

Webster

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golfer Chris Carnahan, has tried to mold Webster into the next Tiger Woods, but with little hope.

"Every now and then we go out and golf," Webster said. "But I have a pretty bad slice."

In the quarterback-friendly Pacific-10 Conference, Webster has seen his share of bad coverages, although has learned to take big plays with a grain of salt.

"It comes with the territory," Webster said. "You just have to keep your head up and erase it."

Webster's played every position in the secondary during his Oregon tenure. Before his injury in 1999, he was a second-unit cornerback who recorded an interception in a 24-19 win over Cal that season.

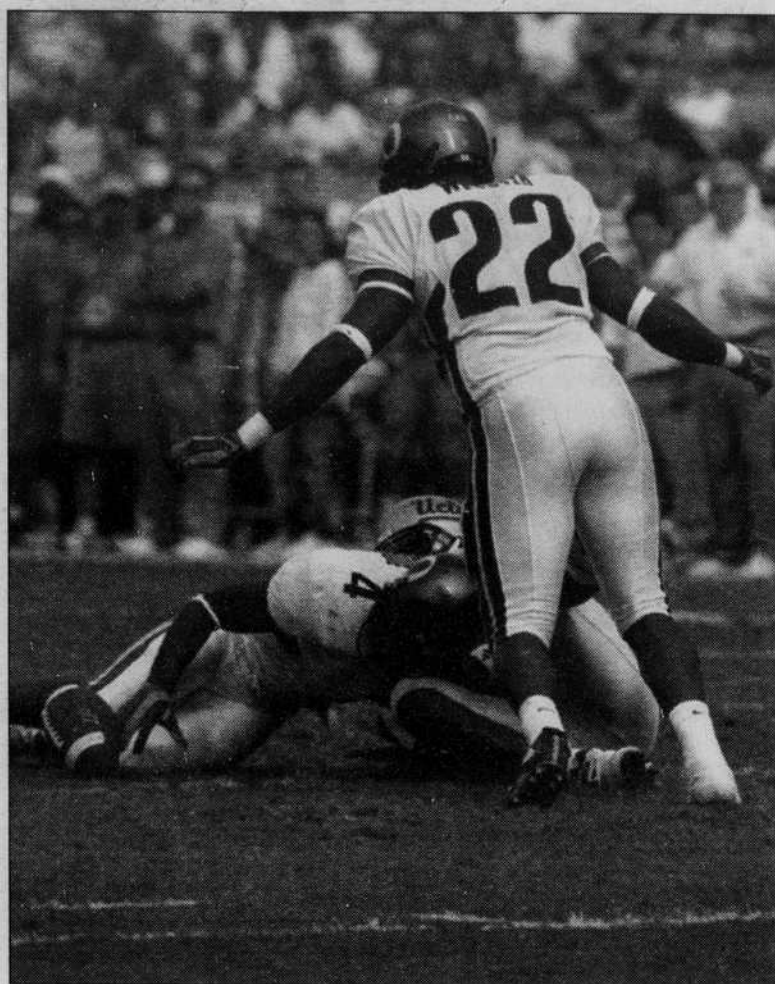
Listed generously at 6-feet-4-inches and 214 pounds, the long-armed Webster looks the part of a small forward in basketball, one of three sports he played in high school.

Perhaps that's why he seems to be often overlooked.

"I've always played on a good team, but I've always been the underdog," he said.

Perhaps, too, because he says little about himself.

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



Rasuli Webster (22) snagged his fourth career interception against Fresno State.

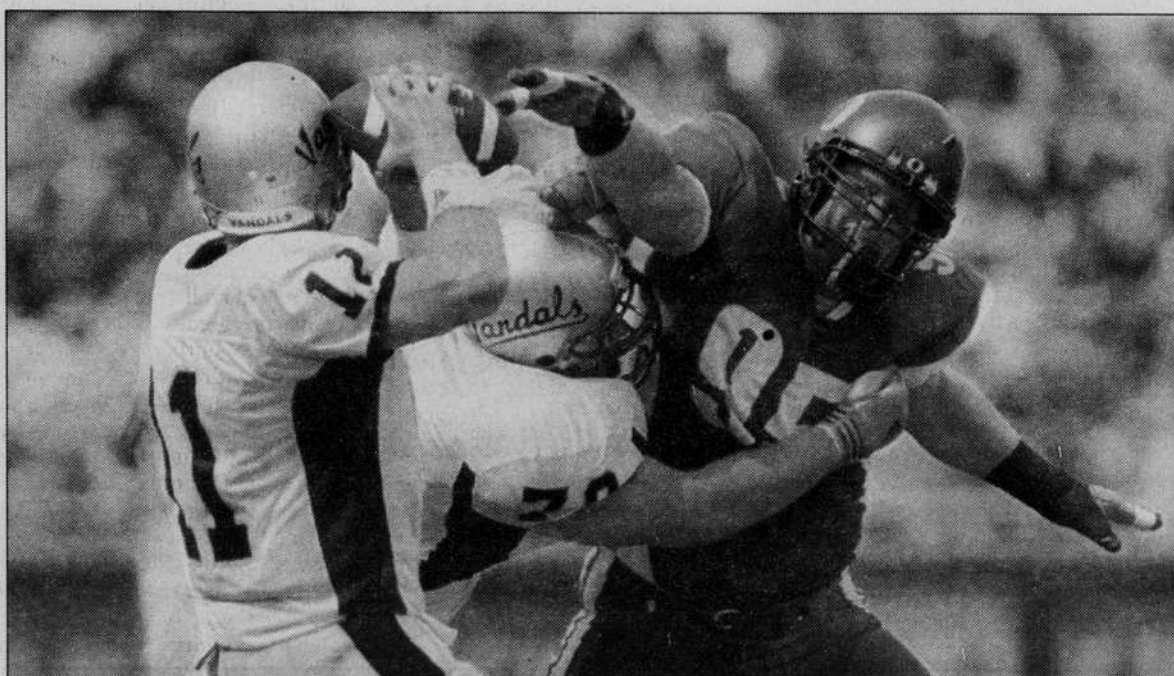
Jeremy Forrest Emerald

Rasuli Webster file

Born: Rasuli Amir Webster on Nov. 3, 1979 in Torrance, Calif.

Oregon: Nabbed fourth career interception against Fresno State on Sept. 7...moved from free safety to rover as a junior in 2001...the team's sixth-leading tackler recorded 54 takedowns...had season-high 10 stops vs. Stanford...in 2000, ranked fourth on the team in tackles while notching two interceptions...had a career-high 13 tackles in win at Arizona State...in 1999, the converted cornerback appeared in five games...recorded first career interception against Cal.

High school: A three-sport letterman (football, basketball, track)...had 13 pass deflections and four interceptions as a senior safety...named to second-team all-Southern Section defensive team.



Adam Amato Emerald

Kai Smalley (95) has helped an Oregon defense that has already snagged 11 interceptions and recovered five fumbles.

Turnover

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Arizona State and Oregon each had one turnover, yet the Ducks easily won 42-24.

The Oregon players understand that the turnover dominance comes from solid defensive play. The Ducks don't credit their success to poor offensive ball-handling on the opponent's side.

"It's the way we attack our opponent," sophomore defensive tackle Igor Olshansky said. "Our mindset

that we always try and reach for the ball and knock the ball out."

Olshansky had one interception for Oregon, against Idaho, that went for 37 yards.

Moretti has had a strong defensive presence this year and leads Oregon in tackles with 28. Moretti had two interceptions for the Ducks in 2001 and said he understands how turnovers can shift the game. He said turnovers could be key against the Sun Devils.

"Getting picks and fumbles totally shifts the momentum, and that's something we really try and do for

our offense," Moretti said. "We just play a solid defensive game. Right now, (Arizona State) has a great offense, and we have to go out and play our keys and try and get the ball back."

Arizona State is averaging 392 yards per game on offense this season, and quarterback Andrew Walter has thrown five interceptions. The statistics prove that if Oregon can win the turnover margin battle like they have in the past, the Ducks will win.

Contact the sports reporter at jessethomas@dailyemerald.com.

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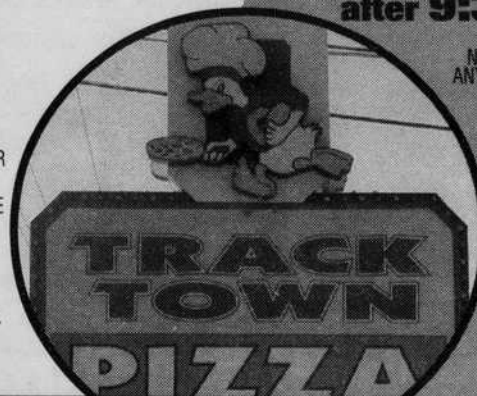
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