

## SPORTS

Best bet  
MLB Playoffs:  
Anaheim at Minnesota  
5:20 p.m., FOX

Tuesday, October 8, 2002

## UW searches for answers

The Huskies are 'soul-searching' after Kyle Boller and California snap a 19-game skid in Seattle

## Pac 10 Notes

Adam Jude  
Senior Sports Reporter

It's a biological mystery, but somehow the Dawgs of Seattle have shrunk into little puppies, with ears slumped and tails hidden between their legs.

Two streaks ended Saturday at Husky Stadium when California mauled Washington, 34-27. With the win, the Golden Bears (4-2 overall, 1-1 Pacific-10 Conference) snapped a 19-game losing streak to the Huskies, dating back to 1976, and ended UW's 17-game home winning streak.

"I would have never imagined in my wildest dreams that we could lose to Cal while I was at the UW," Washington guard Elliott Zajac told *The Seattle Times*.

Washington (3-2, 0-1), which has been under scrutiny for its lack of running effort, netted just 42 rush yards against Cal. Starting tailback Rich Alexis was benched after a second quarter fumble.

"We're going to have to really do some soul-searching about what we are doing here and how we are doing it," UW head

coach Rick Neuheisel said after the game. "We have to get back to being a fundamentally sound football team that can do things that represent a good football team. I don't know why we struggle so."

Washington's Cody Pickett set a school record with 35 completions, but Cal's Kyle Boller stole the spotlight. Despite attempting just 24 passes, Boller was named Pacific-10 Conference Player of the Week for his five-touchdown, 266-yard performance.

"I can honestly say that was the best football game I've ever played, in high school, college or anything," said Boller, who had no interceptions Saturday.

## Cougars are 'for real'

While Cal was making history in Seattle, Washington State and USC had an exciting finish on the other side of the state in Pullman.

Thanks to a missed extra point by USC kicker Ryan Killeen, the No. 12 Cougars (5-1, 2-0) were able to tie the game and force an overtime with 1:50 left on a wobbly 35-yard field goal by Drew Dunning.

In the extra session, Dunning again outdueled Killeen as the Cougar booted another 35-yarder to seal the 30-27 victory.

Washington State tallied 516 total yards against USC's top-rated defense.

"I didn't think there was any way we were going to get 500 yards of offense on

this team," said Washington State head coach Mike Price, who won his first game against USC in Pullman. "If we can beat this team, we're for real."

## Beaver bouncers

Quick, jump while you still can — if you haven't done so already.

Two weeks ago, Oregon State was 4-0, and had what seemed to be one of the conference's best quarterbacks, a blistering defense and a ton of national attention.

But after the Beavers lost their second straight game Saturday to open conference play, everyone is jumping off the bandwagon.

"We just weren't consistent today," Oregon State quarterback Derek Anderson said after a 43-35 loss to UCLA. "We were fighting our way back every time we got the ball. There is not a lot to be happy about today."

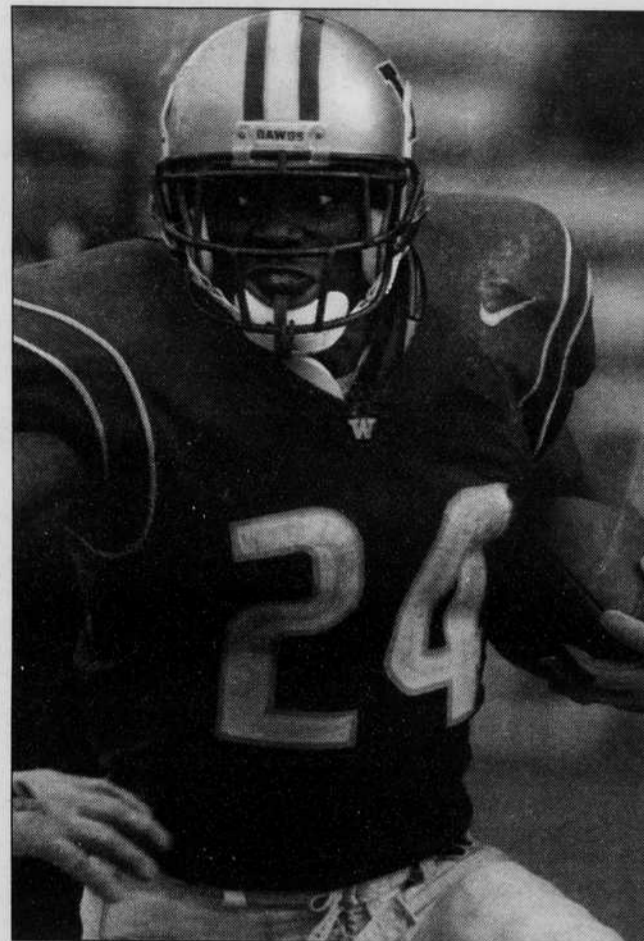
## Going deep

Six Pac-10 quarterbacks are ranked in the nation's top 25 in passing efficiency. And guess who's at the top of those the list?

Gesser? Pickett? Paus?

Nope, nope, nope. Arizona State's Andrew Walter — a sophomore — is second in the country in pass efficiency at 169.5.

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Jim Bates Seattle Times (KRT)

Washington tailback Rich Alexis was benched in the second quarter of the Huskies' 34-27 loss to California on Saturday in Seattle.

## Kicked off

The men's club soccer team will use their poor showing in 2001 as a spark for 2002

Scott Archer  
Freelance Sports Reporter

Ask any men's club soccer player to explain a disappointing 2001 season, and he'll probably say two things.

Last season was disheartening.

Expectations for 2002 are high.

It's no surprise the 2002 men's club soccer players gave those two examples when asked about how the team would fare in the upcoming fall season.

The Ducks had high expectations, goals and dreams coming into the 2001 season. In 2000, the team came in second place in the national tournament, held every year during the last week of November.

With anticipation high and expectations even higher, the team came up remarkably short in 2001.

The Ducks got second again. Second to last.

"We did well in league but not good at nationals," said senior Matt Tassos, who is the player-coach for the team. "Our focus wasn't there. This year we have that focus and work ethic."

Tassos said the Ducks will need to return to their good play from two years ago in order to be successful in 2002. That means throwing out all the sports rhetoric and proving it on the field.

"It looks like we have a pretty good team, and I hope we do well," senior midfielder Ryan Rose said.

How well remains to be seen. Because the squad was one game away from claiming the 2000 national championship, hype and hope will surround this year's team.

"Our goal is to be more than better last year," senior forward Kenny Otley said. "We have a lot of potential that we didn't utilize last year. This year we will play as a team, not as individuals."

Injuries were one reason the Ducks didn't play up to their potential last season.

"We had one player that was shot in the leg four

weeks before nationals," said Tassos, referring to a shooting near Hilyard Street Market in the spring in which one soccer player was injured.

Tassos will be coach and player for the second year in a row, bringing experience that should eventually become an asset to the team.

"It's different," Otley said, referring to playing for his peer. "I'm not jealous of Matt's job."

Problems have arisen in the past with player-coaches in the Club Sports program. Otley said players skip mandatory practices, expect to get playing time on game day or don't take their peer-coach seriously.

"It's different trying to coach and play," Tassos said. "You want to concentrate on your own game but also the team's game. 'What needs to be better?' It's hard to do one thing, let alone two."

But Tassos seems to be more than up to the job. "I think (the coaching) is handled well," Rose said. "I've seen it cause problems other places, but not here."

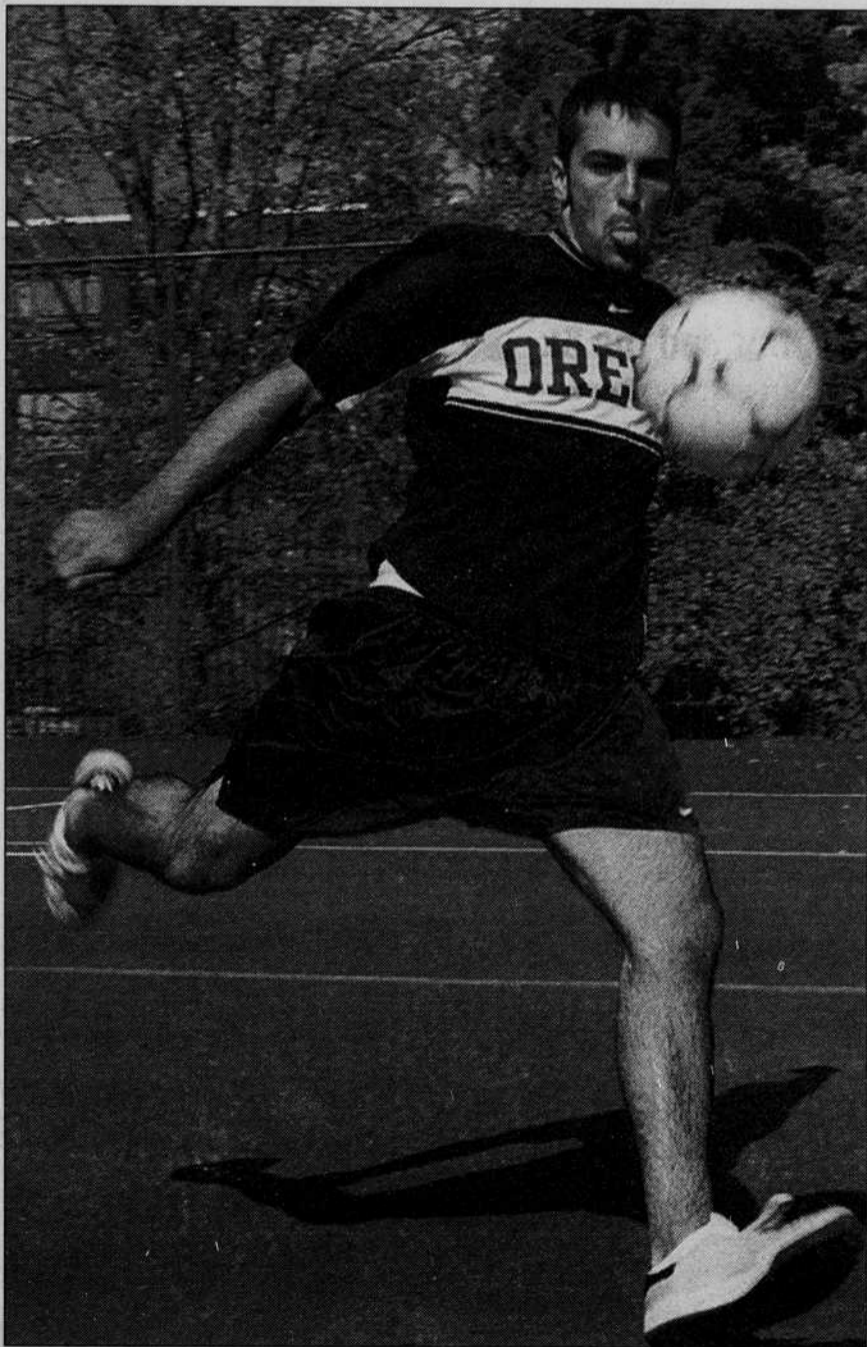
And with that, the coaching situation is an afterthought for the team. The Ducks have more important things to focus on — like winning.

"Definitely win league (title) and win nationals, those are two realistic expectations," Tassos said.

Dreams have now turned into expectations for the team. The 2002 national club tournament, held Nov. 21-23 in Bakersfield, Calif., will tell the Ducks whether those expectations will become reality.

Three home games are scheduled for Oct. 20, Oct. 27 and Nov. 3. All games will be held at the turf field, with kickoff for all three scheduled for 1 p.m.

Scott Archer is a freelance writer for the Emerald.



Mark McCambridge Emerald

Player-coach Matt Tassos and the Oregon men's soccer team face a season of high expectations.