

# Season

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and the first half of their game against Arizona State, the Ducks gave up 112 points. In the second half of the Arizona State game and the remaining six games, Oregon allowed 250 points.

The offensive numbers? In the first half of the season, the Ducks scored 246 points, in the second half they scored 155.

Oregon's first-half offense versus its second-half defense would be a great game.

For the Ducks, there is nothing left to do but look to next year. The Ducks lose two key players, one on offense and one on defense. David Moretti, the team's leading tackler, will be gone. Keenan Howry, Oregon's all-time leader in receptions, will be gone.

"Of all the seniors, he's the one I'll probably miss the most," Bellotti said of Howry.

Onterio Smith, who rushed for more than 1,000 yards despite missing most of the second half of the season with a knee injury, might still

leave Oregon early for the greener pastures of the professional game. Junior tight end George Wrihster and junior wide receiver Samie Parker may also make the leap. An announcement by Bellotti on all those players is expected soon.

But if all those underclassmen stay for next year, the losses will be nothing like last season, when six Ducks went in the NFL Draft, starting at the top with Joey Harrington.

Harrington's departure left a void in the normally-rich quarterback position, a void Fife failed to fill this year. Bellotti said the quarterback job will once again be open when the Ducks start spring practice.

"We'll go into the spring with a practice order, and they'll compete for the job," Bellotti said.

Howry said he thinks Clemens will win the job.

"(Clemens) came out and put some good drives together," Howry said after the Seattle Bowl. "He was throwing some good balls, so that's pretty much where it is."

Bellotti said every position on the team will be open for next year. On

offense, the Ducks will still have a talented receiver in Keith Allen, and an offensive line that only loses Corey Chambers and Phil Finzer.

On defense, fearsome linebacker Kevin Mitchell returns, and the young stars of the defensive line, Haloti Ngata and Igor Olshansky, will also be back. And a secondary that took a lot of deep balls this season will only be older and wiser, from experience alone.

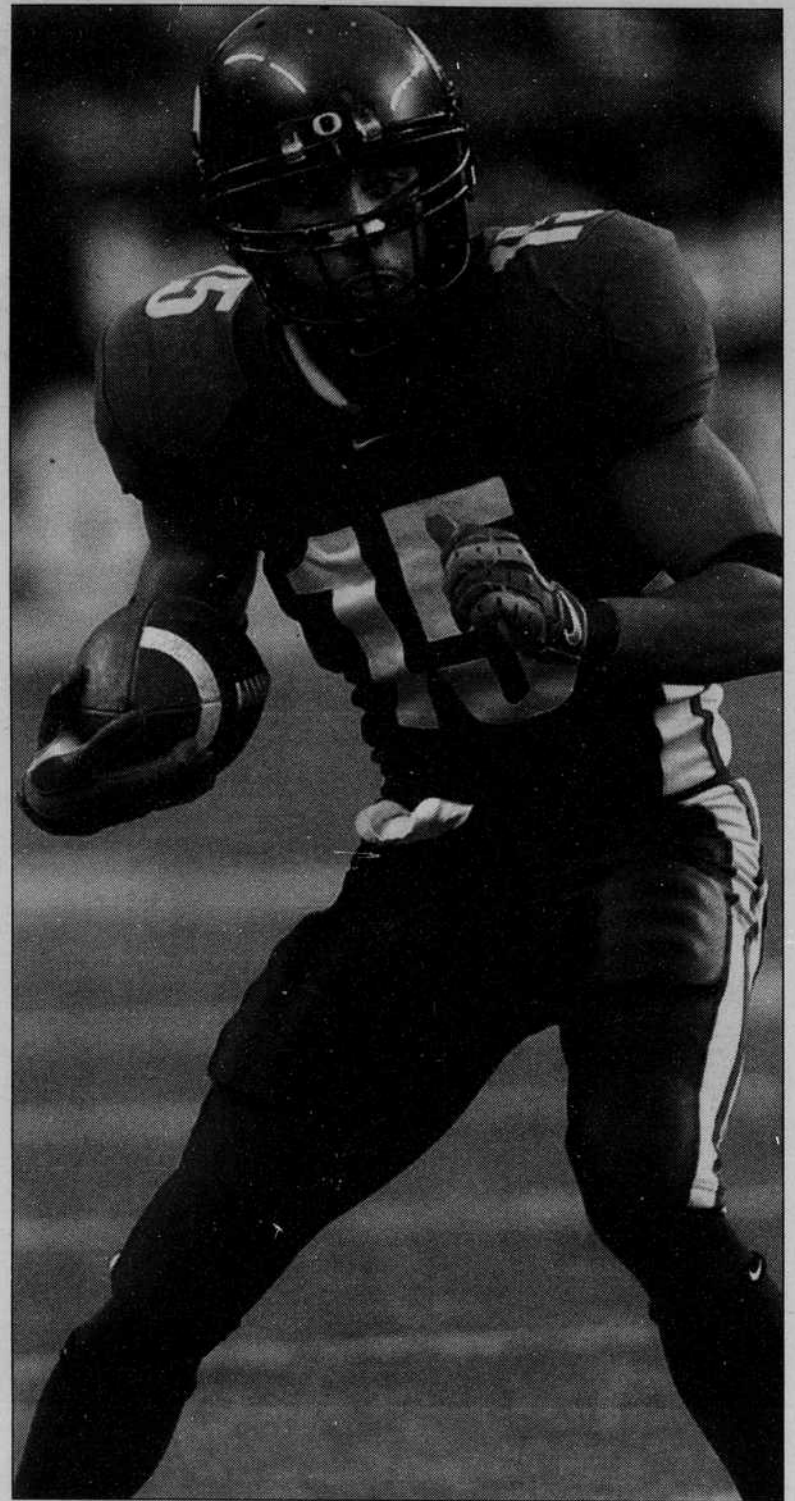
"We need to get better, and the only way to get better is to work hard and compete," Bellotti said.

In the end, as the Ducks finished the season with an almighty collapse in the Seattle Bowl, the words of Bellotti rang true.

"Optimistically, we had hoped that we had remedied (the problems) during our bowl game practices," Bellotti said after the game. "But the reality is the same problems we had in the second half of the season were there tonight."

The Ducks can only hope those problems don't stick around for next season, too.

Contact the sports editor at peterhockaday@dailyemerald.com.



Adam Amato Emerald

Keenan Howry leaves Oregon as the Ducks' all-time leader in receptions, punt return yards and touchdown receptions. He is also second all-time in receiving yards.

# Defense

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freshman Haloti Ngata, the Ducks have one of the best tackle combos in the conference.

With spring practices three months away, Oregon head coach Mike Bellotti has declared that every

position on the team is open.

"We just have to learn from it and get on with it," Bellotti said. "We have to help ourselves in recruiting, and work in the weight room and on our speed to be a better defense."

Just forgive and forget—if it were only that easy. But that's all the Duck 'D' can do.

"Oregon's got a great program,"

Moretti said. "We have some young guys, and we had some problems this year. But we have a great coaching staff and some great kids."

"I wouldn't be surprised to see this team back on top again next year."

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

# Rice

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lost cause until the fumble-that-wasn't, and suddenly Duck fans had to face the facts.

The season was over. There would be no bowl game win.

A loss in the who-wants-a-Seattle Bowl is worse than not going to a bowl at all.

Maybe Duck fans should start blaming Mandrake. He made his debut before Oregon's second loss of the season, but couldn't be bothered

to follow our fuzzy-tailed original mascot to Seattle for the bowl game.

If nothing else, Mandrake and his padded rear might have helped the Ducks have a softer landing from their hard fall to reality.

It would have kept the Huskies occupied for another quarter or two, at least.

For the Ducks, the Seattle Bowl was this season's last-ditch effort to prove that Joey Harrington and the players who left with him weren't the end of the mighty Oregon Ducks football program. They may not

have been the end, but they certainly took something with them when they left.

Any questions?

For fans, there are only two questions.

Is the massacre over yet?

And can we have a promise of no more Seattle Bowls?

Yes as an answer to both questions would be much appreciated.

Mindi Rice is a freelance writer for the Emerald. Her views do not necessarily represent those of the Emerald.

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## Horoscope by Linda C. Black

**TODAY'S BIRTHDAY** (Jan. 7). You'll understand new information easily now, so get yourself into interesting conversations. You won't be able to keep up with the experts at first, but you'll get better as you go along. Concentrate on listening, and the learning will happen naturally.  
To get the advantage, check the day's rating: 10 is the easiest day, 0 the most challenging.  
**ARIES** (March 21-April 19) \_ Today is a 5 \_ Sure, you have a lot to think about, but too much thinking can make you cranky. To avoid that, schedule time for a special person. You'll feel so refreshed.  
**TAURUS** (April 20-May 20) \_ Today is a 9 \_ Friends encourage you to try a task that you've been contemplating. Can you do it? Sure you can \_ with their help.  
**GEMINI** (May 21-June 21) \_ Today is a 6 \_ Don't ask about a delicate subject, even if you're curious. Wait until the other person offers the information. If he or she thinks you can help, it'll come up.  
**CANCER** (June 22-July 22) \_ Today is a 10 \_ A partner's far-out scheme could bring you a nice gift. Don't be too critical. You may stand to profit when another's fantasy materializes.  
**LEO** (July 23-Aug. 22) \_ Today is a 4 \_ Although you may be getting tired, you don't have to let it be apparent. The spotlight is on you, so put on a good show.  
**VIRGO** (Aug. 23-Sept. 22) \_ Today is an 8 \_

You're firm yet gentle, supportive yet persuasive. Can anybody resist you? Probably not. Especially since you're also right.  
**LIBRA** (Sept. 23-Oct. 22) \_ Today is a 5 \_ If you're not getting anywhere, ask a friend to help. Your current distress could even lead to new friendships, which are a real blessing.  
**SCORPIO** (Oct. 23-Nov. 21) \_ Today is a 9 \_ Using the skills you've worked so hard to acquire, plus luck and support from loved ones, success is in the bag. Go get it.  
**SAGITTARIUS** (Nov. 22-Dec. 21) \_ Today is a 5 \_ You might decide to go along with what someone else wants. What will it cost you? Better check that out first. If you generate enough goodwill, it might be a good investment.  
**CAPRICORN** (Dec. 22-Jan. 19) \_ Today is a 9 \_ A close relative can give you some excellent advice about saving money. Hang out together for a while, just like the old days.  
**AQUARIUS** (Jan. 20-Feb. 18) \_ Today is a 5 \_ Put some money behind your partner and an idea you've been discussing. A bold, dynamic extrovert has a good chance of making it work.  
**PISCES** (Feb. 19-March 20) \_ Today is an 8 \_ Friends will be glad to help with a challenging assignment. It's not so tough; it's just that there's so much of it. Offer a fair trade.

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