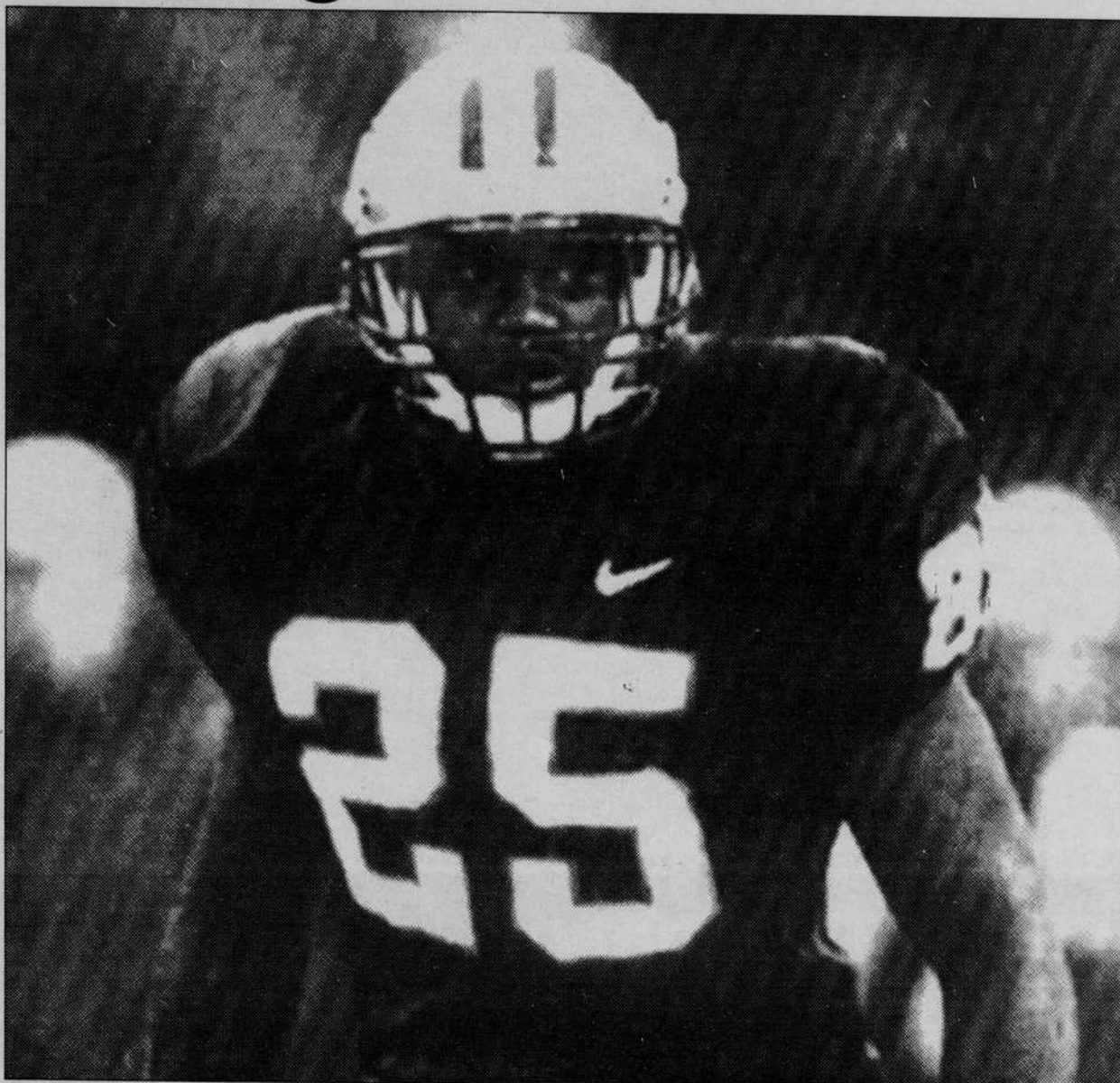




Washington's Williams suffers spinal injury



Washington senior defensive back Curtis Williams remains in intensive care after suffering a spinal-cord injury in the third quarter of Saturday's 31-28 Husky victory over Stanford. The severity of the injury is not yet known, while it is doubtful he will be able to play football again this year.

■ Washington's Curtis Williams' spinal injury during Saturday's game tainted the Husky victory

By Jeff Smith
Oregon Daily Emerald

It should have been a night to celebrate for the Washington Huskies after they pulled out a dramatic, last-second 31-28 victory on the road over the Stanford Cardinal Saturday.

Instead, it turned into a night of anguish.

Washington senior defensive back Curtis Williams was taken to the Stanford Medical Center after he was knocked out of Saturday's game with a spinal cord injury.

He remained in intensive care Monday in Palo Alto, Calif., where he has been since Saturday night. The exact seriousness of his injury will not be known for several days. It is known, however, that there is blood in the spinal cord area, which could mean that Williams suffered a contusion.

Washington head coach Rick Neuheisel met with the media Monday and said that there has been no significant change in Williams' status and that he is still being given the "best care available."

"As always, I am told in these types of traumatic injuries, uncertainty is the watchword," Neuheisel said. "It is very difficult to press physicians into telling you one way or the other, because the fact is that these things can go in many different directions. Basically, it is a wait and see situation."

Neuheisel stayed in Palo Alto Saturday night with safeties/special teams coach Bob Hauck and spent some time with Williams' brothers, David and Paul.

The scary play occurred with just over two minutes remaining in the third quarter of Saturday's game. Stanford running back Kerry Carter took off



“As always, I am told in these types of traumatic injuries, uncertainty is the watchword... Basically, it is a wait and see situation.”

Rick Neuheisel
Huskies head coach

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Where would we be without all-important national polls?



TWO MINUTES FOR CROSSCHECKING

PETER HOCKADAY

I should move to Poland.

Honestly, I can't live without polls and rankings. They are my Buddha. They are my respirator. They keep me alive on those cold winter nights.

Without the Associated Press poll, I would have no idea how good my Ducks are. Without the BCS Rankings, I wouldn't know who Oregon would play in the title game if it were this Thursday.

But they do play with your head, don't they? Is Oregon seventh in the country, or eighth? Are the Ducks better than Washington? I thought they were. The USA Today/ESPN Coaches' Poll doesn't think so, but the AP agrees with me.

So which one is right? Ask people in Eugene and they would say AP; head for Seattle and they'll say USA Today/ESPN.

My question is, do we really need two national polls? The AP and USA Today/ESPN polls differ only slightly, and it only makes teams

madder when they're ranked higher in one poll. I suppose they keep both polls around for sports junkies like me, so we can sit around and complain that Oregon is ranked eighth in the USA Today/ESPN poll.

The preseason poll is by far the best of them all. USC, third in the country! Oregon State, 33rd! Oops.

The Oregon men's basketball team is unranked going into the season, and they'll use it as a motivating factor. Who knew a poll could have so much impact.

And please, don't think that football is the only college sport to have polls. NCAA women's soccer, for instance, has five — count them, five — different polls, none of them official. The golf teams have two polls each. The cross country teams have four different polls between the two of them.

Even different Web sites get in on the act. Check out incard.com/football to see how national college sports editors rank the football teams. Or see rivals.com for their take on the national rankings.

Maybe I should move to the South Pole.

Don't you just love it when people rank professional sports? In Sports Illustrated's new NBA preview issue, they have the Portland Trail Blazers ranked first in the league. Who, ex-

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Golfers try to end season on a Hawaii high note

■ The Oregon women's golf team fields its most experienced lineup of the season this week at the Rainbow Wahine Fall Golf Classic

By Peter Hockaday
Oregon Daily Emerald

The Oregon women's golf team needs a jump-start.

The Ducks have played four tournaments this season, and have yet to finish higher than eighth. Ranked 23rd before the season, the Ducks have dropped out of the national picture all together.

The good news is, Oregon has plenty of time to remedy its shortcomings.

The Ducks will compete in the Rainbow Wahine Fall Golf Classic in Kapolei, Hawaii — their final fall tournament. Oregon will take on a 15-team field that includes only three top-25 teams: No. 16 UCLA, No. 17 San Jose State and No. 25 New Mexico.

"The fall has been a little disappointing," first-year head coach Shannon Rouillard said. "But I think we can look at it as a mid-term and see what we need to improve for the spring."

Rouillard will give her lineup a good shake for the second time in as many tournaments this week. This time, the coach decided to field an upperclassman-laden lineup, taking five seniors and a junior to Hawaii.

Senior Jerilyn White could be the Ducks' most important

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“The fall has been a little disappointing, but I think we can look at it as a mid-term and see what we need to improve for the spring.”

Shannon Rouillard
women's golf coach