

Sports Editor:
Peter Hockaday
peterhockaday@dailyemerald.com

GAME DAY

Best bet
Arizona State at USC
4 p.m. Saturday, TBS

Friday, November 15, 2002

The big box of football

Tasty morsel No. 1

Oregon has won five of the past seven meetings against Washington, although the Huskies own a 56-33-5 all-time record over the Ducks, dating back to 1900. Four of the past six meetings have been decided by seven points or less.

Morsel No. 2

The Ducks have not lost their home finale since 1993. In fact, Oregon is 10-0 at Autzen Stadium in November under Mike Bellotti.

Trivia Bowl

When was the last time Washington had a losing season?

Rank me

Oregon and Washington in the 2002 Pac-10 rankings

Rushing offense
Washington9
Oregon2

Passing offense
Washington1
Oregon7

Scoring offense
Washington8
Oregon1

Total offense
Washington2
Oregon6

Rushing defense
Washington3
Oregon5

Passing defense
Washington8
Oregon10

Scoring defense
Washington8
Oregon6

Morsel No. 3

UW quarterback Cody Pickett needs 135 yards to become the Pac-10's all-time single-season passing leader.

Trivia answer

The Huskies last had a losing season under Don James in 1976, when UW went 5-6 overall.

UW faces possible losing season

The Huskies haven't had a .500 season in a while, but will in 2002 unless they win Saturday

Jesse Thomas
Sports Reporter

Washington has faced a rough season, is 2-4 in the Pacific-10 Conference and faces a tough stretch to stay at .500 this year. The Huskies sit with Oregon State in a tie for seventh in the conference, and they may not see a bowl this year.

What Washington will see this season is most of its record book rewritten.

Junior quarterback Cody Pickett leads that charge. Pickett has broken almost every passing record the Huskies have this season, and he is working his way to the top of the Pac-10 in the process.

In his seventh game of the season, against Oregon State on Saturday, the junior broke two records. Pickett set a new single-season Washington passing-yards record with 3,502 yards and advanced to No. 1 on Washington's career passing-yards list with 5,927. Pickett still has at least 13 games left in his college career.

Pickett needs just 136 yards to break the Pac-10 record for single-season passing yards. He ranks third behind Washington State's Ryan Leaf, who holds the record — 3,637 yards in 1997.

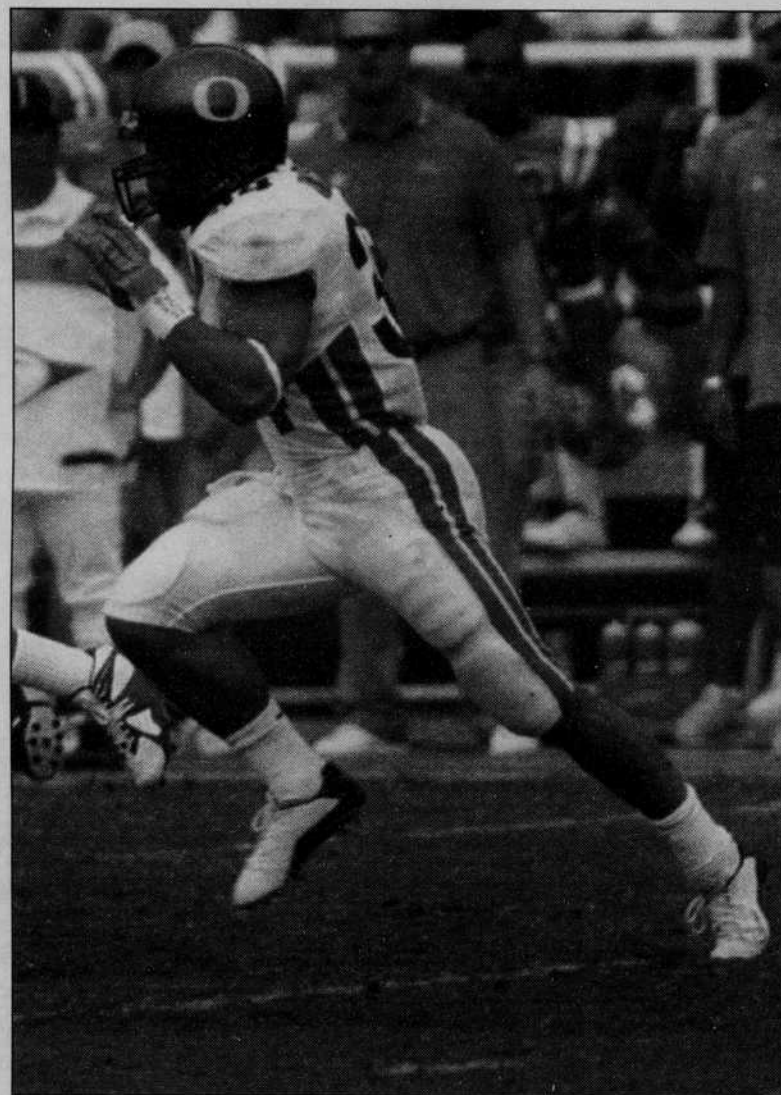
Players also could break single-season Husky records in pass at-

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Senior linebacker Anthony Kelley (47) and the Huskies are losing more games than usual, but breaking records in the process.

For Ducks, 7-3 is uncharted territory



Mark McCambridge Emerald

Senior Allan Amundson (with ball) said it seems as though "it's the end of the world" when the Ducks lose three games in a season.

The Ducks are in a rare position to lose their fourth game this season when Washington visits Eugene

Hank Hager
Sports Reporter

Oregon's loss to now-No. 3 Washington State on Saturday signaled something many Duck players have yet to see.

A year with three losses.

Only the 13 seniors who dotted the Oregon roster as freshmen in 1999 have experienced a season like this, although each played a small role — if any — in the Ducks' 9-3 year.

Now the group — about to play its final game at Autzen Stadium on Saturday against Washington — hopes to avoid another loss.

"You really don't want losses on your record when you're a senior, but some of those things you really can't control," Rasuli Webster said. "There's a couple of those games where we could've taken control, but we didn't. But we took our losses and hopefully we'll get better from them."

Since 1999, the Ducks have lost just nine games, with six of those losses coming in the last three campaigns. In 2000, Oregon finished 10-2, with its only losses coming to Wisconsin and Oregon State. Last season's only blemish was Stanford's come-from-behind 49-42 victory at Autzen that ended Oregon's 23-game home winning streak.

"The program has changed a lot," senior Allan Amundson said. "We've gone from a decent program

to an awesome team. When we start to lose a little bit, we're not quite used to it.

"This program has come through a lot, a lot of changes. So when we start to lose, and we lose three games, it seems like the end of the world."

How the Ducks answer back to last week's 32-21 loss will be vital to keeping loss No. 4 off the stat sheet.

"We just need to win," Webster said. "We need to beat the Dawgs. I think we kind of sat back on Monday, just talked a little bit, to get the team chemistry, see how everybody feels. I think we're up to the challenge. I think we're just ready to go out there and play."

The Ducks say the season is not lost. While Oregon is far from knowing where it will go bowling, the Ducks say they know they need to step up their play to defeat the Huskies and Oregon State on Nov. 23.

"I think it's still a good season," Webster said. "We still have a lot of football ahead of us, and hopefully we can pull the rest of our games out."

Oregon was in a similar situation earlier this season after losing two-straight to Arizona State and USC. A week after falling to the Trojans, the Ducks came back and dominated in a 41-14 victory over Stanford.

But then came the loss to the Cougars.

"We're 7-3, and I don't talk about the past," head coach Mike Bellotti said. "I talk about looking forward to this week, playing the Huskies, getting back on the winning track. Really, if you go back and let past things grab you, it doesn't work."

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