

THE BOX

Total Offense

(Pac-10 rankings)
OREGON 3rd
California 10th

Total Defense

OREGON 3rd
California 6th

Passing Offense

OREGON 4th
California 9th

Rushing Offense

OREGON 4th
California 9th

Passing Defense

OREGON 1st
California 10th

Rushing Defense

OREGON 5th
California 4th

Turnover Ratio

OREGON +9
California -1

QUOTABLE

"He's a damn good quarterback. That guy's a player."

-Washington State head coach Mark Price on Oregon quarterback Joey Harrington, after last Saturday's 27-24 Duck victory over the Cougars

"It's going to be a special day. It's the last game at Autzen for seniors, so hopefully we can go out on top."

-Oregon senior place-kicker Josh Frankel

NOTABLE

A poll on espn.go.com asked fans: "Which is worse: the BCS or the Electoral College?" With the presidential race in Florida too close to call and 25 electoral votes on the line, the fans' choice was ironic: The Electoral College narrowly won with 52 percent of the vote.

Stepping up, running hard

■ Sophomore Allan Amundson has been filling in nicely for Maurice Morris

By Scott Pesznecker
Oregon Daily Emerald

Two years ago, Oregon was potentially on its way to making history before losing starting tailback Reuben Droughns to an injury near midseason. Oregon's running game left with Droughns — as did any chance of going to Pasadena.

Fast forward to Oct. 28, 2000: The Ducks' offense, locked in a double-overtime battle with Arizona State, with control of the Rose Bowl race hanging in the balance, took the field with starting tailback Maurice Morris standing injured on the sideline.

Only this time, Oregon had another weapon in its arsenal.

Sophomore tailback Allan Amundson came to the rescue from the fourth quarter on, scoring the game-winning touchdown on a one-yard run in the second overtime period. He finished the day with 41 yards in 14 carries.

"It didn't seem like the winning touchdown at the time," said Amundson, recalling his dash to the left side of the Sun Devils' end zone. "I was confident that I was going to get into the end zone because of the blocking, and because we were on the right hash and that's so much room to get there. It was sort of a race to the corner and with the blocking, I was confident and I thought I could make it."

Amundson — the 23rd-best kick returner in the nation, with an average 24.65 yards per return — stepped into the lineup at tailback again last Saturday against Washington State and played almost the entire second half while Morris nursed his injured ribs. He had eight carries for 48 yards and helped to move the chains on a day when the offense never quite found its groove.

Oregon coaches and players were so impressed by Amundson's contributions through the past two weeks, both as a tailback and kick returner, that he was named a team captain for the Ducks' game against California Saturday.

"He's done very nicely," Oregon head coach Mike Bellotti said. "I think that certainly we thought Allan had the potential really since last year. Then he broke his ankle last year and pulled a hamstring in fall camp, and really was not healthy for the first couple games of the season, so it's nice to see him be healthy and perform where we know he can."

Morris practiced in non-contact drills earlier in the week, but his sore ribs could keep him out of portions of Saturday's game as they did the past two games.

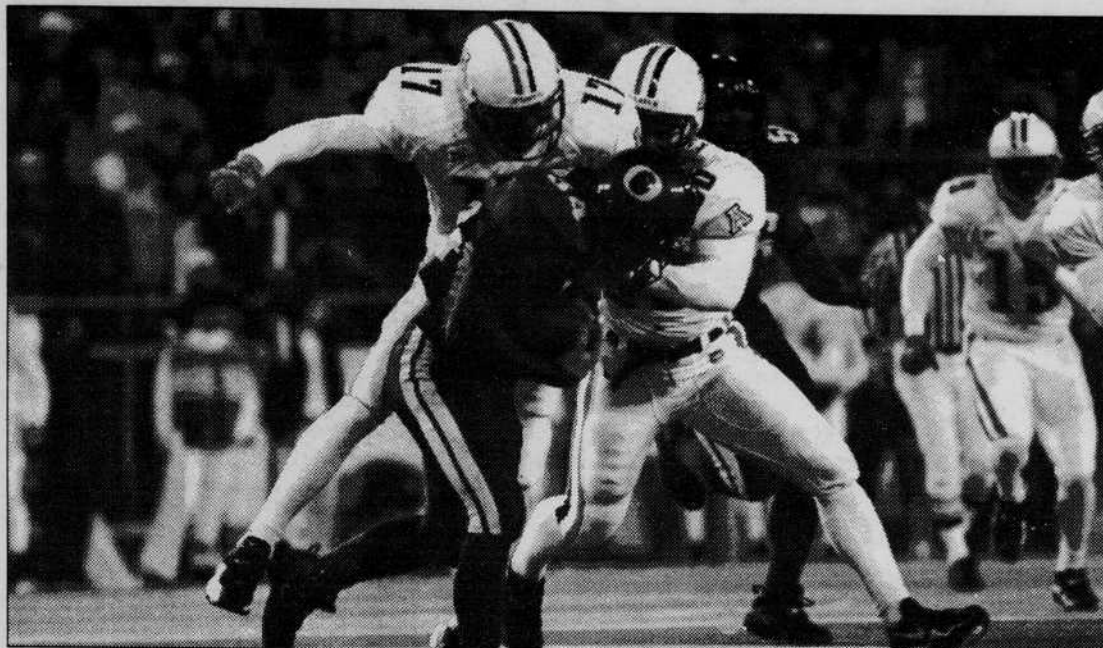
If that's the case, Amundson said he'll be ready to play. He's been ready so far this season, making appearances in all nine games and rushing 56 times for 222 yards and two touchdowns.

"Hopefully I'll get more playing time, but I don't know," Amundson said. "I won't know until the night before, the day before. Anyone wants to play and when I get out there I'm going to try to do the best I can."

Morris has confidence in Amundson's ability to back him up.

"It's great; this is the time of the season a lot of people are going to get banged up," he said. "So it's good to have somebody back there that can get the job done as well."

Turn to Amundson, page 10B



Oregon tailback Allan Amundson (34), a sophomore, carries the ball downfield against a physical, stingy Arizona defense. Emerald

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