

## FOOTBALL

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on in Arizona, and they said, 'We'll throw in Jason.' Jason came in, got some scores, got things rolling, then they put me back in and we kept things rolling.

"It's working, and as long as it's working, we're happy with it."

Yet, members of the Oregon offense know there is more work to be done.

While the offense has sparked — numerically, at least — the group has had its problems as well. Namely, fumbles are a cause for concern. The team fumbled nine times in the first three games, losing five loose balls.

"There's still room for improvement," senior wide receiver Samie Parker said.

The Oregon defense, meanwhile, allowed a little more than 22 points a game through the Arizona blowout. The group, often maligned last season, has sparked under defensive coordinator Nick Aliotti, although it has given up a few big plays.

The secondary, under new coach John Neal, has seen its share of those big plays, but experience and a re-

newed confidence have allowed the group to heal from last season's wounds.

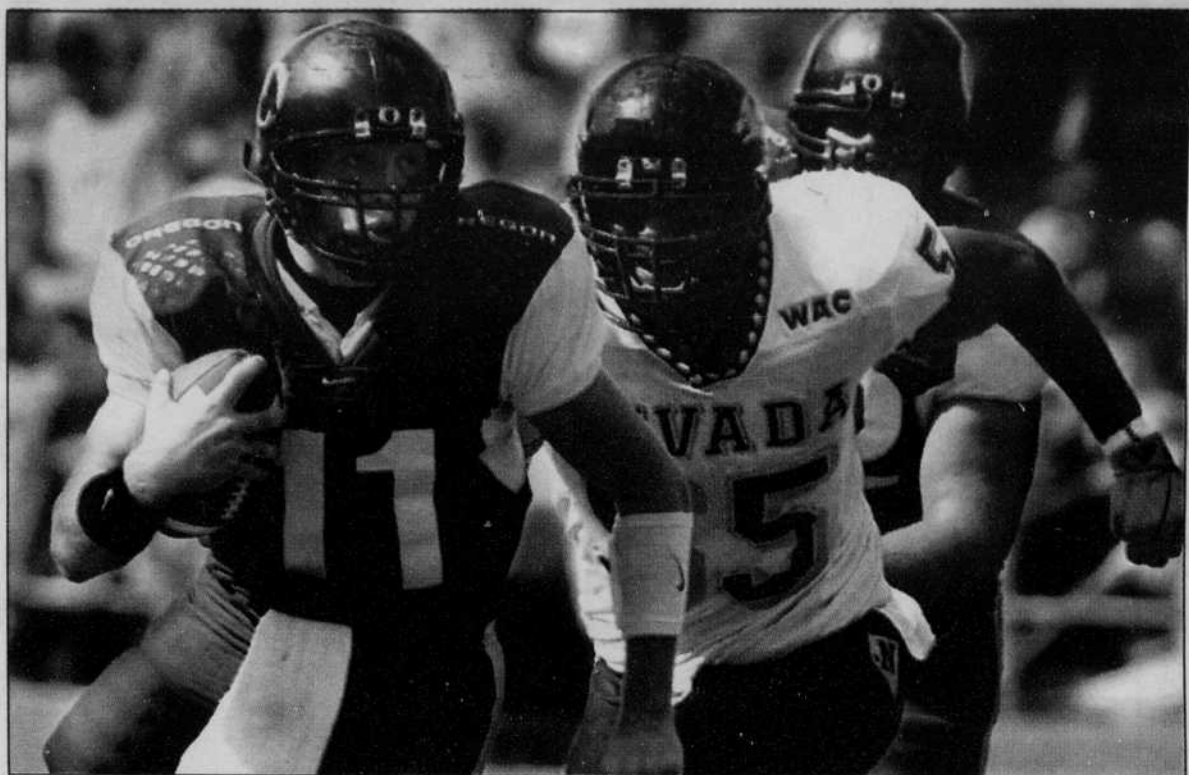
Justin Phinisee has stepped up in place of Aaron Gipson, who was relegated to the second team prior to Oregon's game against Nevada. In those first three games, he collected one sack, while senior Keith Lewis caught two interceptions and Moore had one.

"This year, we came back with a lot better focus," Moore said. "Going back to the fundamentals has been the main thing. Those little things you mess up on let the big plays happen, so you try to eliminate those. So far, it's been all right."

The loss of Haloti Ngata for the season — who went down in the season opener against Mississippi State — will probably catch up to the Ducks, but for the first three games, they were able to fend off that fact.

Oregon opens up with the meat of its Pac-10 schedule Sept. 27 when Washington State visits Autzen Stadium. The Ducks take on Utah a week later, and from then on, will find out what they are truly made of.

Contact the sports editor at [hankhagar@dailymerald.com](mailto:hankhagar@dailymerald.com).



Adam Amato Photographer

Quarterback Kellen Clemens has started all three games for Oregon so far this season, but Oregon head coach Mike Bellotti has stuck with a two-quarterback rotation, meaning senior quarterback Jason Fife gets his equal share of time behind center.

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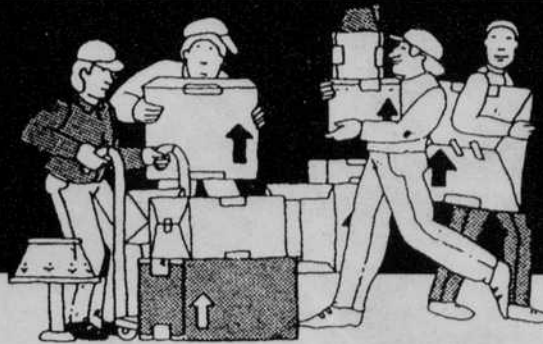
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