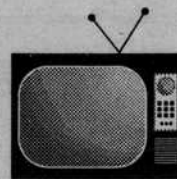


# GAME DAY

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**Best Bet**  
Washington at Oregon State,  
12:30 p.m., Fox Sports Net



Friday, November 9, 2001

## Oregon must fight for Jan. 1

Minutes after being beaten by Stanford, losing at Autzen Stadium for the first time in 23 home games and hearing all about how much they had lost, there emerged a glimmer of hope amid the downtrodden Oregon football team.

In the corner of the media room, flanked by three television cameras and numerous reporters with notepads ready, Oregon receiver Keenan Howry somehow saw the silver lining.

Yes, the national championship dream that had driven these Ducks through the rigors of the summer months and first weeks of the season had been dealt a serious blow.



**Jeff Smith**  
Hakuna Matata

And yes, the Pacific-10 Conference would now be tough to conquer with one loss and two daunting road games against Washington State and UCLA on the horizon.

But no way, Howry said with conviction, was this one loss on Oct. 20 going to end the Ducks' hopes of playing somewhere on Jan. 1.

"We're just going to fight as hard as we can to get back in the hunt and try not to let this one loss get us down," Howry said. "We can't let this one game knock off our confidence. If we win out, especially at UCLA, that'll boost us up even more."

Sure enough, the weeks since have all seemed to go in Oregon's favor. The Ducks have won. Other teams have lost. And now Oregon is back in control of its destiny and can play the winner of the Big 12 Conference in the Fiesta Bowl if it beats the Bruins and the Beavers.

But those Bruins. Oh how they can be a pain in the Ducks' tail. Oregon finally beat them last year at Autzen Stadium for its first win against UCLA since 1995, but the Ducks have yet to win at the Rose Bowl in that span.

Joey Harrington, who has said before that his dream was to someday play in the Jan. 1 Rose Bowl, has never played in Pasadena. In 1999, Harrington was the backup when quarterback A.J. Feeley led a dramatic last-minute drive that ended with Marshaun Tucker receiving a short pass and being stuffed less than a yard away from the end zone as time ran out.

Final score: UCLA-34 Oregon-29. "That was a heartbreaker," offensive lineman Ryan Schmid said. "We were so close. Tough loss to swallow. You never know, but that one yard might have cost us a spot in the Rose Bowl that year."

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Oregon's Keith Lewis (16), Westy Mallard (18) and Kevin Mitchell (39) tackled UCLA's Tab Perry in the Ducks' 29-10 win at Autzen last year.

## Ducks control own destiny

■ The top offense in the Pac-10 takes on the top defense in a battle of high stakes

By Adam Jude  
Oregon Daily Emerald

Less than a month ago, the Oregon-UCLA matchup appeared to be one for the history books; a game that could have potentially decided who would contend for the national championship.

While the implications are still great, a battle of unbeaten will not take place Saturday in the Rose Bowl.

Instead, the Pacific-10 Conference championship will be on the line when No. 7 Oregon (8-1 overall, 5-1 Pac-10) and No. 16 UCLA (6-1, 3-2) hit the field at 12:30 p.m. Saturday for a regionally-televised ABC broadcast.

"We've been getting ready for this kind of game all year," Oregon senior quarterback Joey Harrington said. "And now we're going to be on national television, in the Rose Bowl, against UCLA, and it's time to show

people what we've got."

Much of the excitement was also deflated with the news Wednesday that UCLA star running back DeShaun Foster will sit out the game after being suspended for receiving "extra benefits."

But the game must go on.

The Ducks enter the game with the No. 1 offense in the Pac-10, while the Bruins feature the No. 1 defense.

Harrington and Co. have scored in 33-of-35 trips to the red zone this season, best in the conference. Senior linebacker Robert Thomas and the Bruins have held opponents scoreless in 50 percent of trips to the red zone, also tops in the conference.

"I'd be lying if I said I haven't been looking forward to this game all year," Oregon receiver Keenan Howry said. "The hype is there, the intensity is there, and there's a lot at stake for both teams."



## With top defense, UCLA stays positive

■ With DeShaun Foster out, the Bruins hopes of ending a two-game skid are even tougher

By Hank Hager  
Oregon Daily Emerald

What do you get when you mix a little DeShaun Foster, some Corey Paus, a sprinkle of Brian Poli-Dixon and top it off with Robert Thomas?

A 6-2 squad and enough fight to challenge for the Pacific-10 Conference title, that's what. But take out a suspended Foster, and you get a squad riddled with questions.

With a 3-2 conference record, UCLA is not the team to beat in the Pac-10 anymore, especially after consecutive losses to newly formed juggernauts Stanford and Washington State. But that doesn't mean the Bru-

ins don't have any fight left in them.

"The thing that I'm going to do with this football team ... is I'm going to remain positive," UCLA head coach Bob Toledo said. "We're going to bounce back and we're going to win more football games. Not all is lost."

But UCLA loses its top running back in Foster, a Heisman and Doak Walker Trophy candidate. The senior rushed for 301 yards against Washington earlier this season in a 35-13 win, but his play had suffered in recent weeks when UCLA lost to Stanford and Washington State. He was suspended Wednesday for what the school called an "extra benefits" violation.

The Bruins, however, are coming off consecutive losses to Stanford and Washington State, and need a win to stay within reach of a major bowl bid.

"They're a very good team," Oregon head coach Mike Bellotti said of UCLA. "I know they've stubbed their toe here, but Pullman is a very difficult place to go, and we said that at the time we played Stanford they were by far the best team we have played all year. But, UCLA is still dominating as a football team. They don't give up a lot of yardage — their defense is as impressive as any that we'll have seen."

The Ducks are tied with Washington and Washington State in the conference standings, but hold tiebreaker advantage on both teams. Thus, if the Ducks defeat UCLA and Oregon State in their remaining games, they will receive an automatic bid to the Fiesta Bowl.

Bellotti said his team is not looking past the Bruins, though.

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### THE BOX

**Key Number:**  
-9

Rushing yards for UCLA in last season's 29-10 loss at Oregon. Star running back DeShaun Foster, who will not play Saturday, was held to 49 yards on the afternoon.

**Pac-10 Rankings**  
**Total Offense**

Oregon.....1  
UCLA.....6

**Scoring Offense**

Oregon.....3  
UCLA.....6

**Passing Offense**

Oregon.....5  
UCLA.....10

**Rushing Offense**

Oregon.....1  
UCLA.....3

**Total Defense**

UCLA.....1  
Oregon.....9

**Scoring Defense**

UCLA.....1  
Oregon.....4

**Passing Defense**

UCLA.....3  
Oregon.....9

**Rushing Defense**

UCLA.....2  
Oregon.....3

### Quotable

"He's what you would call a 'winner.' From what I can tell, he's a really genuine guy."

**Bob Toledo**

UCLA head coach on Oregon quarterback Joey Harrington

**Key Player:**  
**Cory Paus,**  
**UCLA**  
**quarterback**

With Foster out, Paus will have the pressure of an entire offense on him. He suffered a jammed thumb three weeks ago, and has seen limited action since then. On Saturday, Paus will need to create all the action himself.

**Key Number,**  
**Part II:**  
**3-2**

Pac-10 record of UCLA, which has lost to Stanford and Washington State in consecutive games.

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