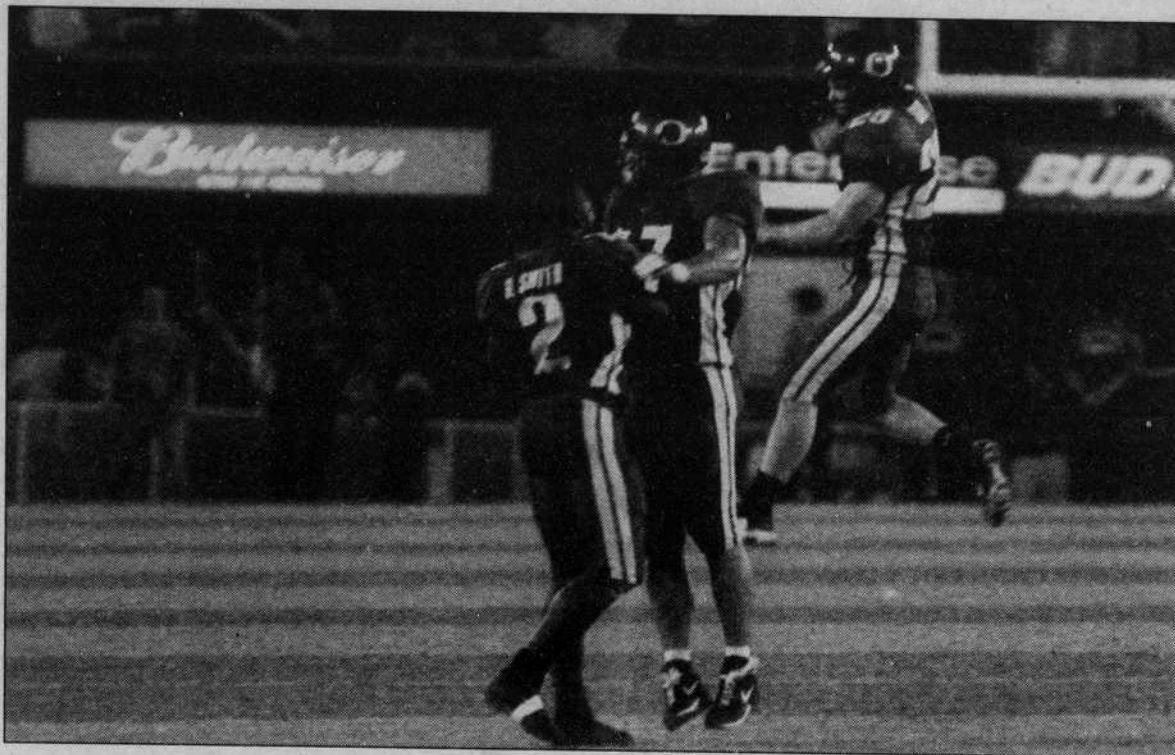




Adam Amato Emerald

Oregon kicker Jared Siegel (in air) celebrates with Onterio Smith (2) and former Duck Josh Line (47) after making a 32-yard field goal with 14 seconds left to give Oregon a 24-22 win over USC last year at Autzen Stadium.

History

continued from page 3B

24-yard line with 56 seconds left, thanks in large part to one of Palmer's self-described "dumb" plays. While trying to eat the clock, Palmer threw an incomplete pass out of bounds, which gave the Ducks hope by stopping the clock.

Other than that errant throw, Palmer threw for 411 yards against the Ducks last season.

In 2000, Joey Harrington threw for 382 yards and four touchdowns in a 28-17 Oregon triumph.

In 1999, in what has been called one of the wildest games in Oregon history, the Ducks and Trojans needed three overtimes to declare a winner.

Oregon kicker Nathan Villegas' 26-yard field goal with 33 seconds left in regulation sent the game into OT, but Villegas was accidentally in-

jured by Harrington during the ensuing celebration and did not play in the extra sessions.

And the Ducks could have used him.

USC and Oregon both missed field goals in the first overtime, and both teams scored a touchdown in the second OT. USC's David Newbury missed again in the third overtime, setting up Oregon's winning kick by third-stringer Josh Frankel.

Oregon 33, USC 30.

Phew.

Palmer, by the way, suffered a broken collarbone in the first half of that 1999 thriller and missed the rest of the season.

Oregon won 17-13 in 1998, but lost 24-22 on a missed kick in 1997.

"We've had some magic going on over everybody the past few seasons," Bellotti said. "I think in every game we have found ways to

win and hang in there when it seemed like it wasn't going to work. We had Joey Harrington and some unsung heroes who stepped up for us and made some big plays in those games to win. It has been tremendously exciting for the fans, even though it can wear out the coaches a little."

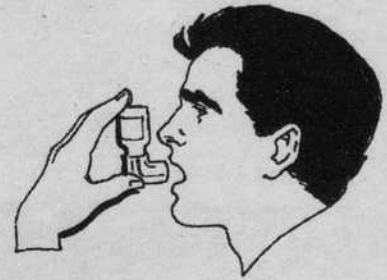
All of the recent success against USC means little to Oregon linebacker Kevin Mitchell.

"To me, if you dwell on the past, it's going to come back and bite you," he said.

For good measure, USC won 11 of 12 against the Ducks from 1972 to 1986, with the 1980 meeting ending in a 7-7 tie. Oregon won the teams' first meeting in 1915, 34-0, but the Trojans won the next eight, including six straight shutouts.

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

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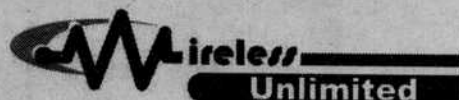
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