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Thomas Patterson Emerald

A rowdy Autzen Stadium crowd has aided the Ducks in winning 23 staight home games, right now the longest streak in the nation.

UO aims for home win No. 24

■ With Florida State losing to Miami, Oregon has moved up to the top spot among active home winning streaks

By Jeff Smith
Oregon Daily Emerald

Most of the 40,000+ fans that will cram into Autzen Stadium on Saturday have probably forgotten what it feels like to exit the premises with their heads hanging down after an Oregon defeat.

The streak of consecutive home victories dates back to Oct. 11, 1997, when UCLA entered Eugene and delivered the Ducks a 39-31 loss.

Since then at Autzen, it's been win, win, win, win, win, win, win, win, win, win, win, win, win, win, win, win, win, win, win and win.

Some lopsided, many close — too close in most fans' eyes. But all 23 home games since that fateful Bruins' visit have been wins.

When Florida State hosted Miami last weekend and lost, 49-27, it ended its 37-game winning streak at Doak Campbell Stadium that began in 1994 when Florida tied Florida State. FSU hadn't been beaten at home in 54 games, dating back to 1991.

But all that's been erased now, and the team with the nation's current longest home winning streak is the fifth-ranked Oregon Ducks.

"When you have it and it becomes the longest one in the nation, there's a responsibility, a duty and an opportunity to extend it," Oregon head coach Mike Bellotti said.

Oregon has been on the road for the past three weeks and will be going after home win No. 24 at 12:30 p.m. Saturday against Stanford in the annual Homecoming game.

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