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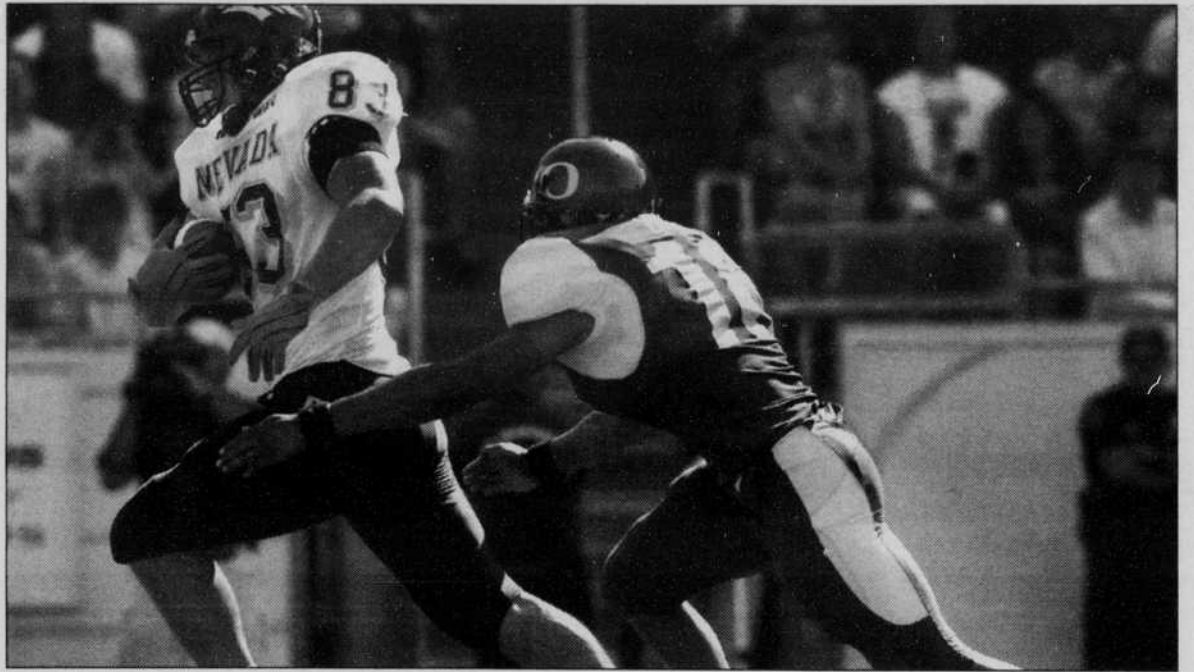
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Mark McCambridge Senior Photographer

Keith Lewis (16) has two interceptions this season and returned one for a touchdown against Nevada.

LEWIS

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has faced before.

"You've got to prepare for this game like you would any other game," Lewis said. "You can't put more emphasis on this game than you would in any normal Pac-10 game. It's just any normal opportunity, a big opportunity, but it's another opportunity. That's how we're going into it. We're preparing for it as we would prepare for Western Oregon University.

"I would love to come out and make that big play. Just to make statement: Make that big hit or make that interception, just to get everything going on the right track."

What Lewis does against Michigan could set the tone for his senior season, a year that could vault him into a high-round NFL selection come the 2004 draft.

KEITH LEWIS

Before the Ducks: Lewis rushed for 1,800 yards and 25 touchdowns his senior season at Valley High School in Sacramento, Calif. He earned second-team all-state honors as an outside linebacker/strong safety his senior year.

With the Ducks: Entering Saturday's game, Lewis has started 27 games with Oregon. Earned second-team All-Pac-10 defensive honors last season after grabbing five interceptions and 80 tackles, good for third on the Ducks.

But regardless of what Lewis does after his time at Oregon, he will be remembered.

He will be remembered for the things he said, his plays on the field, and the one day he didn't step on the field.

But that would be cruel. To remember Lewis for the day where he was helpless would be, well, unfair.

Instead, remember him for a year where he helped the Ducks to their best record in school history.

"We still should have gone to the national game, but the Fiesta Bowl

wasn't a bad place either," Lewis said. "We still got to play against a top team. For us to be able to beat them, is an awesome feeling.

"I came in and we won the Holiday Bowl, and everything went up from there. I have a lot of rings to say that, yeah, I played in this game, I played in this game, and I played in that game."

On Saturday, he's got a chance to play in another game.

Contact the sports editor at hankhager@dailyemerald.com.

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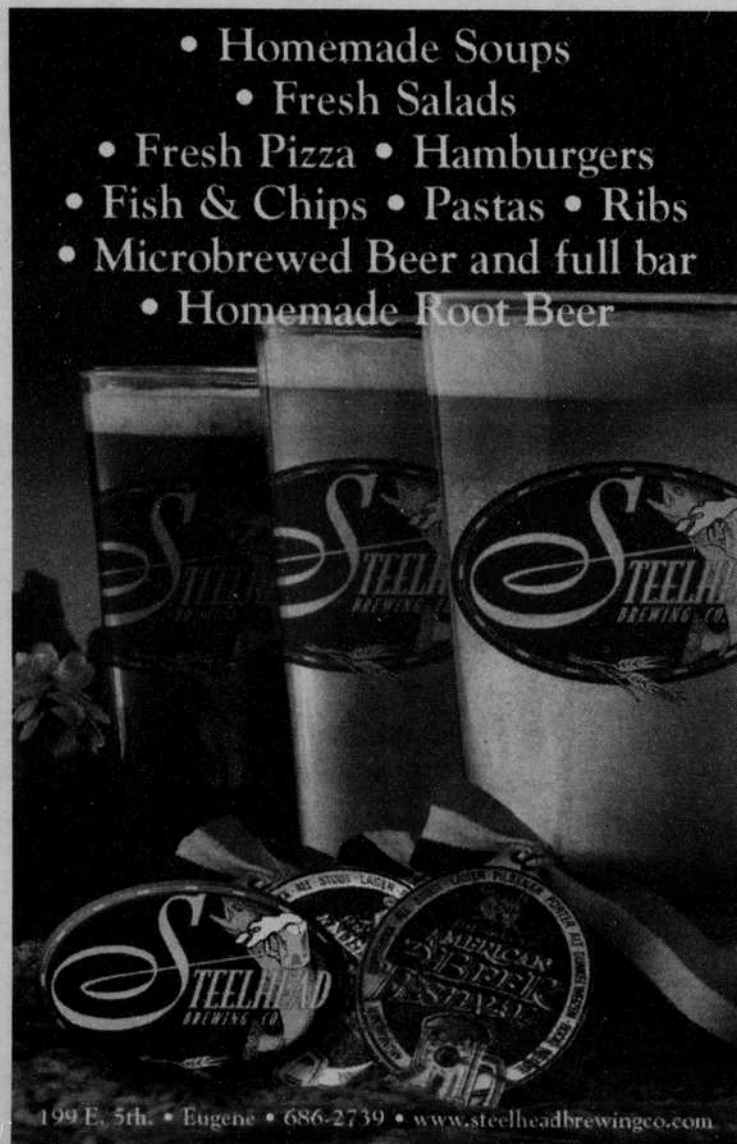
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MICHIGAN

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throw the football, but Oregon is going to be a much different deal here. They have tremendous skill."

And even though Michigan Stadium averages 110,648 fans a game — nearly double that of Autzen Stadium's 56,471 — the Wolverines are pumped about the opportunity of playing in Eugene.

"One of the comments that was made to me this morning is it's an exciting place to play," Carr said. "The coach that I was talking to said the players really got excited to play there because it is so loud."

Michigan has faced Oregon three times before — most recently in 1973 — and has outscored the Ducks 59-0. All three matchups were played in Ann Arbor, Mich.

So what is Oregon head coach Mike Bellotti's take on Oregon trying

to score against the Wolverines for the first time and just a week after Michigan blanked the Fighting Irish?

"There's not a lot of weaknesses that you see that are very apparent to the eye and even more so when you look at them on film," Bellotti said. "They do a great job, they're very well coached, they play hard, they play fast and they have great athletes.

"Obviously, we're going to have to work very hard. I think we're going to have to take some chances and roll the dice a few times."

Michigan's defense has been given a lot of credit lately, but with the Wolverine offense averaging nearly 45 points a game and ranked second nationally with a 530-yard average on total offense, the offensive by no means is the junior varsity to the defense.

Quarterback John Navarre and tailback Chris Perry are two who can take a bow and receive the recognition for such offensive prominence. Perry enters the Oregon game cur-

rently tied nationally in scoring at 16 points per game.

Navarre's name can be seen in several all-time career categories for Michigan quarterbacks. The fifth-year senior ranks fourth with a 24-8 record among his 32 starts, and is second in career passing touchdowns with 52.

He also needs to only pass six times against Oregon to become the Wolverines' first quarterback in history to throw 1,000 times.

But Navarre's prominence is viewed no different by the Oregon defense than Arizona's Nic Costa or Nevada's Andy Heiser ever was.

"We try to come out every game and play hard," defensive tackle Igor Olshansky said. "We won't treat this game any differently except that it gives us an opportunity to show that we have national recognition against top-ranked opponents."

Contact the sports reporter at jessethomas@dailyemerald.com.

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