

# Football

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in both polls, gave them control of the young Pac-10 race and sent a message, according to the Oregon players, to the rest of the conference that Oregon won't easily relinquish its conference crown.

"People feel we haven't been tested this season, so this was huge for our program," Duck tailback Onterio Smith said.

Smith was one of many offensive stars for Oregon on Saturday, but it was really the UCLA offense that lit up the Rose Bowl for most of the game. The Bruins used big plays to put them up 7-0, 14-7 and 30-24 as Oregon was forced to play catch-up football for much of the contest.

But the game turned on three key plays — plays that fall under the "small stuff" category that Bellotti stresses so often with his team. The first was a 59-yard field goal by Jared Siegel on the last play of the half that boosted the Ducks into halftime. The second was a blocked extra point by Oregon's Haloti Ngata on UCLA's last touchdown with 7:28 left in the third quarter. The third was an attempt at a fake field goal by UCLA in the fourth quarter that was stopped short of the first down.

No play was as big as Griffith's field goal, a play that Oregon linebacker David Moretti said gave him "deja vu."

The drive itself was similar to last season's game-ending Bruin drive, when UCLA coach Bob Toledo made several questionable play calls to keep his team from getting closer to the endzone. Saturday, the Bruins started their drive from their own 20-yard line with 5:54 left and slowly marched down the field. UCLA halfback Tyler Ebell had runs for eight, nine and five yards. Halfback Akil Harris had an 11-yard rush. Bruin quarterback Cory Paus hit Craig Bragg — who finished the game with nine catches for 230 yards and three touchdowns — for gains of 12 and 10 yards.

With less than three minutes left, UCLA had a first-and-10 from the Oregon 25. Toledo ran a play for Ebell up the middle, where he was stuffed by Duck free safety Rasuli Webster. Ebell ran around the right end, where he was stopped by Webster again for a loss of three yards. Paus threw incomplete for Bragg on a swing pass to the left side. That set up the 46-yard field goal attempt, which Griffith booted wide left.

"They were getting close, but we knew if we kept it to a 40-some-

thing-yard field goal, we had a chance," Moretti said.

After Griffith's miss, the Ducks needed only to gain one first down to run out the clock. Smith broke for runs of six and 10 yards to put the game out of UCLA's reach.

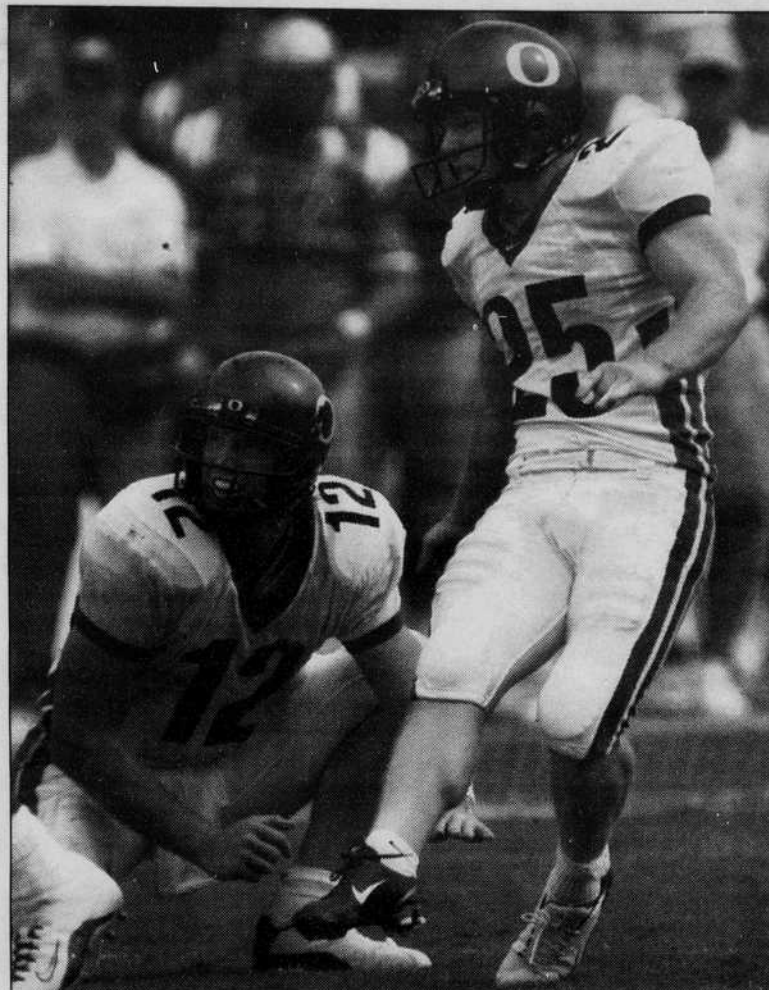
Smith didn't have a touchdown on the day but rushed for 154 yards. It was his sixth-straight game with more than 100 yards, breaking the Oregon record in that category.

But Smith left the scoring to his backup and the Duck receivers on Saturday. Terrence Whitehead rushed for a 37-yard touchdown to tie the score at 14 early in the second quarter. George Wrihster caught the first Oregon touchdown pass in the first quarter and Keenan Howry accounted for two touchdowns.

Howry's first touchdown was also his first punt return of the year, a 79-yard sprint in the second quarter, and may signify his return to form from last year, when he returned two punts for touchdowns.

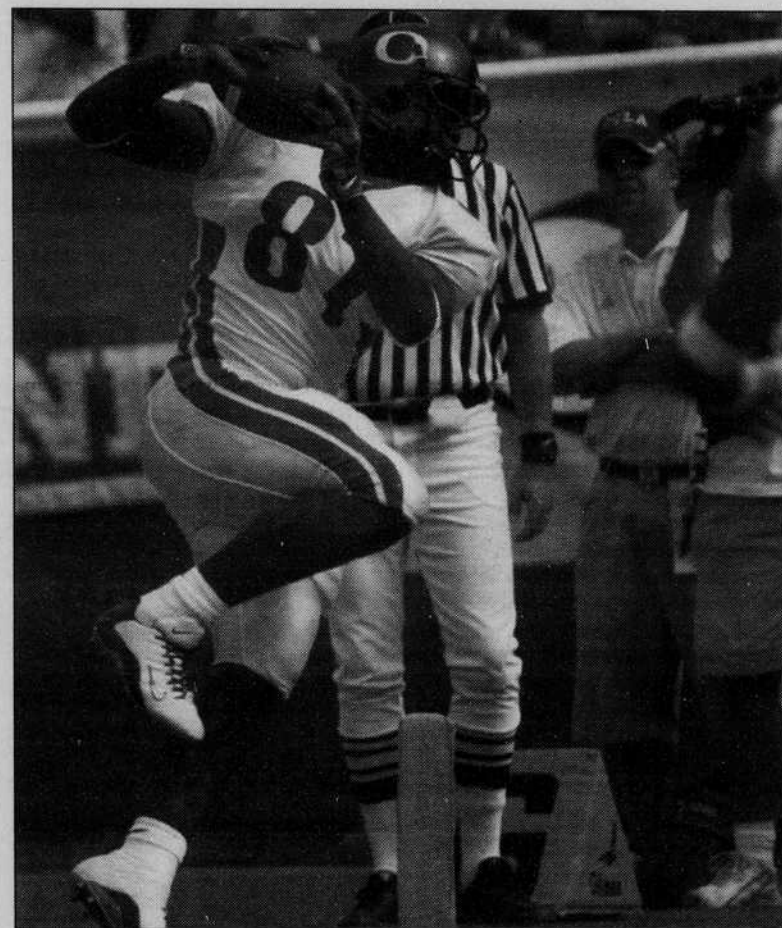
Oregon continues the defense of its Pac-10 crown Saturday when it hosts Arizona State at Autzen Stadium.

Contact the sports editor at peterhockaday@dailyemerald.com.



Adam Amato Emerald

Jared Siegel (25) watches his Oregon-record 59-yard field goal sail through the pipes.



Adam Amato Emerald

George Wrihster catches Oregon's first touchdown of the game Saturday.

## Kicking

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room with a 24-21 halftime lead.

Although the Bruins racked up 477 total yards (compared to Oregon's 383) UCLA dug its own grave with its special teams play.

"We missed our chance," UCLA defensive back Ricky Manning told reporters after the game. "We not only missed the last kick, we missed a lot of other opportunities. There's no way we should have lost that game. They were not the better team."

To make matters worse for the UCLA special teams, Oregon true freshman Haloti Ngata blocked an extra point attempt midway through the third quarter, providing the eventual margin of victory.

"All week I thought that we would have the opportunity to block a field goal or an extra point," Bellotti said. "When it happened, even though UCLA was ahead, I thought it would be a big factor in the outcome of the game."

It was. And the Bruins can only kick themselves.

Contact the senior sports reporter at adamjude@dailyemerald.com.

well-dressed gentleman sits at the other end of the bar from the scruffy man, who still hasn't touched his whiskey.

"Danged right-coasters," the scruffy man says as the gentleman orders a drink.

"What was that?" the gentleman asks.

"You heard what I said," the scruffy man says. "You easterners are all the same, with your fancy canes and fancy bulldogs, coming in here like you own the West Coast."

"Sir, I will have you know that back east we have only the finest of everything."

"Yeah? Give me a shoot-out over a trench war any day, even if it means we have to sacrifice some teams. Give me a thriller over any kind of Saturday chess match."

"Sir, let me ask you, what do you prove when you win a shoot-out? Hooray — you are a rag-tag bunch of shooters that can beat up on other rag-tag bunches of shooters! You can get lucky!"

"Ahh, but what about a team of shooters like Oregon? What about a so-called 'rag-tag bunch' that can win shoot-out after shoot-out? That can win shoot-outs even when they look like they should lose, when the casualty list grows, when the other bunch seems to control the advantage? What of that?"

"No rag-tag bunch will ever be able to compete with the trench-warfare style of East Coast bunches."

"Yes, that may be, but we won't know until the events of Jan. 1. Until then, I'll take my shoot-outs any day, even if they reek with danger and the possibility of failure."

"Nothing will ever be more fun to watch."

With that, the man leaves a dollar for the bourbon, puts on his coat and waltzes out the door, surely heading for a better life than the gentleman, a spicier life than that boring, other, East Coast existence.

Contact the sports editor at peterhockaday@dailyemerald.com. His views do not necessarily represent those of the Emerald.

## Hockaday

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made all the right shots, but they still didn't make it out of that Coliseum alive. Dang it all.

"See, it seems to me that everyone with their newspapers, and their highfalutin' Internet, and their fancy-pants television, all them people wanted to talk about was some boring town meetings in Texas and Florida and other such places. Dang it, when are they gonna turn those television cameras this-a-way? Out west is where all the action is. Out west is where people are losing their lives every danged Saturday. When are they gonna give the West Coast the respect it deserves?"

"I, uh, dunno, I guess," the bartender said, flustered by the entrance of a new gentleman into the bar.

This new gentleman is well-dressed. He carries a cane, the top of which is polished to shine like a mirror, and leads a pit bull by a leash with the other hand. The

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