

UCLA

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Lewis. However, after beating out Ryan McCann and Scott McEwan for the starting spot this season, the quarterback is the team's present and future signal-caller.

A banged-up Paus will start against the Ducks, despite throwing three interceptions in the fourth quarter against Washington State.

"They dared us to throw the ball, and we couldn't do it (against WSU)," Toledo told the Daily Bruin.

Cougar safety Lamont Thompson's Pac-10 tying four picks were more than any UCLA receiver caught from their quarterbacks last weekend. Paus didn't start against the Cougars, but was in the game long enough to make his mark. If the same happens, look for McEwan, despite not playing at 100 percent, to get the call.

"I told Cory that he needs to perform well because Scott is ready in reserve," Toledo said.

The receiving trio of Tab Perry, Ryan Smith and Poli-Dixon suffered a blow, as all three have been injured in recent games against Stanford and Wazzu.

Poli-Dixon is expected to play

against Oregon on Saturday, but the once-strong group will certainly be less effective. He will have to carry the load, however, with Perry remaining hospitalized with four broken ribs and Smith still suffering from a sprained ankle.

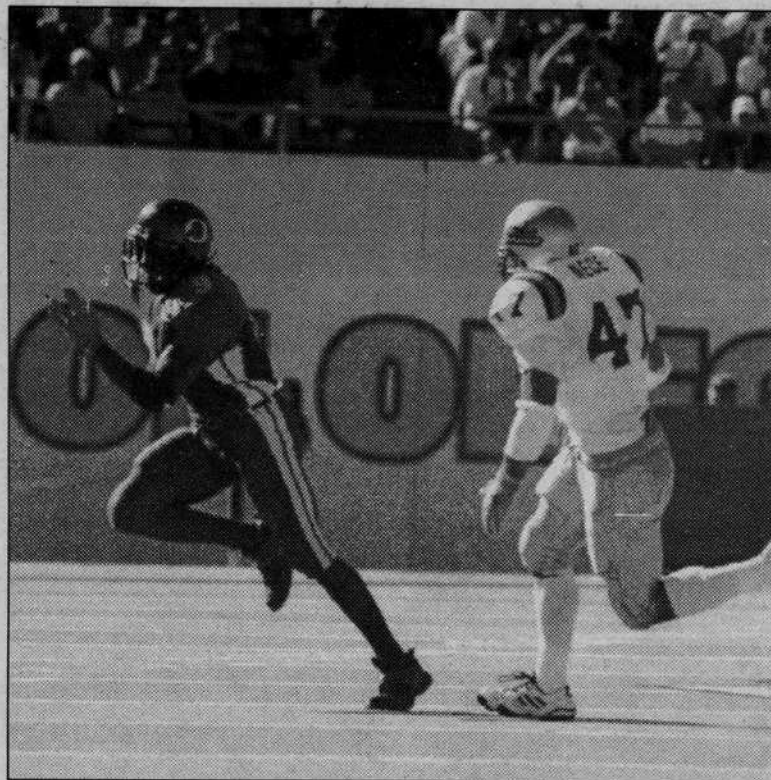
"I know my body better than anybody else, and I feel great," Poli-Dixon told the Los Angeles Times. "Not only was I not playing, but the team was struggling. I'm ready to make up for it."

And then there's the UCLA defense.

With their defense ranked No. 1 in the Pac-10 and 23rd in the nation, the Bruins give up 310.6 yards per game of total offense, and hold their opponents to 16.9 points per game, good for 12th in the country.

They are anchored by Thomas, a 6-foot-2 linebacker, who is an All-America and Butkus Award candidate. The senior has a toughness not matched by many in the conference, and has used that to record 89 tackles so far this season. His 20 tackles for losses this season are the most in the Pac-10.

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Emerald

Linebacker Ryan Nece (47) and the Pac-10's top-ranked Bruins defense will need to contain tailback Maurice Morris (9) and the Pac-10's top-ranked Ducks offense in order to win.

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