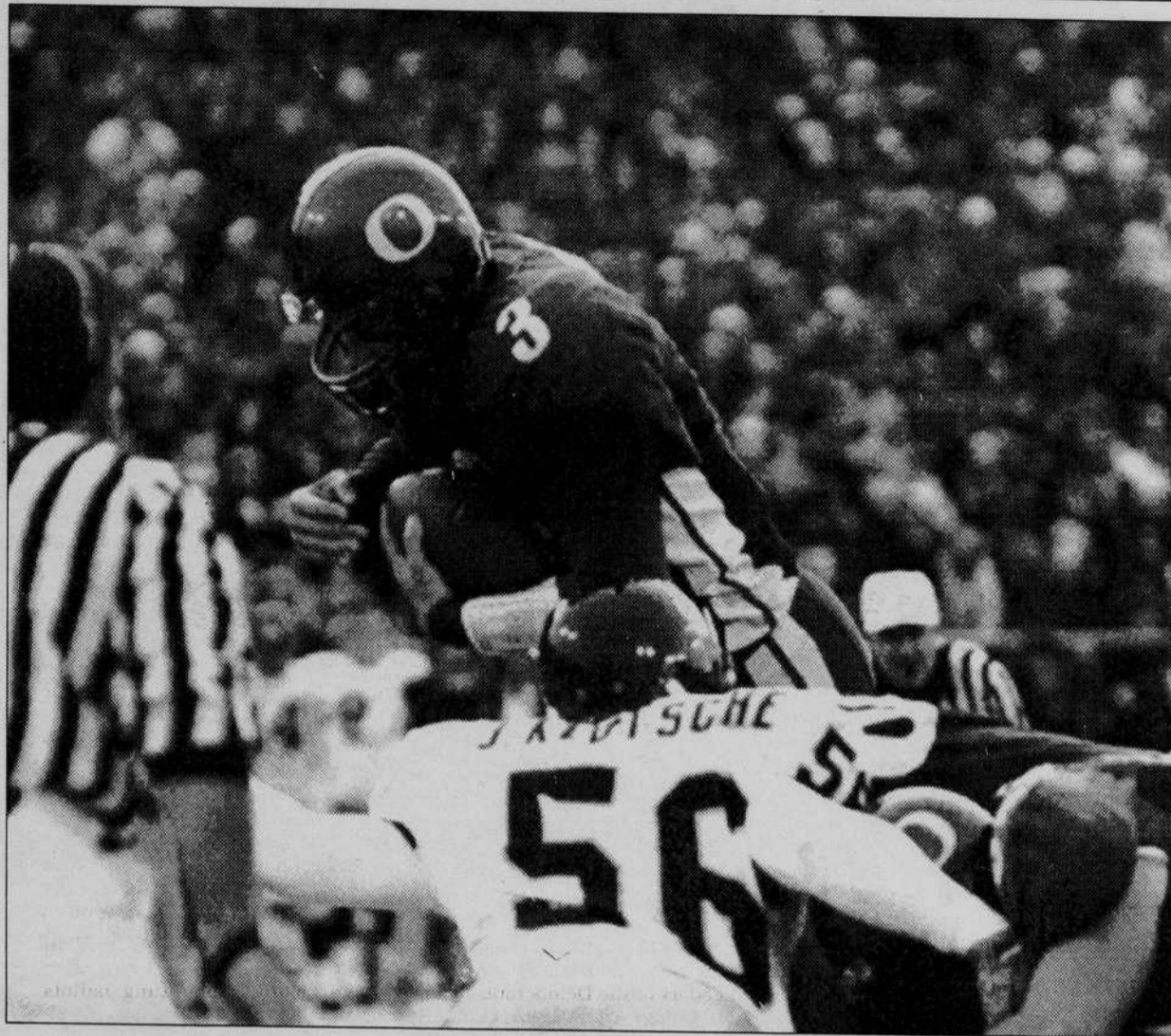


"I'm going to see a bunch of Beavers on our scout team and am going to try to kill somebody."
- UO defensive end Jason Nikolao
"We've been looking at Oregon the whole year."
- OSU linebacker Richard Seigler

Best Bet
NFL: Oakland vs. Denver
6 p.m., ABC



SPORTS EDITOR: JEFF SMITH Smittside@aol.com



Oregon junior quarterback Joey Harrington leaps in for one of his two rushing touchdowns against Cal. He also threw for 252 yards in Oregon's

Ducks win in Autzen finale

■ Oregon scores its 20th-straight win at Autzen Stadium and earns a share of the Pac-10 title

By Scott Pesznecker
Oregon Daily Emerald

It was definitely cold at Autzen Stadium early Saturday afternoon, and the weather wasn't so hot, either.

As the day wore on, the 45,845 fans endured cold, crisp 43-degree temperatures — but somehow, the Oregon football team heated up.

The Ducks' offense came alive in the second half and Oregon came from behind in the fourth quarter to beat defensive-minded California, 25-17, in its final home game this season.

Oregon secured at least a share of the Pacific-10 Conference title by beating the Golden Bears.

"I don't think we'll be completely satisfied until it's done, until it's all ours," said place-kicker Josh Frankel, who scored the Ducks' six first-half points on two field goals. "It just feels like another win."

Oregon didn't seem like a team that had won a conference championship for just the sixth time in history. Nor did it seem like the No. 5 team in the nation, which it is — for the first time and for a new Oregon record — according to the Associated Press.

Rather than reflect on their most recent victory, several Oregon players talked about their upcoming matchup with No. 8 Oregon State.

"Every year it's been a physical game with the Beavers," defensive end Jason Nikolao said. "We're hoping for another one, I'm hoping for another one, I want another one. No matter how many injuries I have, or how many injuries are on this team, everybody wants a physical game because it's our last one for awhile before the bowl game, and we want to leave it all out on the field."

"We could be Pac-10 champions and go and, and ... I don't even want to think about it," Oregon quarterback Joey Harrington said. "This season's not going to

Turn to 20th win, page 12



“This season's not going to be complete until we play a good, physical football game next week.”

Joey Harrington
Oregon quarterback



It's never easy for these Ducks



HAKUNA MATATA

JEFF SMITH

It couldn't have been that easy. You knew that. I knew that. Heck, even the Oregon players knew it.

After the Ducks beat California Saturday afternoon, 25-17, there was

some celebration after securing at least a Pacific-10 Conference co-championship.

But there wasn't the celebration. The celebration that signifies a trip to the Rose Bowl. The celebration where everybody breathes a sigh of relief and basks in their accomplishments.

Instead, it was business as usual. The Ducks knew that if Oregon State lost to Arizona Saturday night, then a Rose Bowl berth would be theirs. You wouldn't have known it, though, if you saw the Oregon players and coaches talk after the game.

They spoke as if the Beavers had already won. They spoke as if they already knew that the Civil War next week would be where the Pac-10's Rose Bowl representative would be decided.

"Oregon State's going to bring their 'A' game and we're going to bring our 'A' game and two teams are going to collide," junior cornerback Rashad Bauman said. "Somebody is going to fall and we don't plan on being the one that does."

In a season where Oregon has always taken the hard way out, it must do so one final time. And anybody who

Turn to Smith, page 9

Ducks fourth at Regionals

■ Smedstad, Hartmann and Kasahun all place in the top-eight at the Western Regional meet

By Robbie McCallum
Oregon Daily Emerald

In the sport of cross country, only two competitions in a season really mean much of anything: The championship meet, and the championship-qualifying meet.



All season long, the Oregon women's cross country team struggled — that is, in the meets that don't count for anything. The Ducks were even in danger of missing the NCAA Championship meet (one of the meets that count).

Oregon broke out of its season-long slump Saturday, placing fourth overall at the NCAA Western Regional meet in Fresno, Calif. (the other meet that counts).

"I'm really proud of our team for battling because it's been a rough season," Oregon women's coach Tom Heinonen said. "Once again, the team ran well at the end of the season when it was important."

The Ducks have positioned themselves well for an at-large berth in the NCAA meet on Nov. 20. After placing a disappointing seventh at the Pacific-10 Conference Championships on Oct. 28, the Ducks faced a do-or-die situation in Fresno. Fortunately, six of Oregon's seven runners responded with personal bests through the 6,000-meter course.

Senior transfer Hanna Smedstad led the way with an eighth-place finish in a time of 20 minutes, 42 seconds. Her place is Oregon's highest at the Regional meet since Marie Davis' fourth place in 1998.

Senior Katie Crabb put forth her best race of the season, and possibly her cross country career, with a 15th-place finish in a time of 21:00.

"Katie beat several people who she lost to at Pac-10s," Heinonen said. "She was a solid

Turn to Cross country, page 8

UO pins loss on UC Davis

■ Sonnen and Webb lead Oregon wrestlers to a season-opening win against UC Davis

By Robbie McCallum
Oregon Daily Emerald

Veterans and newcomers alike got a head start on the 2000-01 wrestling season Friday.

The Oregon wrestling team (1-0) was victorious in its Pacific-10 Conference and season opener with a 31-9 win against California-Davis.

The match was played at Crater High School in Central Point, Ore., the former home of three Duck wrestlers.

"For our opening match we wrestled well," head coach Chuck Kearney said. "UC Davis

had already wrestled in a match this season and that made a difference, but I thought our kids competed well."

Senior Chael Sonnen came up with a big pin in his first collegiate match in more than a year. The All-American took the 1999-00 season off to train with the U.S. Olympic team. Sonnen pinned UC Davis' Brandon Arsenault at the 197-pound level to clinch the dual match for Oregon.

Sophomore Eric Webb also won, icing the victory for the Ducks. The Eugene native pinned the Aggies' Mike Maben in one minute, 16 seconds at the heavy-weight slot.

Turn to Wrestling, page 8

“We need to open up and be more opportunistic, but that will come as the season goes along.”

Chuck Kearney
Oregon head coach

