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GAME DAY

Best bet
Notre Dame at Air Force
7 p.m. Saturday, ESPN

Friday, October 18, 2002

The big box of football

Tasty morsel No. 1

Despite winning three of the last four games against Arizona State, the Ducks trail in the all-time series, 13-9.

Morsel No. 2

Just call Arizona State "Oregon south." Three members of the Sun Devil coaching staff have ties to the Oregon program, including head coach Dirk Koetter, who was the Duck offensive coordinator from 1996-97.

Trivia Bowl

Of Onterio Smith's nine touchdowns this season, how many have come on the ground?

Rank me

Oregon and Arizona State in the 2002 Pac-10 rankings

Rushing offense

Oregon.....1
Arizona State.....4

Passing offense

Oregon.....9
Arizona State.....8

Scoring offense

Oregon.....2
Arizona State.....3

Total offense

Oregon.....4
Arizona State.....6

Rushing defense

Oregon.....1
Arizona State.....3

Passing defense

Oregon.....6
Arizona State.....7

Scoring defense

Oregon.....1
Arizona State.....7

Morsel No. 3

The Ducks are streaking. They've been in the Top-25 for 39 straight weeks and have 20 consecutive sellouts. Jared Siegel also has made nine straight field goals and Jason Fife has thrown a touchdown in six straight games.

Trivia answer

Smith has crossed the goal line all nine times from the ground, but has otherwise caught eight passes this season.

ASU fears trip to Autzen Stadium

Three Arizona State coaches come back to familiar territory, Autzen Stadium

Mindi Rice

Freelance Sports Reporter

The Arizona State Sun Devils are going duck-hunting Saturday.

The 5-2, 2-0 Pacific-10 Conference, Sun Devils have lost the past four contests against the Ducks. But Arizona State is more concerned with proving it has a quality team than with the past.

"This is a great opportunity to go up to Oregon and compete for the lead in the Pac-10," Arizona State head coach Dirk Koetter said. "It is a very difficult place to play against the sixth-ranked team in the country."

The Sun Devils are led by sophomore quarterback Andrew Walter on offense.

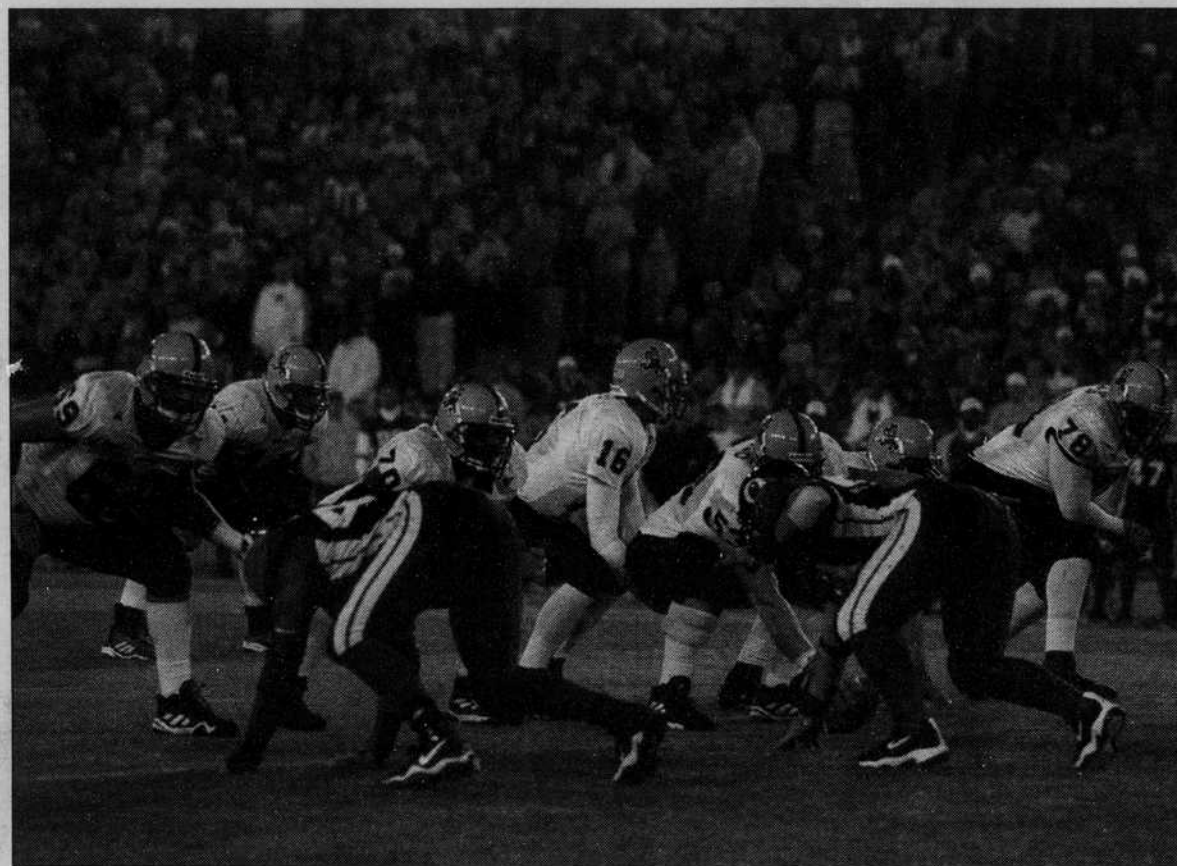
Walter became the first Sun Devil to throw for 400 yards in back-to-back games when Arizona State played Stanford and North Carolina earlier this season.

As a freshman, Walter played in all 11 games last year, starting against Arizona and UCLA because of injuries to then-starter Jeff Krohn.

Walter had a shaky game last week against Oregon State, completing 14 of 34 passes for 186 yards and two interceptions. The Sun Devils only had one touchdown, a 46-yard Walter pass to Hakim Hill, and Walter was sacked twice.

"I think Andrew will learn a lot of lessons from what happened to us on Saturday night," Koetter said. "I am excited about Andrew and his future."

Walter is ranked fourth in the Pac-10 and 12th in the nation in passing efficiency with a 151.6 rating. Oregon quarterback Jason Fife leads the Pac-10, and is third in the nation, at 161.2.



Emerald

Sophomore quarterback Andrew Walter (16) was 8-of-25 for 105 yards and one interception against the Ducks last season.

With Walter's help this season, Arizona State will surpass its win total for 2000 and 2001. The Sun Devils went 6-6 in both those seasons.

On the defensive side, junior defensive end Terrell Suggs won't let the opposing quarterback forget about him. Suggs leads the nation with 13 sacks, four coming in the Arizona State loss to North Carolina. Adding in his teammates, the Sun Devils' defense leads the Pac-10 with 33 sacks, including seven in their

win over Oregon State.

Arizona State beat Oregon State in Tempe 13-9 on Saturday. The Sun Devils held the Beavers to three field goals and 233 total yards, while Arizona State scored two field goals and a touchdown, with 241 yards of offense.

With their win over Stanford on Sept. 28 and the win over Oregon State, the Sun Devils won their first back-to-back Pac-10 games since 1999.

The Sun Devils' three non-conference wins were against Eastern Washington, 38-2, Central Florida, 46-13 and San Diego State, 39-28.

Arizona State's two losses on the season came at the hands of Nebraska, 48-10, and North Carolina, 38-35.

"We're not playing perfect by any means, but our guys are competing and believing that guys around them are going to make plays," Koetter said.

Three members of Arizona State's

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Oregon turns over secret to winning

The Ducks are second in the Pac-10 in turnover margin, which they say helps them win

Jesse Thomas
Sports Reporter

Fumbles.

Interceptions.

Both mistakes are very costly and represent the most critical aspects of the game of football.

Both go into turnover ratio, an important statistic that is often overlooked but can win either team the game.

"In any game, if you look at the turnover ratio, you can tell who's going to win without even looking at any other stats," senior linebacker David Moretti said. "The bottom line is the more turnovers you get, the more games you are going to win."

UCLA gave up three turnovers to Oregon's one over the weekend, and Oregon won 31-30. Bruin quarterback Cory Paus was 17-for-31 with three touchdowns but also threw three interceptions.

Freshman cornerback Aaron Gipson caught two of those.

"The more takeaways we can get, the more chances the offense has to have the ball in their hands and more opportunities for them to

score," Gipson said.

Oregon ranks second in the Pacific-10 Conference in turnover margin this season. The Ducks have gained 16 turnovers and lost only five, giving them a plus-11 turnover margin.

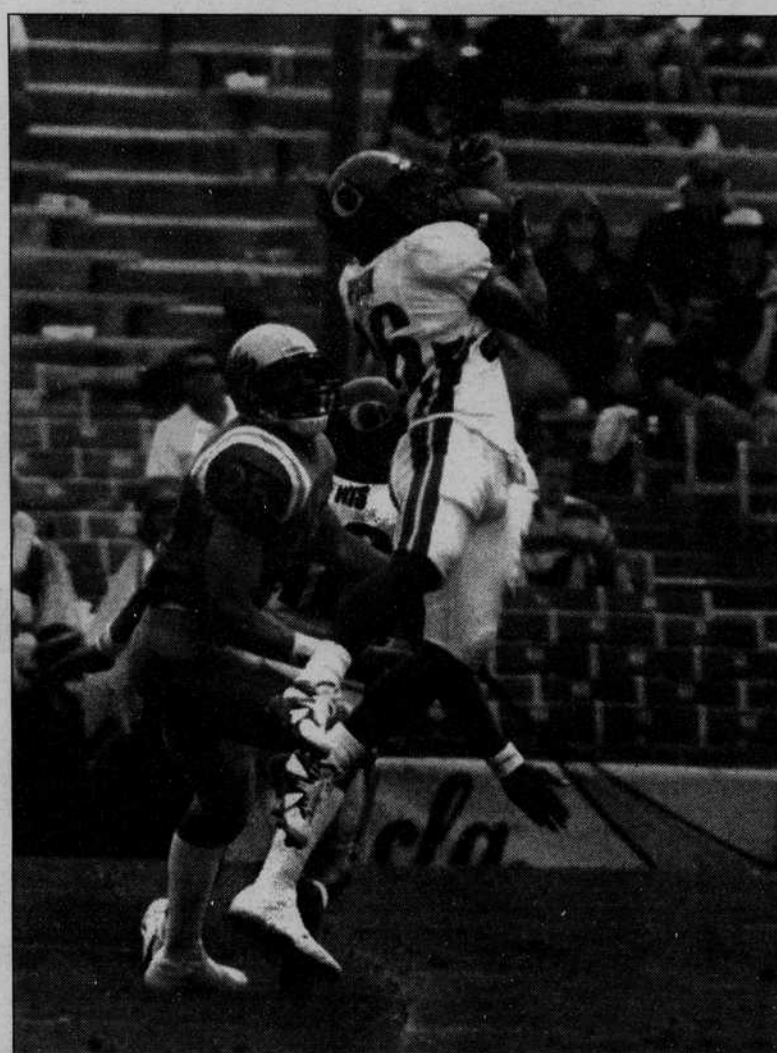
The Ducks rank only behind Cal in that category, and Oregon head coach Mike Bellotti understands that success in the area of turnovers has to do with the Ducks' defensive strategy and offensive conversion.

"The turnover-takeaway ratio is the most important statistic that's kept," Bellotti said. "It correlates to winning more than anything else. We've made a habit of trying to stress ball security to our offense and takeaways to our defense, and it's been very productive for us, and it continues to be. Last year it was most certainly a factor in our 11-1 season, and it's been a factor in our 6-0 start."

On average, Oregon is forcing its opponents to turn over the ball almost three times per game. Arizona State ranks sixth in the Pac-10 in turnover margin, two spots behind UCLA.

The Sun Devils have gained more turnovers, 24, than Oregon but also have lost more, with 17. Last year in their matchup at Autzen Stadium,

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Jeremy Forrest Emerald

Freshman Aaron Gipson goes up for one of his two interceptions last week at UCLA.