

GAME DAY

Best bet
Washington St. at Ohio St.
12:30 p.m. Saturday, ABC

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Friday, September 13, 2002

The big box of football

Tasty morsel No. 1

The Ducks have lost to Idaho only three times in 57 meetings between the teams. Oregon's series with Idaho is the Ducks' longest-running series with a non-conference opponent.

Morsel No. 2

With Oregon's nailbiting win over Fresno State Saturday, head coach Mike Bellotti has now won 31 of 40 games decided by a touchdown or less since joining the Ducks. Oregon is 15-2 in home games during that streak, and has won 11 of the last 12 overall.

Trivia Bowl

Oregon has the longest current winning streak in the Pac-10 conference. How long is it? Answer at bottom of box.

Rank me

Oregon and Idaho in the 2002 national rankings

Rushing offense

Oregon.....57
Idaho.....103

Passing offense

Oregon.....21
Idaho.....37

Scoring offense

Oregon.....45
Idaho.....95

Rushing defense

Oregon.....16
Idaho.....108

Passing defense

Oregon.....61
Idaho.....105

Scoring defense

Oregon.....42
Idaho.....112

Net punting

Idaho.....33
Oregon.....105

Morsel No. 3

The Ducks have five players on the current two-deep that started their Oregon career as walk-ons, including wide receiver Jason Willis and center Dan Weaver.

Trivia answer

Oregon's streak is seven games.

When in doubt, mix football with golf

Football is just like golf. Sure it is. Think about it. Actually it's not, really. Not at all.

But I've written so much about football recently that I just want to write about something else.

So, golf it is. I guess there are some similarities. Both sports involve lots of betting, except one is while you're playing and the other is while you're watching. Both require the use of arms.



Peter Hockaday
Two minutes for crosschecking

OK, they really aren't similar. Maybe they should be similar. In the glorious tradition of Slamball — which combines the sports of basketball and trampoline — and Basketball, the subject of an epic motion picture, I think I'll start a new crossover sport.

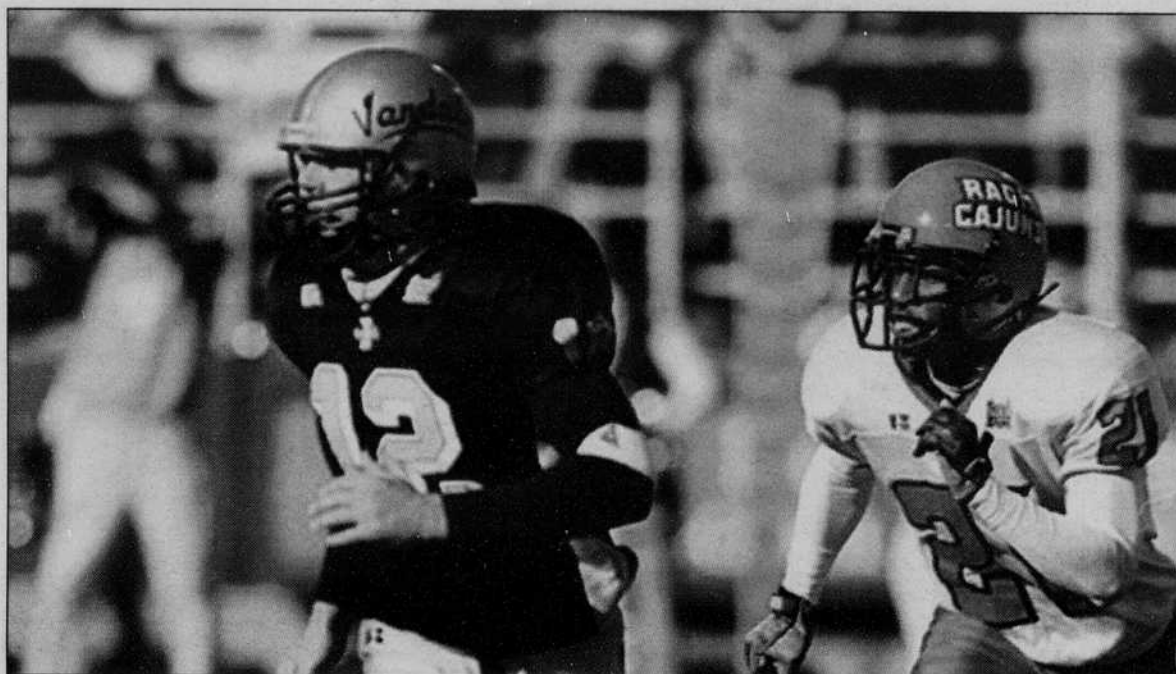
Can you imagine football with water hazards? It would make play-by-play man Jerry Allen's job a whole lot more fun.

"There goes Onterrio off tackle on the right side and... oh! He hit that pond on the four yard-line in mid-stride! That... had... to... hurt. He'll have to take a drop on that one."

Of course, we've all dreamt of full-contact golf. This is where Jim Nantz and his "golf voice" comes into play.

"Tiger steps up to his putt, a little downhill slider, four feet from the

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Wide receiver Josh Jelmeberg (12) has been one of the few Idaho bright spots this year. Jelmeberg averages 10 receptions per game.

Vandalizing college ball

Idaho hasn't done much this season to turn around predictions that they will finish last in Division I

Hank Hager
Sports Reporter

You know things are bad when you're chosen to finish dead last in the NCAA.

That's where Sports Illustrated chose Idaho to finish, 117th out of 117 teams, in its college football preview earlier this year. That's worse even than Duke, which finally pulled itself out of a three-year losing streak with a victory to start its 2002 campaign.

With a 38-21 loss to Boise State to start the season and a 49-14 drubbing at the hands of No. 11 Washington State last week, the Vandals are in a position to prove their early-season ranking correct. After Oregon, Idaho travels to San Diego State to take on the Aztecs, then travels up to

Washington again for a game against the Huskies.

It's going to be a tough year for head coach Tom Cable and the Vandals.

"I have not lost any faith, and I don't have any negative thoughts about this particular football team," Cable said. "I think these guys are going to be pretty good. We just have to find a way to get through this talent we're playing as opponents right now."

There is talent, as senior Josh Jelmeberg has proven. The receiver is fourth in the nation in receptions with an average of 10 per game, two behind the nation's leader, Kevin Walter of Eastern Michigan.

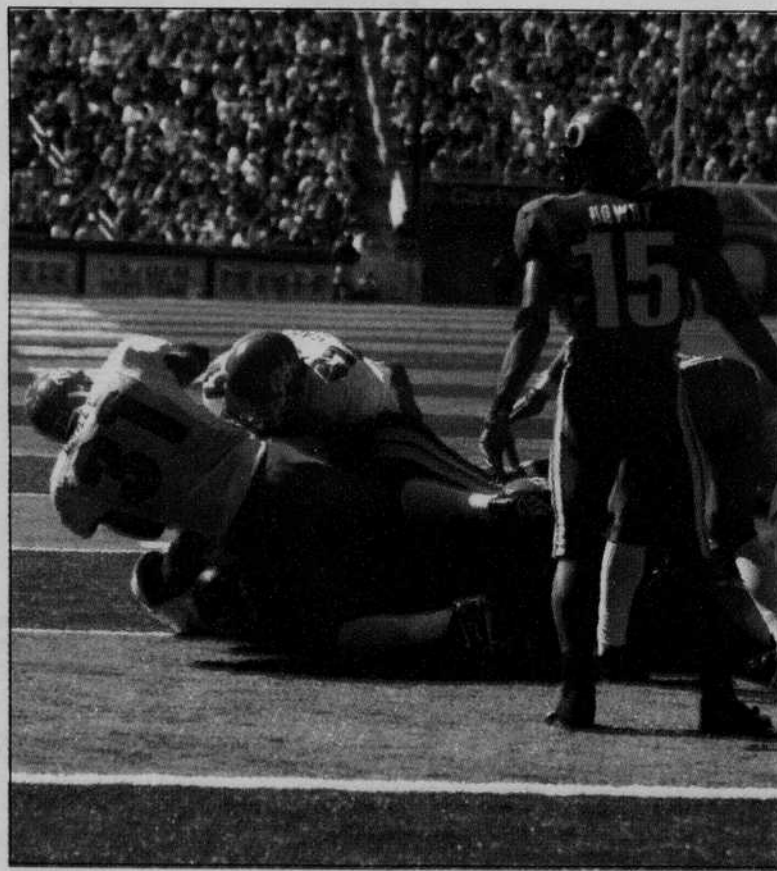
Getting the ball to Jelmeberg and heading up the Vandal offense is junior Brian Lindgren, the NCAA's all-time leader in total yardage in a single game after racking up 639 yards in the air and another 20 against Middle Tennessee last season. This year, he has been vulnerable with a

sluggish offense but has managed to throw four touchdowns — two to Jelmeberg. However, Lindgren's three interceptions in two games have been his undoing.

"There is some improvement with our team, which I'm excited about, but we have to play with a level of consistency that I think we're well aware of," Cable said. "I don't know that we have to play perfect, but we have to play pretty close. That's the issue. There's no other way to cut it."

Where the Ducks trot out junior running back Onterrio Smith, a possible 2002 Heisman Trophy candidate, the Vandals will be sorely at a disadvantage against Oregon in the running game. The Ducks' defensive line, a group that Oregon head coach Mike Bellotti has called one of the better lines in school history, should not be challenged by Idaho's Zach Gerstner.

The junior from Canby leads the Vandal rushing attack with 133
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Adam Jones Emerald

Keenan Howry (15) looks on as a play unravels around him. Howry has caught only three passes this season, and Jason Fife attributes the drought to opposing defenses.

Howry's hands see little action in 2002

Jason Fife says it's been hard to get Keenan Howry the ball with opposing defenses stacked against him

Adam Jude
Senior Sports Reporter

Sometimes you can be too good for your own good. Keenan Howry is learning all about that this season.

Through two games the senior wide receiver has amassed just three catches for 18 yards — not the kind of numbers you'd expect from one of the best receivers in school history. Opposing defenses have stacked themselves against Howry, the latest Oregon football star to have a building-sized billboard in New York.

Despite his limited touches, Howry has extended his reception streak to 37 games.

Last season, Howry grabbed 52 receptions for 682 yards and nine touchdowns. He needs 27 more

catches, 813 yards and six touchdowns to become Oregon's all-time leading receiver in each category.

If the first two games are any indication, though, Howry will fall short of the records.

On the other side of the field, junior Samie Parker has been getting all of the attention, particularly from quarterback Jason Fife. Parker tied a career high with nine catches against Fresno State last week, including a 70-yard touchdown reception.

Fife said defenses are more weary of Howry, and that has opened up the field for other play-makers.

"We are aware that Keenan needs to get the ball more," Fife said. "We just need to make some adjustments to make sure we're on the same page. It won't be a problem."

Against Fresno State, Fife said there were set plays called for Howry, but for various reasons, the plays weren't executed.

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