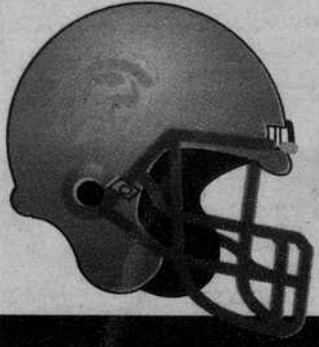


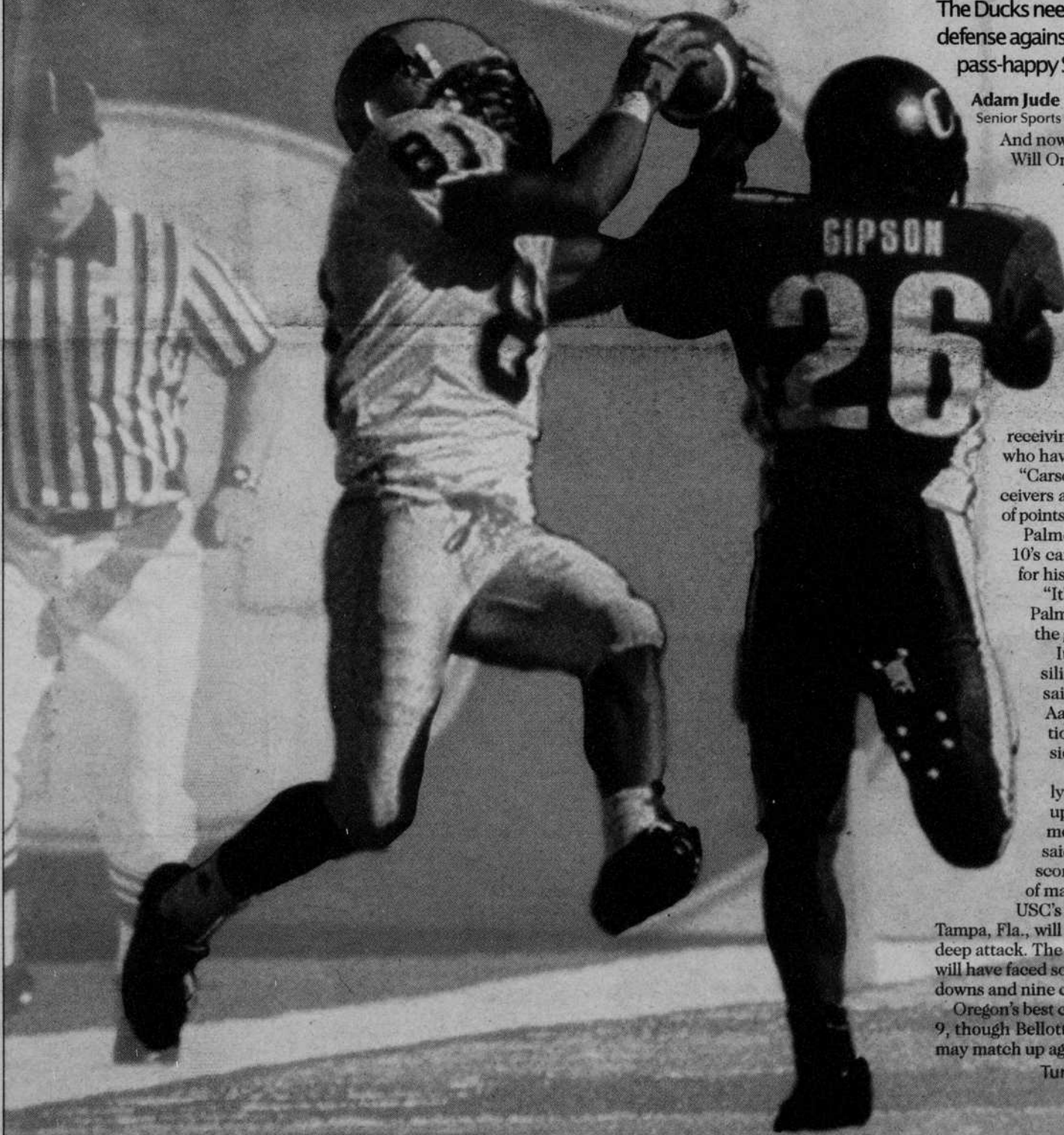
# GAME DAY



Oregon Daily Emerald

No. 15 USC vs. No. 14 Oregon

## Getting defensive



The Ducks need to buckle down and play defense against Carson Palmer and the pass-happy Southern California Trojans

**Adam Jude**  
Senior Sports Reporter

And now comes the big test.

Will Oregon have the answer?

A week after allowing Arizona State sophomore Andrew Walter to throw for a Pacific-10 Conference record 536 yards in a 45-42 loss, No. 14 Oregon (6-1 overall, 2-1 Pac-10) must now face No. 15 USC (5-2, 3-1) and its experienced passing threat.

The Trojans' fifth-year quarterback, Carson Palmer, outdueled Washington's Cody Pickett for 348 yards and four touchdowns in USC's 41-21 rout of UW last week. Unlike ASU, the Trojans also feature a stacked receiving attack, which includes four receivers who have more than 20 catches this season.

"Carson Palmer and that talented group of receivers are certainly capable of putting up a lot of points," Oregon head coach Mike Bellotti said.

Palmer, who's on pace to become the Pac-10's career passing-yardage leader, is looking for his first win against Oregon in his fifth try.

"It's the biggest game of the year, by far," Palmer told the Los Angeles Times. "This is the game we've all been waiting for."

It's also a game that will test the resilience of Oregon's secondary. Bellotti said earlier this week that freshman Aaron Gipson's starting cornerback position was open, but the coach said a decision may not be made until game time.

"I have certainly been concerned lately, and it's not the yards that we've given up that concerns me — the yards don't mean anything — it's the points," Bellotti said. "No defense wants to give up a long scoring play ... but we've been the victim of many over the last two weeks."

USC's Mike Williams, a true freshman from Tampa, Fla., will likely be in the middle of the Trojans' deep attack. The 6-foot-5 receiver, the tallest the Ducks will have faced so far this season, recorded three touchdowns and nine catches for 159 yards last week.

Oregon's best corner, Steven Moore, is listed as 5-foot-9, though Bellotti said safety Keith Lewis, at 6-foot-1, may match up against Williams on occasion.

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KICKOFF AT 12:30 P.M. ■ AUTZEN STADIUM ■ SATURDAY, OCTOBER 26, 2002 ■ TV: ABC

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### Historically historic

When the Ducks and Trojans get together, the ending is often exciting and almost always memorable.

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### Bob and Weave

Dan Weaver walked on to the Oregon football team and shot all the way into a starter's role as the center.

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