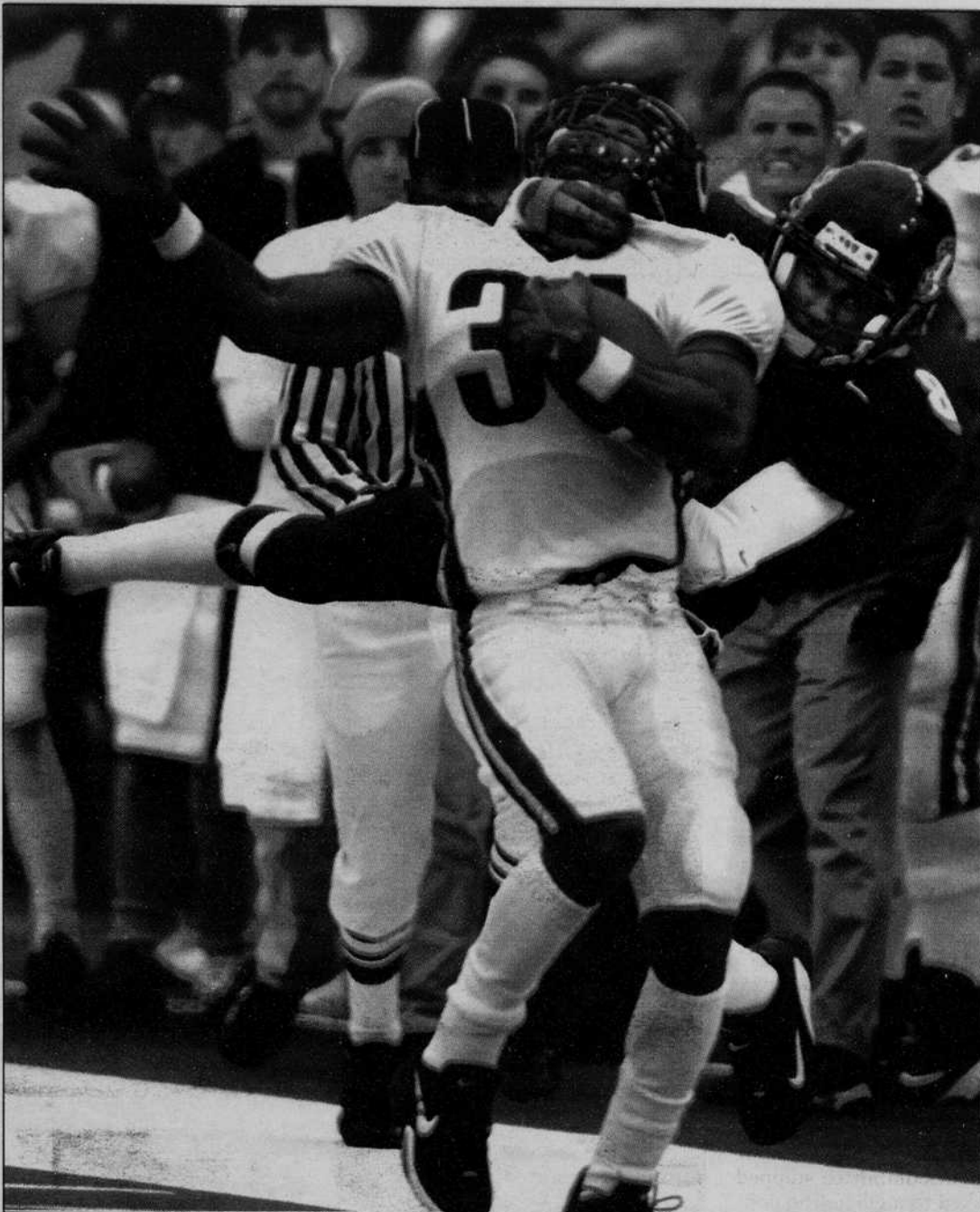


SPORTS

Best bet
Monday Night Football:
Philadelphia at San Francisco
6 p.m., ABC

Monday, November 25, 2002



Mark McCambridge Emerald

Oregon State's Aric Williams (8) pulls down Allan Amundson in Oregon State's 45-24 Civil War victory.

Not so Civil War:
Penalties abound

Oregon can't overcome an emotionally charged first half of 11 penalties in the Civil War

Adam Jude
Senior Sports Reporter

CORVALLIS — The Ducks only flagged themselves.

"Penalties killed us," senior wide receiver Keenan Howry said after Oregon's 45-24 loss to Oregon State.

The flag-fest began early and ended late in the 106th Civil War. Oregon and Oregon State combined for 19 penalties for 172 yards in the first half Saturday, with the Ducks (11 penalties, 95 yards) taking the brunt of the officials' yellow wrath.

"I told (the Ducks) at halftime that we'd made enough mistakes to last a lifetime," Oregon head coach Mike Bellotti said. "But we could change that with enough memories to last a lifetime in the second half. Unfortunately, they're not going to be good memories."

The Ducks (7-5 overall, 3-5 Pacific-10 Conference) were flagged for three of the four personal foul penalties in the game. Bellotti said the Ducks had more penalties than he'd ever seen.

"We fell victim to the emotion of the game," Bellotti said. "Some were younger players (who made the fouls), but that's no excuse."

Overall, the Ducks committed 13 penalties for 105 yards. Oregon State (8-4, 4-4) was flagged 10 times for 107 yards. Oregon State entered the game as the most penalized team in the Pac-10 with 100.5 penalty yards per game. Oregon averaged 73.7 penalty yards per game, third-most in the conference.

Oregon overcame a 17-3 second-

quarter deficit to tie the game at 17 with a little more than three minutes to play in the first half. After an OSU three-and-out, the Ducks got the ball back with less than two minutes remaining in the half, but a 15-yard personal foul penalty pushed them back to their own 16. Two plays later, the Ducks were called for a false start, and couldn't gain a first down, forcing a punt from their own end zone.

Oregon State took possession with great field position at the Oregon 38, and needed just three plays before scoring the go-ahead touchdown with 28 seconds left in the half.

*"I told (the Ducks) at halftime that we'd made enough mistakes to last a lifetime."*Mike Bellotti
Oregon head coach

"To me, that was a big momentum-changer," Oregon State head coach Dennis Erickson said. "It might have been the biggest in the whole game."

Penalties weren't Oregon's only concerns. Oregon State quarterback Derek Anderson and tailback Steven Jackson, both sophomores, had big games for the Beavers. Anderson completed 21-of-37 attempts for 370 yards and four touchdowns, while Jackson became OSU's single-season rushing leader by piling up 153 yards and three total touchdowns.

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

Peter Hockaday
Two minutes for crosschecking

Loss tastes like rancid sour cream on moldy bread

CORVALLIS — Jason Fife said the Civil War "left a bad taste in my mouth."

He's right. This game was disgusting, a taste on par with the sour cream that's been sitting in the back of the fridge for a year. Or cold medicine. Or moldy french bread.

This game was disgusting.

The first half was marred by penalties that the Ducks attributed to "emotion,"

but were really just sloppy, stupid mistakes. The second half was filled with the offensive ineptness that has become Oregon's calling card late in this now-disgusting season.

There were flashes of brilliance, especially from seniors Keenan Howry and Allan Amundson, for whom it was a bittersweet day.

But in general, Oregon just played aw-

ful. Beaver quarterback Derek Anderson didn't have to be on his game to have a big day. Ditto to running back Steven Jackson, but he was on his game anyway and had a big day.

After a loss like that, you just want to remember better times, right? Back to when Oregon was 6-0, headed back to Tostitos-land in everybody's minds, ranked in the top 10 as usual. Those

were the days, right?

Wrong. Those good times make the bad times seem even worse. The expectations reached epic heights for this Oregon squad, building into an unstable structure that the Ducks eventually fell off, landing on the ground with a "thud" Saturday night in the second half.

You go back to Sept. 7. It's early in the

Turn to Hockaday, page 10

Defense keys men to opening win

The UO men's basketball squad opens the year with a 97-52 victory

Men's basketball

Peter Hockaday
Sports Editor

In the first of 29 games the Ducks will play this season in their defense of the men's basketball Pacific-10 Conference title, they defined the one word from this sentence that will help them most to that goal.

Defense.

With Oregon's offense sputtering early Sunday night — something head coach Ernie Kent said he expected because he kept his team's running to a minimum in practice this week, anticipating back-to-back games — the Ducks turned to their defense. That defense allowed Oregon to pull away and the

Ducks beat Grambling State, 97-52, in their first game of the John Thompson Challenge at McArthur Court.

"If we can get teams to miss shots, that keys the kind of game we want to play," Kent said.

Oregon's James Davis hit seven three-pointers, one shy of the school record. He and Luke Ridnour led Oregon's offensive effort with 21 points each, while Ridnour added nine assists and five steals.

"It's an up-and-down game," Davis said. "Everybody's going to have their days."

Kent said he would have given the ball to Davis — whose last three-pointer came with 14:20 left in the game — more had he known he was so close to the record.

"You should have told me that," Kent said, grinning, to reporters in the media room after the game. "If we had known that, and if it had been within our offensive system, we would have given him an opportunity."

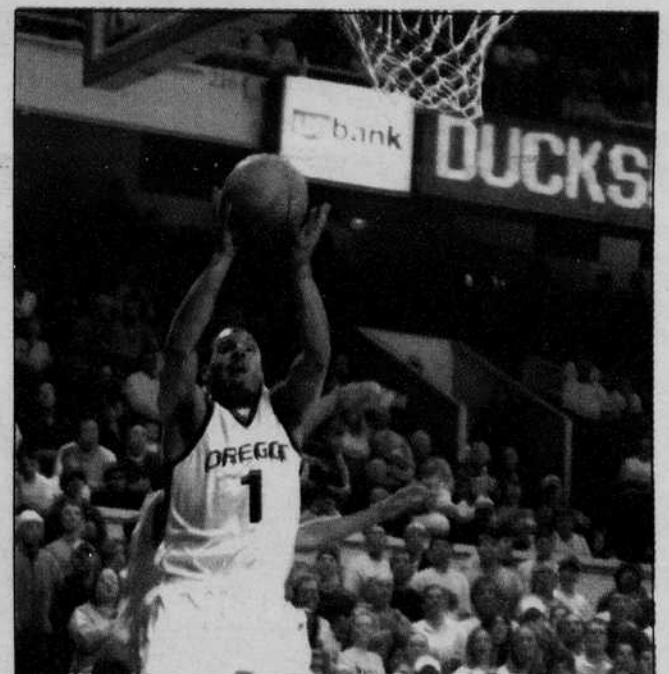
Oregon tied a school record with 17

steals against the Tigers, who will play in the Challenge's consolation game at 5 p.m., while the Ducks moved to the championship game to play California-State Northridge at 7:30 p.m.

"It's good to get our season going," Davis said. "It felt good to get our rhythm and our confidence up."

Oregon didn't hit its rhythm until midway through the first half Sunday night, when the Ducks' defense keyed the team to a 16-2 run that ended with Oregon leading 32-15. The Tigers scored on back-to-back possessions only twice in the first half.

It wasn't until the second half that the Ducks went on an offensive run like the ones that they showed in two preseason blowouts, but when it came, the Oregon fans loved it. The Ducks scored fast-break buckets on five consecutive possessions early in the second half.



Jeremy Forrest Emerald

James Davis hit seven three-pointers, one short of the school record.

Turn to Men's, page 9