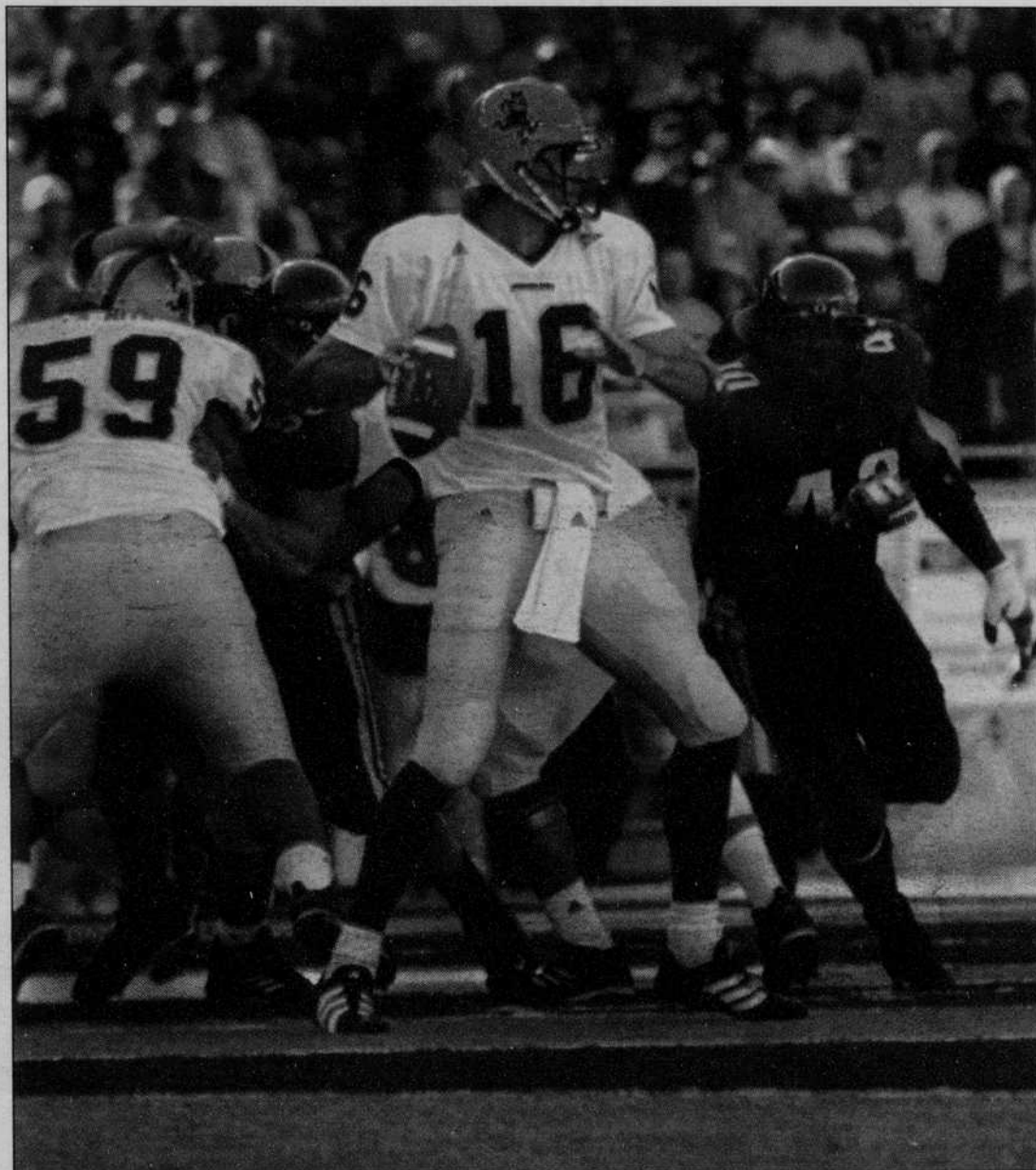


Monday, October 21, 2002

Walter's flame-throwing arm torches UO



Jeremy Forrest Emerald

Arizona State quarterback Andrew Walter (16) threw for a Pac-10 record 536 yards in Arizona State's 45-42 win Saturday.

The ASU quarterback throws for 536 yards, with 350 coming during the second-half comeback

Football

Peter Hockaday
Sports Editor

Keith Lewis' reaction to the statistic said it better than any reporter ever could.

"Wow," Lewis said, after he was told that Sun Devil quarterback Andrew Walter had just passed for 536 yards against the free safety and the rest of the Oregon secondary.

Lewis only continued after a long pause.

"I'm stunned. You can never give up 500 yards, I don't care who you are. You can be the All-Madden team, I don't care."

At times during the second half of Arizona State's 45-42 win on Saturday, it seemed like the Sun Devils were playing a video game against the Ducks. And they had it set to "easy" mode.

Walter led ASU on eight-straight scoring drives, beginning in the second quarter and ending with the game-winning 29-yard field goal from Mike Barth with 1:58 hanging on the clock. That string included Walter touchdown passes of 67 and 58 yards. Two other short touchdowns were set up by long Walter passes, a 51-yard bomb to Derek Hagan and a 34-yard pass to Matt Miller.

Walter, the fearless sophomore who didn't even start Arizona State's first game this season, set a Pacific-10 Conference pass-yards record in the Devils' wild win.

"Andrew hung in there for us today," Ari-

zona State head coach Dirk Koetter said. "He didn't get off to a great start, and he was a little off-balance, but we protected him better as the game went on."

The Ducks said that protection was the main reason for Walter's success as the game went on.

"They were max-protecting most of the time," Oregon head coach Mike Bellotti said. "And their quarterback just got hot."

Walter was hot in the second half, like an Arizona brush fire sweeping through Autzen Stadium. He threw for 350 yards on 17 completions in the second half, tossing three of his four touchdowns in that frame. In the third quarter

alone, Walter was 7-for-10 passing for 197 yards.

Like UCLA last week, Arizona State was able to break Oregon's back with big passing plays. The Devils abandoned the running game midway through the contest — ASU running back Cornell Canidate rushed for 24 yards in the second half, 47 yards total — and won the game through the air.

"They were better throwin' it than we were defendin' it," Oregon defensive coordinator Nick Aliotti said. "(Walter's) a good quarterback, as all the guys in this league are."

True to Aliotti's words, Walter is not the last big-play quarterback the Ducks will see this season. USC's Carson Palmer, Washington State's Jason Gesser and Washington's Cody Pickett are among the bomb-throwing quarterbacks that the Ducks will defend later this season.

Contact the sports editor
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Oregon soccer falls to Stanford to continue skid

Oregon loses 3-0 to No. 1 Stanford and 2-0 to No. 11 California on Friday; remains winless in Pac-10

Soccer

Jesse Thomas
Sports Reporter

Facing off against the No. 1 team in the country already gives a team long odds.

When that top team is Stanford and they out-shoot their opponent 25-1, well, the odds are that much tougher.

The Oregon women's soccer team was that opponent facing such long odds Sunday, and the Ducks couldn't overcome mighty Stanford in a 3-0 loss.

"Stanford was very strong technically," Oregon head coach Bill Steffen said. "They had good athleticism and speed and there is a reason they are No. 1."

Stanford moves to 13-1 overall and 4-0 in the Pacific-10 Conference, and retains its position as the national leader. With its second consecutive loss, Oregon is now at 1-10-2 and 0-3-1 in the Pac-10.

The Ducks sit in last place in the Pac-10 and have not won a game since Aug. 25.

Oregon was able to maintain a strong defensive presence against Stanford, but the Ducks were hurt when they couldn't convert on offensive opportunities.

The Ducks' youth — which includes 13 freshmen — has showed this season, particularly on offense.

"We were organized defensively and as a result, we were able to stay with them," Steffen said. "We had a few chances,

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Volleyball loses ASU heartbreaker

Oregon volleyball loses in five sets to No. 21 Arizona State and drops its 30th straight Pac-10 match

Volleyball

Hank Hager
Sports Reporter

The scene and situation Friday night at McArthur Court was all too perfect.

The Ducks, down 26-20 in game 3, saw senior Lindsay Closs strike down for a monstrous kill on an Arizona State defender, sending Oregon on a five-point run.

Then, down 31-30 in what was the equivalent of extra time, freshman Dariam Acevedo put even more power into the ball, pulling the Ducks into a tie. Finally, an Oregon team block finished a set of consistency and power as the Ducks came from behind, outscoring the Sun Devils 14-6 en route to a 2-1 lead.

But a win wasn't to be on this cold October night, no matter how loud the 885 in attendance cheered, or how badly Oregon wanted to end what has become a 30-match losing streak in Pacific-10 Conference play. No. 21 Arizona State, in the long run, was just good enough to pull out a come-from-behind victory in five games (29-31, 31-29, 32-34, 30-28, 15-10).

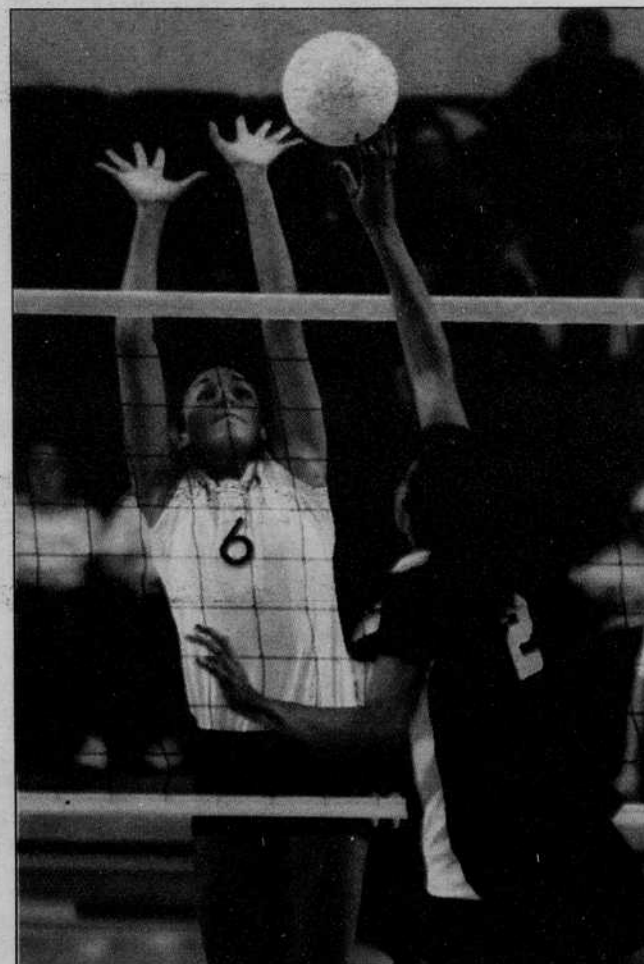
"Every single person on this team contributed," Closs said. "There wasn't a couple people bringing the heat. Everyone was. I'm real proud of what we accomplished. We're going to learn to get over the hump but we're that much closer, and that much better than years before."

Arizona State (10-4 overall, 6-3 Pac-10) dominated the statistical sheet, outkilling Oregon 87-71, and outdigging them 108-87. But the Ducks (10-13, 0-9) were in the match for the long haul, showing resiliency and the ability to strike at just the right moment.

In the end, those stats didn't matter. In each of its two game wins, Oregon came from behind each time, down by at least five points.

"When I have 14 players who are playing in the upper 90th

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Mark McCambridge Emerald

Dariam Acevedo almost single-handedly led Oregon's comeback Friday night. The Ducks lost in five sets to Arizona State.