

# GAME DAY

Sports Editor:  
Adam Jude  
ajude@dailymerald.com

**Best Bet**  
No. 21 Ohio State at  
No. 7 UCLA. 12:30 p.m., ABC



Friday, September 21, 2001

## Just a bit of advice, freshman

Dear freshman, I know we're just beginning to get to know each other, but I think you should hear me out, if only until the fifth paragraph. It may save you much grief and agony in the years to come.

If, by Tuesday evening, you were lucky enough to pick up a ticket to Oregon's Pacific-10 Conference

opener Saturday against Southern California, you are no doubt delirious with excitement about attending your first game at Autzen Stadium (humor me and just play along if you've been to every game since you could say, "Go Ducks").



**Adam Jude**

Out in left field

The tension and uncertainty of your first year away from home, I know, are heavy on your mind. It's hard to focus on the game when all you can think about is your Californian roommate, whom you met just less than 48 hours ago, as he snores in his sleep a few feet away from you in that Bean box.

But, please, do not let these distractions distort your judgment on this lovely Saturday evening.

Just take a deep breath, relax and remember these words of wisdom: Do not leave the game early. Let me repeat that to make certain you heard (er, read) me correctly: DO NOT LEAVE EARLY.

Regardless of the score, the time, the frustrations, the need to relieve yourself of bodily fluids or whatever it may be — whatever you do, do not leave Autzen Stadium on Saturday until the lights go out and you are forcibly removed from your seat.

I don't care if the Ducks are down by three touchdowns with four minutes to play. I don't care if Joey Harrington has three cracked ribs (knock on wood). I don't care if you can't stand looking at coach Mike Bellotti without a mustache. I don't care if your mom is waiting for you in the car. I don't care if it's the day after the game began. And I don't care if you don't care about football. Just don't leave the game early.

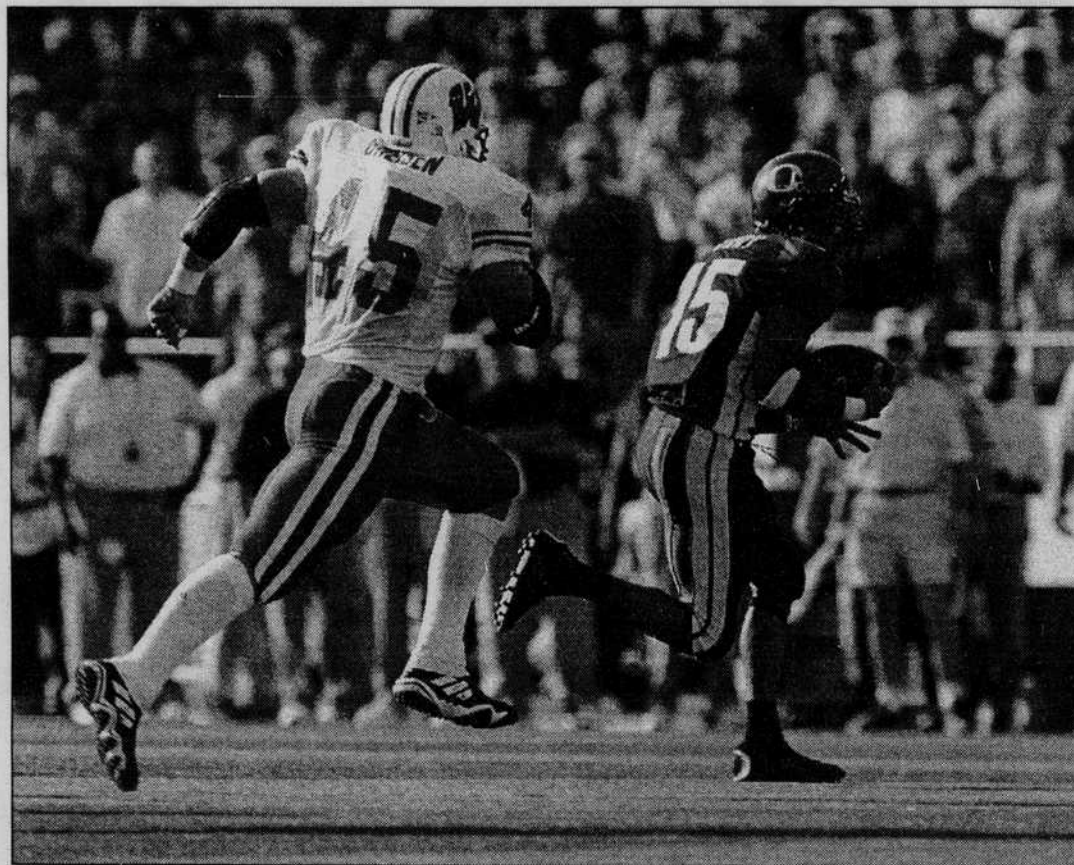
I promise — and I'm speaking from personal experience — you will not regret it.

Almost two years ago to the day, the unranked Oregon football squad won an amazing triple-overtime thriller against the 16th-ranked Trojans of Southern California in what is now considered one of the most memorable games in Autzen history.

And I was there ... for 57 minutes, 44 seconds of action.

It was, like it will be for you this weekend, my first experience with Oregon football. I knew the Ducks

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Adam Amato Emerald

Junior receiver Keenan Howry (right), seen here against Wisconsin on Sept. 1, hopes to continue Oregon's recent dominance over Southern California. Last season, Howry caught eight passes for 126 yards in the Ducks' 28-17 victory in Los Angeles.

## Ducks look to past, present

■ Oregon has won four of the last five games against USC and knows that Saturday's game will be a unique one

By Jeff Smith  
Oregon Daily Emerald

Before the football kicks off at 7:15 p.m. Saturday amid the roaring Autzen Stadium crowd and in front of a Fox Sports Net national television audience, there will be a moment of reflection.

Both the Ducks and the Trojans, as well as their fans, will take part in a national anthem that will join the Pacific-10 Conference rivals as united Americans.

They will stand proudly and honor their thousands of fellow citizens who lost their lives during the terrorist attack on America the fateful morning of Sept. 11.

They will again flash back to the dreadful images of the two 110-story buildings collapsing like a planned demolition and the horror that became of it.

And then, because they have to and because at this point in time, many want to, they will move on.

They will play football.

"It's going to be nice to get back on track with all the stuff going on," Oregon fullback Josh Line said. "In light of what has happened, it definitely puts a perspective on all this stuff."

Certainly, "all this stuff" may not seem as important as it did earlier in the month, but Saturday's Pac-10 opener between USC (1-1) and No. 7 Oregon (2-0) still carries great significance. And once that game begins, the emotion of the past two weeks will pour over into the emotion of the game itself and the recent his-

tory that these two teams have.

On a late October night in 1998, then-Oregon quarterback Akili Smith ran 62 yards across the Autzen Stadium turf for the go-ahead touchdown in the Ducks' 17-13 victory against the Trojans.

A year later, USC again traveled to Eugene for a night game and again was dealt a crushing defeat. In a game that has grown legendary over time, the Ducks and Trojans battled, and battled and battled some more. Sixty minutes of action didn't prove to be enough time.

And after two overtime sessions, the teams were still at a standstill. Finally, with the clock approaching midnight, Oregon's third-string kicker Josh Frankel booted through a 27-yard field goal to give the Ducks a dramatic 33-30 triple overtime victory.

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## USC brings tough defense to Autzen

■ With its offense struggling, the Trojan defense hopes to stop a three-game losing skid against the No. 7 Ducks

By Hank Hager  
Oregon Daily Emerald

Two games into the 2001 season, the jury is still out on the USC Trojans. Will this year's version revert to 1995, when the team went 9-2-1 and defeated Northwestern in the Rose Bowl, or will it be an extension of last season's squad that finished 5-7?

After a convincing 21-10 win over San Jose State in week one, it looked as though the Trojans might be a lock to return to the top of the Pacific-10 Conference

standings and national prominence. But after a 10-6 loss to Kansas State two weeks ago, this year's squad doesn't even look to be a lock to stay out of the cellar.

Despite the team's inconsistent play so far, the Trojans have had some bright spots.

"We're playing with a lot of intensity," head coach Pete Carroll said. "We're playing real hard so we're getting a lot of good effort. If we make it hard on people to score then we'll be in these tough ball games and have a chance to win like we did last week."

The key to the Trojan offense comes mainly from their backfield. Junior quarterback Carson Palmer must have a strong game to balance USC's offensive attack, which also includes junior run-

ning back Sultan McCullough.

Palmer, who led the Pac-10 last season in completions (228) and was second in total passing yards (2,914), completed 16 passes in 36 attempts against Kansas State, but threw for only 197 yards. However, he also ran for a team leading 71 yards on 12 carries.

If Palmer continues to lead the team on the ground, it could spell doom for the Trojan offense. McCullough, who ran for 152 yards against the Ducks last season, including a 59-yard touchdown run, is an important part of the Trojans' new spread offense. If he can establish a running game against the Ducks, Palmer will have the ability to get the ball to junior wide receiver Ka-

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## THE BOX

### Key Number: 3

The Ducks' win streak over USC, the number of overtimes it took Oregon to beat USC two years ago, and the number of times the number "3" appears in the score of that game (The Ducks won 33-30).

### 2001 Pac-10 Rankings

#### Total Offense

Oregon.....4  
USC.....9

#### Scoring Offense

Oregon.....6  
USC.....10

#### Passing Offense

Oregon.....2  
USC.....8

#### Rushing Offense

Oregon.....8  
USC.....10

#### Total Defense

Oregon.....8  
USC.....9

#### Scoring Defense

USC.....2  
Oregon.....6

#### Passing Defense

USC.....2  
Oregon.....6

#### Rushing Defense

Oregon.....8  
USC.....10

### Quotable

"He's a pro player without question. I'm preparing as if this is an NFL quarterback because of the things he can do and the kinds of ways that he can read. We'll have to take care of business on our end of it, because if you don't, he'll tear you up."

Pete Carroll  
USC coach on Oregon QB  
Joey Harrington

### Key Player: Carson Palmer, USC quarterback

Palmer has gone into a tailspin since injuring his shoulder two years ago at Autzen Stadium. He must step up and have a good game for the Trojans to knock off the favored Ducks.