

Sports Editor:
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GAME DAY

Best bet
California at USC
3:30 p.m. Saturday, Fox Sports

Friday, October 11, 2002

The big box of football

Tasty morsel No. 1

You want offense? You got it. The Ducks and Bruins have combined to gain at least 727 yards in each of the last seven contests played between the two teams.

Morsel No. 2

Oregon's trip to UCLA will be a homecoming of sorts for Duck players. Of the 103 players listed on the Oregon roster, 54 played high school football in California and 26 hail from the southern part of the state.

Trivia Bowl

Not only does Oregon own the second best winning streak in the nation, the Ducks have the third best record in the 21st century behind only Miami and Oklahoma. How many wins do the Ducks have since 2000?

Rank me

Oregon and UCLA in the 2002 Pac-10 rankings

Rushing offense

Oregon.....2
UCLA.....1

Passing offense

Oregon.....9
UCLA.....8

Scoring offense

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

Total offense

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

Rushing defense

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

Passing defense

Oregon.....5
UCLA.....4

Scoring defense

Oregon.....1
UCLA.....7

Morsel No. 3

In further proof of the Oregon-UCLA connection, former Duck offensive coordinator and current UCLA head coach Bob Toledo is 4-2 all-time against Oregon head coach Mike Bellotti.

Trivia answer

Oregon has gone 26-3 since the turn of the century.

UCLA defies odds in Pac-10 play

The Bruins have used a highly productive offense to lead them to the front of the conference

Hank Hager
Sports Reporter

For UCLA head coach Bob Toledo, the 2002 season was lining up to be a tough year.

First his leading rusher from last season, DeShaun Foster, graduated to the NFL's Carolina Panthers. Then his star defensive back, Ricky Manning Jr., posted a \$60,000 bond in late August for one count of felony assault stemming from a bar fight in April.

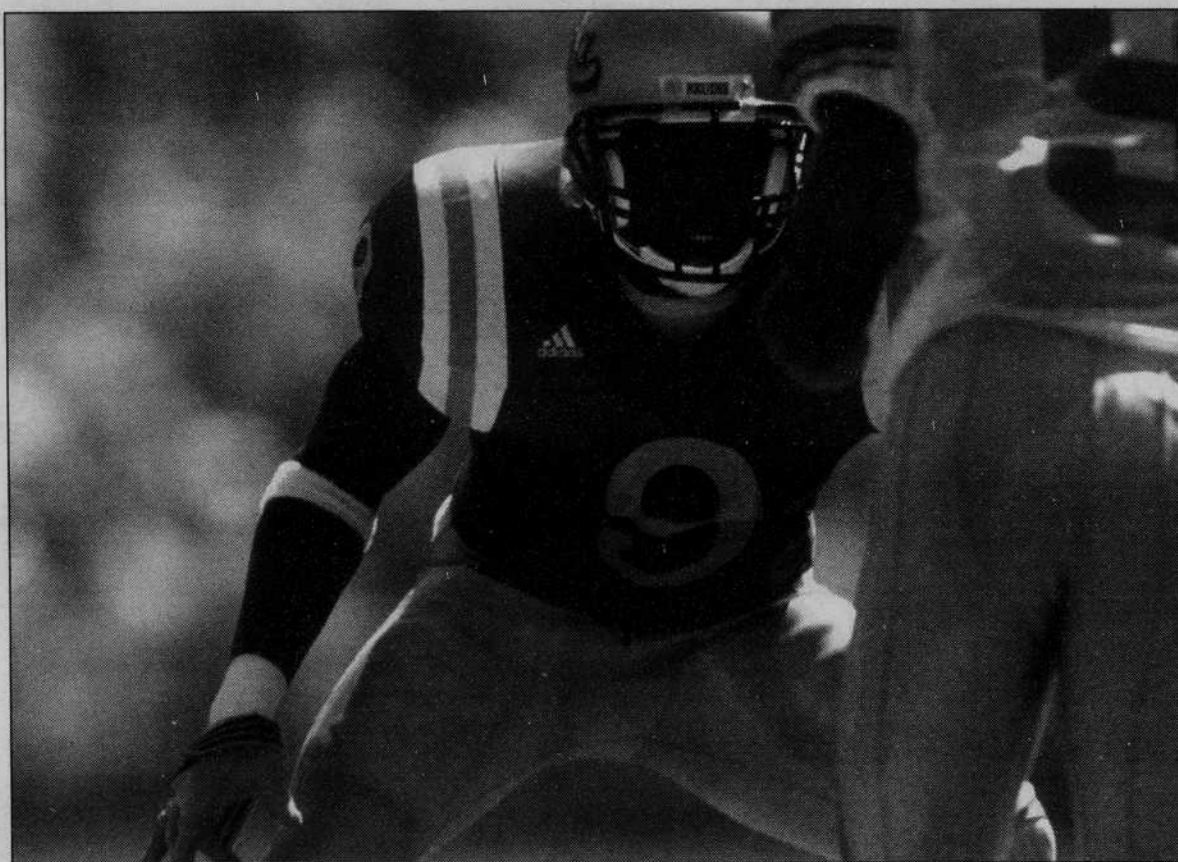
Finally, last season's starting quarterback for most of the season, Cory Paus, was placed on probation after a misdemeanor conviction of driving under the influence of alcohol — his second offense in two years.

Things weren't exactly looking rosy for Toledo and the Bruins.

But now, at 4-1 overall (1-0 Pacific-10 Conference) and ranked 25th in the nation, UCLA is smelling better than ever.

"We've been disrespected and counted out by a lot of people this year," UCLA offensive guard Eyoseph Efseaff told the Daily Bruin. "We want a ring this year, and we're going to fight our butts off to get it."

Faced with a daunting 14-0 deficit early on against Oregon State last week, the Bruins rallied with 29 consecutive points to pull ahead for a 43-35 victory. The win not only represented the Bruins' ability to answer with a high-octane offense



Courtesy UCLA Media Services

Ricky Manning Jr. leads a Bruin defense that is often overshadowed by UCLA's high-powered offense.

— as Paus showed with 378 yards passing — but also the maturity to defeat a quality opponent, as the Beavers were expected to fight for the Pac-10 Championship.

With the win, UCLA has seemingly cemented the possibility of playing a postseason bowl, whether it be in Las Vegas or Los Angeles.

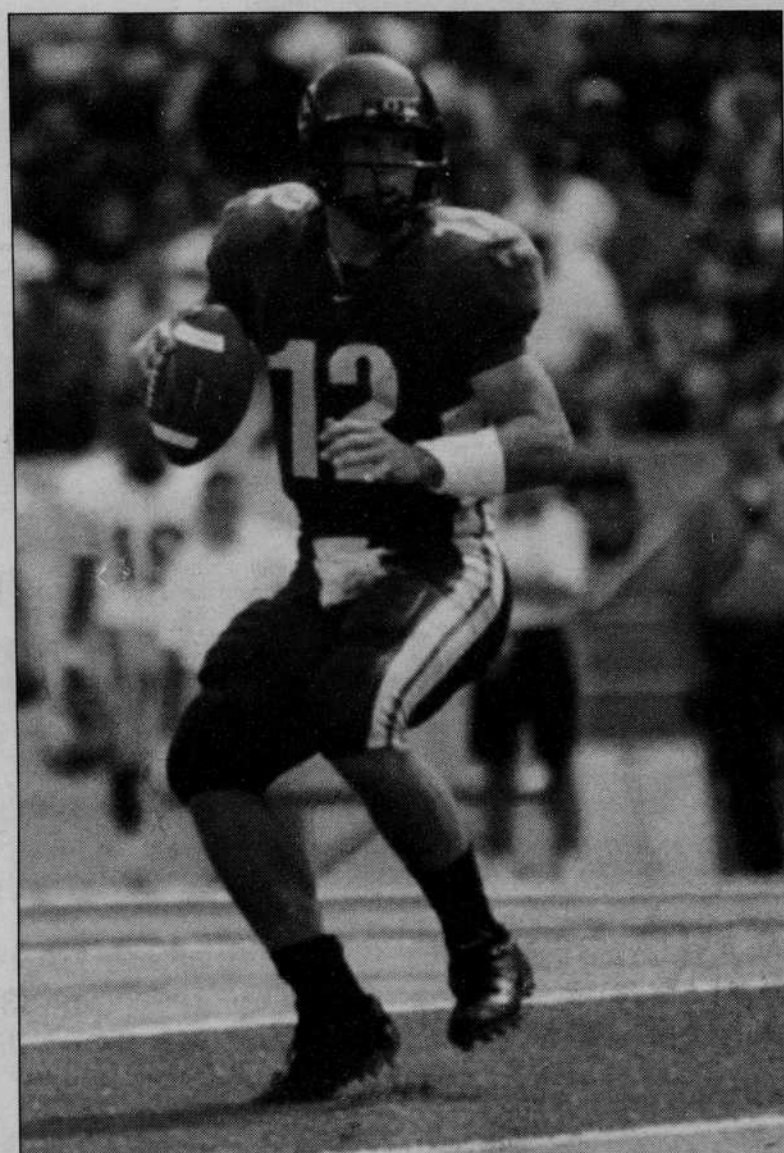
With those expectations come

the clichéd target on the uniform. Like the Ducks, the Bruins are recognized as one of the Pac-10's best, but unlike Oregon, UCLA will have to continue its winning ways with a young running game.

With sophomore and incumbent starter Manuel White listed as doubtful against the Ducks due to a hamstring injury, redshirt fresh-

man Tyler Ebell has been penciled in as the starting runner. He responded last week filling in for White, accumulating 203 yards on 29 carries, including a 73-yard dash that ended in a tackle at the Beaver one-yard line.

"(Ebell) hasn't got a lot of reps in practice, yet he got his opportunity. Turn to **UCLA**, page 8B



Mark McCambridge Emerald

Oregon quarterback Jason Fife is frustrated by his team's penalties this season.

Penalties still hurt 5-0 Oregon team

The Ducks are ninth in the in average penalty yards per game, ahead of Oregon State

Mindi Rice
Freelance Sports Reporter

When a team has more penalty yards than the opposing team has rushing yards in one game, that team should be something to worry about.

Even if that team is 5-0.

The Ducks amassed 13 penalties for a total of 110 yards against Arizona on Saturday. The Wildcats rushed for 30 yards and had 46 penalty yards on six penalties.

In Oregon's five games this season, it has earned 444 penalty yards through 54 penalties, or 88.8 penalty yards per game. The Pacific-10 Conference average is 70.5 penalty yards per game.

Oregon has committed a significant number of its penalties on kickoffs. The Ducks repeatedly are jumping the play with offsides. Some players also are having problems keeping their emotions in check, as celebration penalties and personal fouls have crept into the Ducks' games.

"A lot of them are anxious penalties," Oregon head coach Mike Bellotti said. "I can't fault them entirely because they're aggressive penalties."

That doesn't mean Bellotti has nothing to worry about. The Ducks are second in the Pac-10 in average penalty yards per game. The only team with a higher penalty-yards-per-game average is Oregon State, with 103.2.

"I can't fault them entirely because they're aggressive penalties."

Mike Bellotti
Oregon head coach

Saturday's opponent, UCLA, is ninth in the conference in penalty yards, with only 247 total yards in five games. UCLA is last in the Pac-10 for opponent's penalties, with opponents averaging only 45.2 penalty yards per game.

Bellotti is frustrated by his team's lack of concentration.

"We talked about a combination of stupid penalties and selfish penalties, and we have to be rid of them," Bellotti said. "It hasn't come up and bit us in the behind yet, but it will. That's very important that our players understand that."

Despite the high numbers of penalties, Oregon is still going strong. The Ducks are averaging

Turn to **Penalties**, page 5B