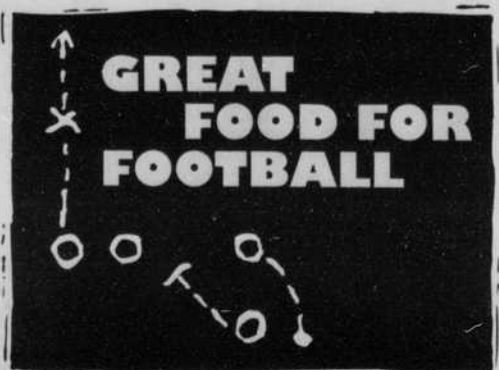


GAME DAY

Friday, September 26, 2003

Sports Editor: Hank Hager



Join us before or after the game.

chilis

GRILL & BAR

Like No Place Else

Open 11am-10pm Sunday-Thursday
11am-11pm Friday-Saturday
Valley River Center • 541-683-9100

GM Goodwrench Service

A little lube makes for a smooth ride.

SERVICE WHILE YOU WAIT

- Lube, oil & filter • Vehicle Inspections • Tires Rotated
- 39 Point Safety Inspection • Transmission Fluid & Service
- Wiper Inspection & Replacement • Differential Service • Wheel Pack
- Radiator Inspection Service • Lighting System Check & Bulb-Replacement

\$24⁹⁵
NO COUPON NEEDED!

We'll give you more than just an **OIL CHANGE**

Includes up to 5 quarts of GM Goodwrench Motor oil, a new AC Delco Oil Filter, Chassis lube and ten-point maintenance check, all while you wait! Restrictions may apply to some vehicles.

GM Goodwrench Service

Buy 4 and get the 5th free!

No Appointment Needed!



The name means a **GREAT DEAL!**
Kendall Chevrolet

2020 Franklin Blvd., Eugene
• 465-3588 • Open Mon-Fri 7:30-5:30

Legends Sports Bar & Grill

Where Old Friends Make New Ones

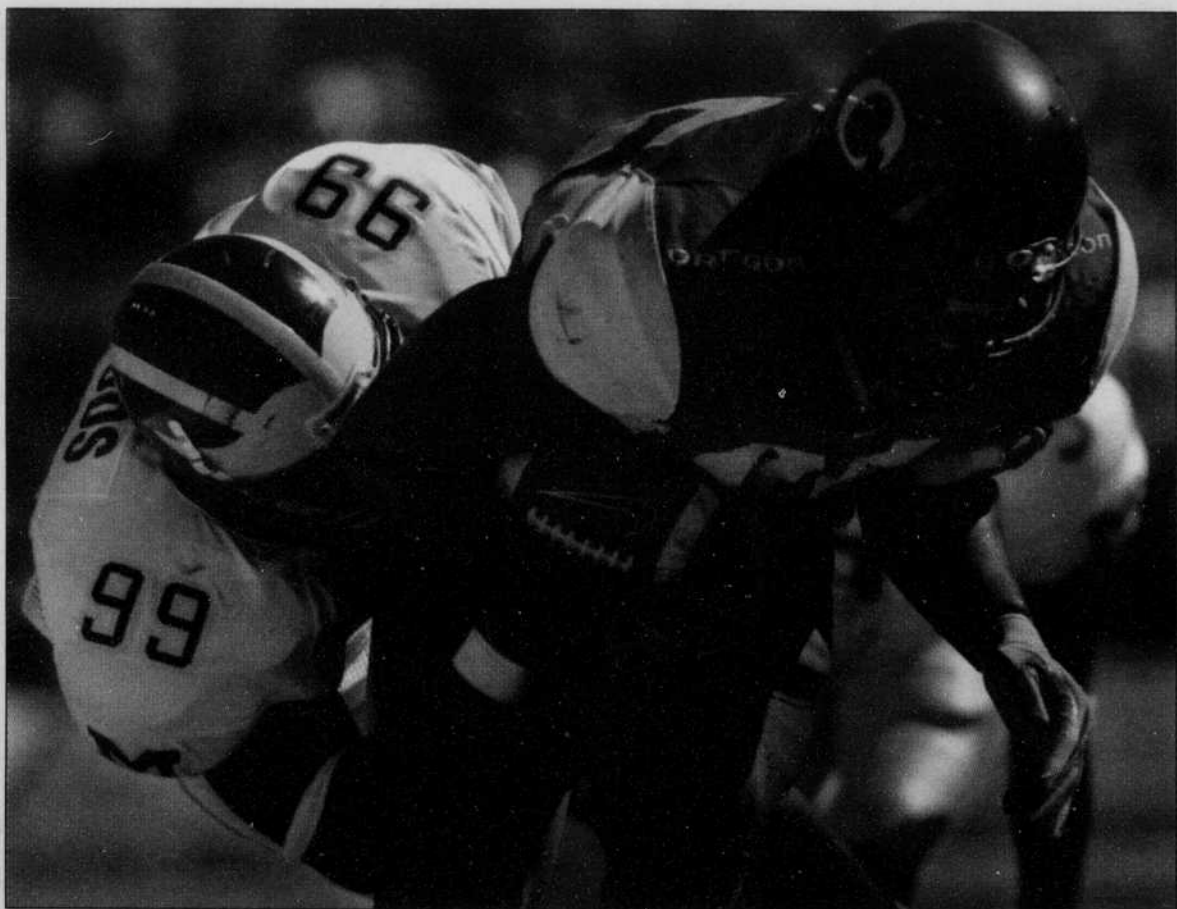


All-You-Can-Eat Dinner Specials Available 5pm-10pm

- Sunday:** BBQ Pork Ribs only \$9.95—served with cornbread, honey butter, Texas beans and Cole slaw
- Monday:** Pizza only \$5.99
- Tuesday:** Wings only \$4.99—served with cornbread and honey butter
- Wednesday:** Fried Chicken only \$5.99—served with cornbread and honey butter
- Thursday:** Spaghetti and Meatballs only \$4.99—served with garlic toast

Watch your favorite sporting event on our 15 foot Projection TV or any one of our 4 Big Screen TV's

Located on 116 and Willamette • 683-5160



Mark McCambridge Senior Photographer

Tight end Tim Day had three receptions for 55 yards for the Ducks against Michigan. Oregon receivers caught 20 passes for 253 yards.

Ducks get back to business as Cougars come to Autzen

The Ducks must focus on No. 21 Washington State after the upset of Michigan

By Hank Hager
Sports Editor

The last time Oregon football fans saw the Ducks, green and yellow swarms surrounded the team after its surprising 31-27 defeat of then-No. 3 Michigan.

That was last Saturday. This week, the Ducks get into the thick of Pacific-10 Conference play when No. 21 Washington State comes calling at Autzen Stadium.

The win against Michigan vaulted the Ducks to 10th in the nation in the Associated Press Top 25 college football poll and to 15th in the ESPN/USA Today Top 25 Coaches Poll. The win was only a piece of the equation.

Now, Oregon will see if it can come down in the polls and focus on the Cougars.

"That's just what football's about," cornerback Justin Phinisee said. "Yeah, it was a big win. We celebrated, but once practice starts, you have to refocus. You have to have hard intensity and a hard practice. On Saturday, you'll know if it's there."

The Ducks insist they won't let the win over the Wolverines linger, knowing that Washington State won the Pac-10 last season and is a dangerous opponent.

The Cougars — 3-1 overall after losing to Notre Dame 29-26 in South Bend, Ind., earlier this season — have an offense that could exploit weaknesses if it picks up steam.

The team's defense, however, is suspect after the first three games. With the Ducks showing their most balanced offensive attack of the season against the Wolverines, Samie Parker and company could open up some holes.

"Washington State is a great team," tight end Tim Day said. "They won the Pac-10 last year. I think

they're going to be the hardest defenders this year in the Pac-10, and so that will get us down from the high and back to business."

For the Ducks, it is the first time in three seasons that they will stay home instead of traveling to Pullman, Wash.

In what was credited as a scheduling quirk due to the Pac-10's desire to assure each team of playing rivalry games every season, Oregon has visited Washington State for the past three seasons. In each of those three games, the teams were well matched, with the Ducks winning in 2000 and 2001 before the Cougars took the game last season.

Ask the Ducks, and they will tell you it's nice to stay home once in a while.

"You have people yelling at you and cold weather (in Pullman)," Day said. "We were able to get past those things a couple of times. It's nice to be at home. You have your fans, and (the Cougars) have to go through that now."

Turn to **GAME**, page 6

Weak Pac-10, Michigan upset allow Ducks to control destiny

Pardon the cliché, but the Ducks truly are masters of their own destiny from now on.

After the surprising victory over Michigan last week, Oregon is flying high, possibly even more so than at any point during the team's 11-1 season of 2001. Michigan, No. 3 last week, was Oregon's biggest nonconference opponent since Notre Dame 20 years ago.

Michigan has the most tradition of any team the Ducks have played in recent years or will play in the future. The Wolverines have an aura about them that exceeds expectations.

But now, the Ducks have broken through to the big time. The win against Michigan gave the Ducks a



Hank Hager
Behind the dish

chance any team in the nation would love to have.

That is, they really can control how their season shapes up.

That's not necessarily a tribute to Oregon's overall ability, but rather the

less-than-stellar performances expected out of Pacific-10 Conference teams.

Before I go any further, you have to remember that the Ducks don't play USC this season. The No. 3 Trojans are the best team on the West Coast, bar none, even though their quarterback has little experience and their secondary was lessened by Troy Polamalu's graduation after last season.

So, theoretically, the Pac-10 could have two undefeated teams. Oregon and USC are the two most prominently ranked unbeaten teams so far, with 2-0 Stanford rounding out the Pac-10's perfect teams.

Turn to **HAGER**, page 7