

## SPORTS

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**Best bet**  
NCAA basketball:  
Holy Cross at Kansas  
6 p.m., ESPN

Tuesday, November 19, 2002

## Fife to start against OSU in Corvallis

The junior quarterback aims to re-prove himself in the Civil War after two poor outings recently

**Adam Jude**  
Senior Sports Reporter

Despite a brief appearance Saturday by backup Kellen Clemens in a 42-14 loss to Washington, Jason Fife said he expects to be Oregon's starting quarterback in the Civil War this week.

"I haven't heard differently," Fife said Monday. "As far as I know, I'm going to be the starter."

Head coach Mike Bellotti said Clemens may take a few snaps against Oregon State, but "that's not the plan right now."

Fife said the Ducks (7-4 overall, 3-4 Pacific-10 Conference) are trying to forget Saturday's defeat — Bellotti's worst in eight years at Autzen Stadium — and get ready for the Beavers (7-4, 3-4), who lead the Pac-10 in rush and pass defense.

"More than anything, I'm anxious to get started (preparing for Oregon State)," Fife said Monday. "We didn't even watch a whole lot of the game (on film) because we flat out knew that we didn't do so well. The consensus was that we have to put that in the past and get it out of our mind."

Fife threw two first-quarter touchdown passes against the Huskies, but completed just 4-of-22 passes for 31 yards in the final three periods. Hoping to provide an offensive spark, Bellotti started Clemens in the third quarter, but the redshirt freshman threw an interception on his first attempt. Fife finished out the game, but the Ducks totaled just 43 yards in their final four possessions.

"It's a chance to re-prove myself," Fife said of his first Civil War start. "After a couple weeks where I was less than effective, I think that I can keep the team up and hopefully lead the offense to a bunch of scores."

Bellotti said he will stick with Fife this week, despite Oregon ranking ninth in the conference in passing offense.

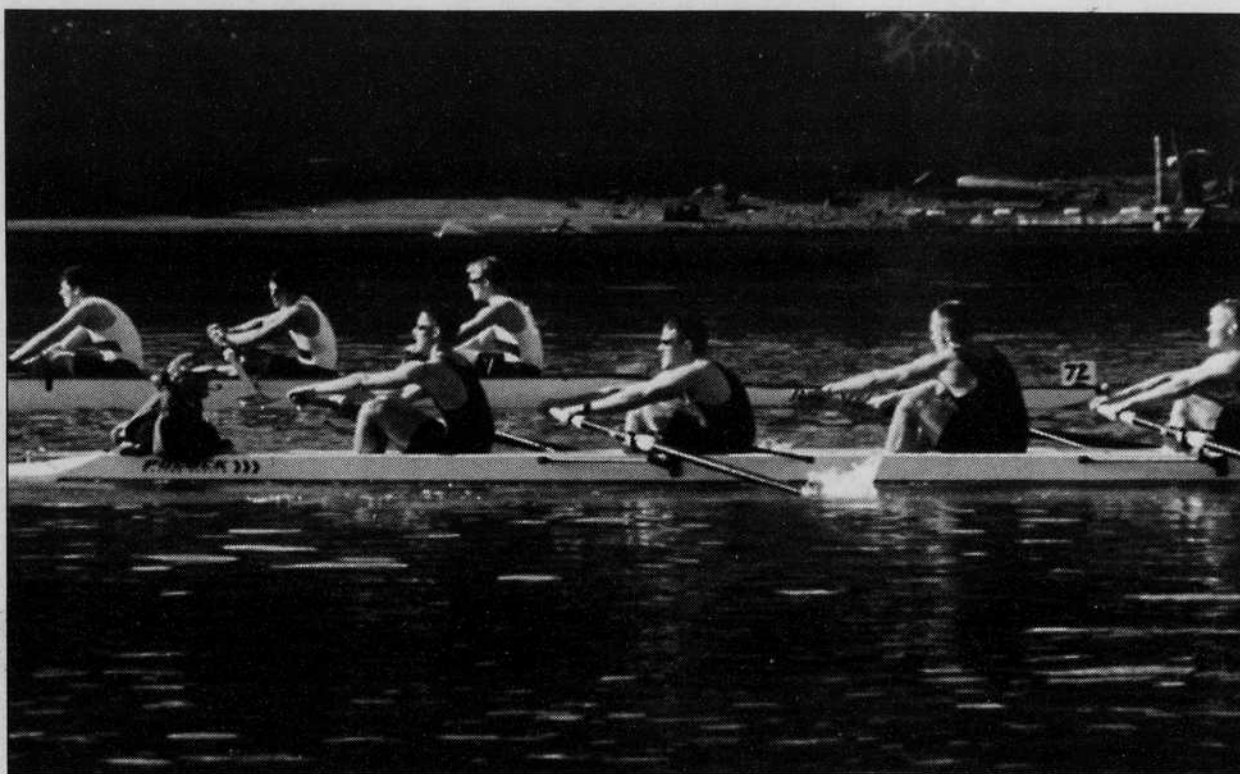
"Jason has done a good job," Bellotti said. "Overall, he has played well at times and played very well at times. I think the great thing is he can get better."

In a players-only meeting prior to practice Monday, the Ducks discussed finishing the season on a positive note.

"A lot of us thought that maybe we haven't sold-out as much as we thought we could as far as giving it our all and battling throughout the game," Fife said. "We also know that at the end of the season we can start thinking about things like that. We have to focus as much as we can this week on Oregon State."

Also of note, Oregon placekicker Jared Siegel was named as one of three finalists Monday for the Lou Groza Award, given annually to the nation's best kicker.

Contact the senior sports reporter at adamjude@dailymerald.com



Jeremy Forrest Emerald

The Oregon Men's Crew team practices all year and finished in the middle of the pack in two regattas this fall.

## The early crew

Anticipation for the men's crew team rises with a new coach and new rowers

**Scott Archer**  
Freelance Sports Reporter

It's 4:30 a.m., and alarm clocks are sounding.

Pride and passion are the only things that wake these people up as they stumble to the door, ready to meet others at the University Bookstore, where a warm bus awaits them.

It's a typical Wednesday morning, but this sport is anything but typical. The Oregon Men's Crew team is getting ready for its ritualistic team practice at Dexter Lake. The fall season is over, with the men finishing in the middle of the pack in two regattas, the Head of The Lake, held Nov. 10 in Seattle, and the Portland Loop, on Nov. 2. But the practice and dedication never end.

### Club Sports Tuesday

With a new coach and new team members, the Oregon crew team is heading in a new direction.

"We had an impressive year with numbers," Oregon Crew head coach Chris Peters said. "Last year, the men's program was pretty small and was really nonexistent, but we have a lot of potential."

Beginning with Peters, who hails most recently from the East Coast after being an assistant coach with several colleges, including Colgate, Connecticut College, San Diego State, California-San Diego and Texas. He is back to help

build the crew team into a power in the Pacific-10 Conference.

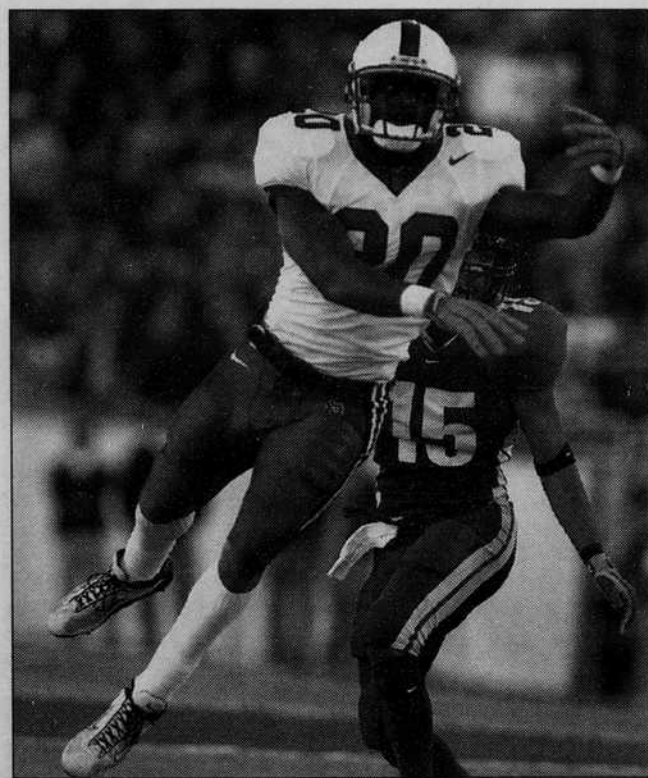
"I knew I wanted to come coach at Oregon because it has the potential to be a good rowing school," Peters said. "It has a lot of students, it's a large school and it's in the Pac-10. So, when I found out about an opening, I thought it was a great opportunity."

Peters hopes to breathe life into a program that is constantly battling early morning rising. Despite the practice times, Peters feels he has good rowers who can help bring the team along.

"Based on size, strength and aptitude, I am anticipating that we will do well. The kids are there, the attitude is there," Peters said. "I would love for it to become a scholarship sport. It would be so good for the University. This campus has potential exploding out of it."

"This is an all-year sport," club

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Adam Amato Emerald

Stanford safety Colin Branch and the Cardinal dive toward The Big Game against the Golden Bears Saturday.

## California celebrates The Play; Cougs won't be happy favorites

The 2002 Big Game is the 20th anniversary of 'The Play'

### Pac-10 notes

**Peter Hockaday**  
Sports Editor

It's rivalry week in the Pacific-10 Conference, and there is perhaps no rivalry more odd, more intense or more rollicking than The Big Game.

The winner of The Big Game — between Stanford and California — gets an ax and Bay Area bragging rights for another year. It will be the last game of the season for both teams, as California's appeal of an NCAA postseason ban was turned down Monday.

So, it seems, the teams will be looking more toward the past than the future.

This year's Big Game marks the 20th anniversary of "The Play," California's four-lateral, through-the-band, game-winning kickoff return to beat Stanford

in 1982. Among other ceremonies at Berkeley's Memorial Stadium, the San Francisco Chronicle reported, the Cal band will play a halftime show with a tribute to The Play.

There was no comment from the Stanford band.

The 1982 Big Game was typically intense. John Elway led the Cardinal on a supposedly game-ending drive that resulted in a field goal to put Stanford ahead 20-19. But there were four seconds on the clock, and Stanford pooch-kicked a kickoff, and four laterals later — the last one by a linebacker over his shoulder — a California ball-carrier ran into the Stanford band, which was rushing onto the field in premature celebration. He scored, and Cal won the game 25-20.

This season, California is selling T-shirts honoring The Play. The T-shirt features a diagram of how The Play unfolded, complete with musical notes to represent Stanford band members.

### How 'bout them apples

The Apple Cup between Washington and Washington State is the rivalry game with the highest stakes this weekend. Washington State will be playing for a spot in the Rose Bowl and perhaps the Fiesta Bowl, this year's national championship game. Washington will be fighting for one of the Pac-10's six bowl spots.

But in this rivalry, the Cougars may not enjoy being favored. Washington State — favored by eight points Monday — has been favored six times in the 46 seasons since a line has been kept on the game. The Cougars were favored was last season and lost, 26-14, and have lost two of the last four as favorites.

### Apple sauce

At least one person was impressed by Washington's 42-14 victory over Oregon on Saturday: Washington State head coach Mike Price.

"I thought they really looked good, and Turn to **Pac-10**, page 6