

## SPORTS

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Best Bet

NFL: Tennessee at Pittsburgh,  
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OREGON  
24

vs.

WSU  
17

## Oregon's timing is perfect

By Jeff Smith  
Oregon Daily Emerald

PULLMAN, Wash. — After Wesley Mallard drilled Cougar receiver Mike Bush in the corner of the end zone, popping the ball loose and ending the game, the Ducks stormed the field with helmets raised and voices loud.

After Mallard's hit, the Cougar fans slowly filed out of Martin Stadium with heads aimed downward amid the constant sideways rain that never let up throughout the game.

And after Mallard's hit secured Oregon's 24-17 victory Saturday over Washington State, the thousands of visiting Ducks fans, who just a week prior had exited

Autzen Stadium with similar dejection as these Cougar faithful, went delirious.

One green and yellow clad enthusiast was heard saying, "I have never seen a game quite like that!"

Ho-hum. Just another day of Oregon Ducks football.

Oh sure, this day was unlike any other. But aren't they all?

Onterio Smith has zero carries in the first quarter, but then finishes up with an Oregon school record 285 yards on 26 carries.

Maurice Morris penetrates the Washington State defense in the first quarter, picking up 76 yards on 11 carries. He winds up with a paltry 138 yards, but give him a break. He would have had a chance to reach the 200-mark, too, if it hadn't been for that left hamstring he ag-

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Oregon's Samie Parker (1) runs for yardage after a catch Saturday. Parker and the Ducks toppled previously-undefeated Washington State 24-17 in Pullman.

Courtesy of the Daily Evergreen

## Ducks pull out a victory in Pullman

■ Oregon's rushing game leads the Ducks to a win over previously undefeated Washington State

By Adam Jude  
Oregon Daily Emerald

PULLMAN, Wash. — Just like that, the Oregon Ducks are back on top.

Sophomore tailback Onterio Smith broke two school records, and — until the final drive — the Oregon defense played arguably its best game of the season Saturday as the Ducks defeated Washington State 24-17 in front of 34,150 fans at Martin Stadium.

With UCLA, previously ranked No. 4, falling to Stanford on Saturday, there are no undefeated Pacific-10 Conference teams.

"We control our own destiny," head coach Mike Bellotti said. "This whole thing's going to even out, we just need to make sure we're in position to hang around in the end."

After tallying 145 rush yards in a losing effort to Stanford last week, the now ninth-ranked Ducks established the run early against Washington State and stuck with it. Smith set a school record with 285 rushing yards, and Maurice Morris added 138 yards as the Ducks tallied 446 yards on the ground, also a

school record.

"It was just one statement: 'Don't let Stanford beat you twice.' And we took that to the head," said Smith, who scored Oregon's three touchdowns and totaled a school-record 343 all-purpose yards. "We came out here today and got the 'W.'"

For most of the game, the Ducks held the top-rated passer in the Pac-10, Jason Gesser, and the Cougar offense in check, allowing just 142 total yards through two quarters and 156 through three. For an offense that was averaging 44 points per game, the 14-3 score in Oregon's favor after three quarters had to be frustrating.

"We are better than Oregon," said Gesser, who finished 17-of-37 for 249 yards. "But we didn't play better on the field today. We should have."

Despite being held down for most of the game, Gesser almost made it happen in Joey Harrington-like fashion on the last drive of the game. Down seven with 1:12 to play, Gesser drove the Cougs from their own 14 to the Oregon eight-yard-line with 11 seconds remaining. But three straight passes into the end zone fell incomplete, the final play broken up by Oregon linebacker Wesley Mallard, who led the team with 17 tackles Saturday.

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## Harriers face foes, place third at Pac-10 Championship meet

■ Cross country men finish third at the Pac-10 Championships, beating No. 13 Arizona and No. 24 Washington, among other participants

By Chris Cabot  
Oregon Daily Emerald

It was a good weekend for the Oregon men's cross country squad as the Ducks came out of the Pacific-10 Championships in Scottsdale, Ariz., with a third place finish and raised hopes for a berth in the NCAA Championships at the end of the season.

No. 2 Stanford ran away with the championship after scoring 27 points, but it was a close battle for second as No. 19 Arizona State (75 points) squeaked by No. 20 Oregon (78 points).

The Ducks beat two higher-ranked teams, No. 13 Arizona and No. 24 Washington, and also took out UCLA, Washington State and California. The wins against Arizona and Washington should help the Ducks receive

an at-large bid to the NCAA Championships if they do not place in the top two at the Western Regionals.

The teams competed at an 8,000-meter course at the Pavilion Lakes Golf Course near the Arizona State campus in near 90-degree temperatures.

Oregon's top runner, junior Jason Hartmann, was a favorite to win the event but was hindered by a mid-race fall that caused him to drop at one spot. He was running near the fifth position in the race when he was tangled up with a Stanford runner. Hartmann picked himself up and recovered enough time to finish in sixth place with a time of 24:30.9.

"I put myself in the position to fall, so I guess I had to deal with the consequences of falling," Hartmann said. "But I had to try to get back up and finish the job I had to do. After the race I was sore, but during the race I

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## Ducks' final two home games end in 'cruel' shutout losses

■ The Oregon soccer team's six seniors go out in a losing fashion to UCLA and USC

By Peter Hockaday  
Oregon Daily Emerald

Oregon soccer head coach Bill Steffen said Sunday afternoon that soccer is at times a "cruel" sport.

Soccer was extraordinarily cruel to Steffen and the Oregon Ducks this weekend.

Oregon (7-6-1, 1-5 Pac-10) dropped two Pacific-10 Conference contests at Papé Field Friday and Sunday. The losses to No. 3 UCLA (14-1, 5-0) and Southern California (8-4-1, 4-1) were the final home matches for six Oregon seniors.

The Ducks lost 2-0 to the Bruins Friday, then dropped a close, at times emotional contest to the Trojans on Sunday by a final score of 1-0.

While the Ducks were outscored 3-0 on the weekend, the players and coaches felt

they outplayed their opponents for the majority of the time they were on the field.

"They played and they battled and they deserved to win, but unfortunately they came up short," Steffen said.

Sunday's loss to USC was the closest contest for Oregon on the weekend. The Trojans went up early with a goal on a corner kick in the 13th minute. Southern California freshman Kelly Blais took the corner after Oregon goalkeeper Sarah Peters saved a shot over the crossbar. Blais sent the ball towards Oregon's front post, where sophomore Megan Abbamonto headed it low past Peters.

The goal lit a fire under the Ducks' offense, which put pressure on the Trojan defense for the remainder of the match. Oregon's best chance to score came with 19

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