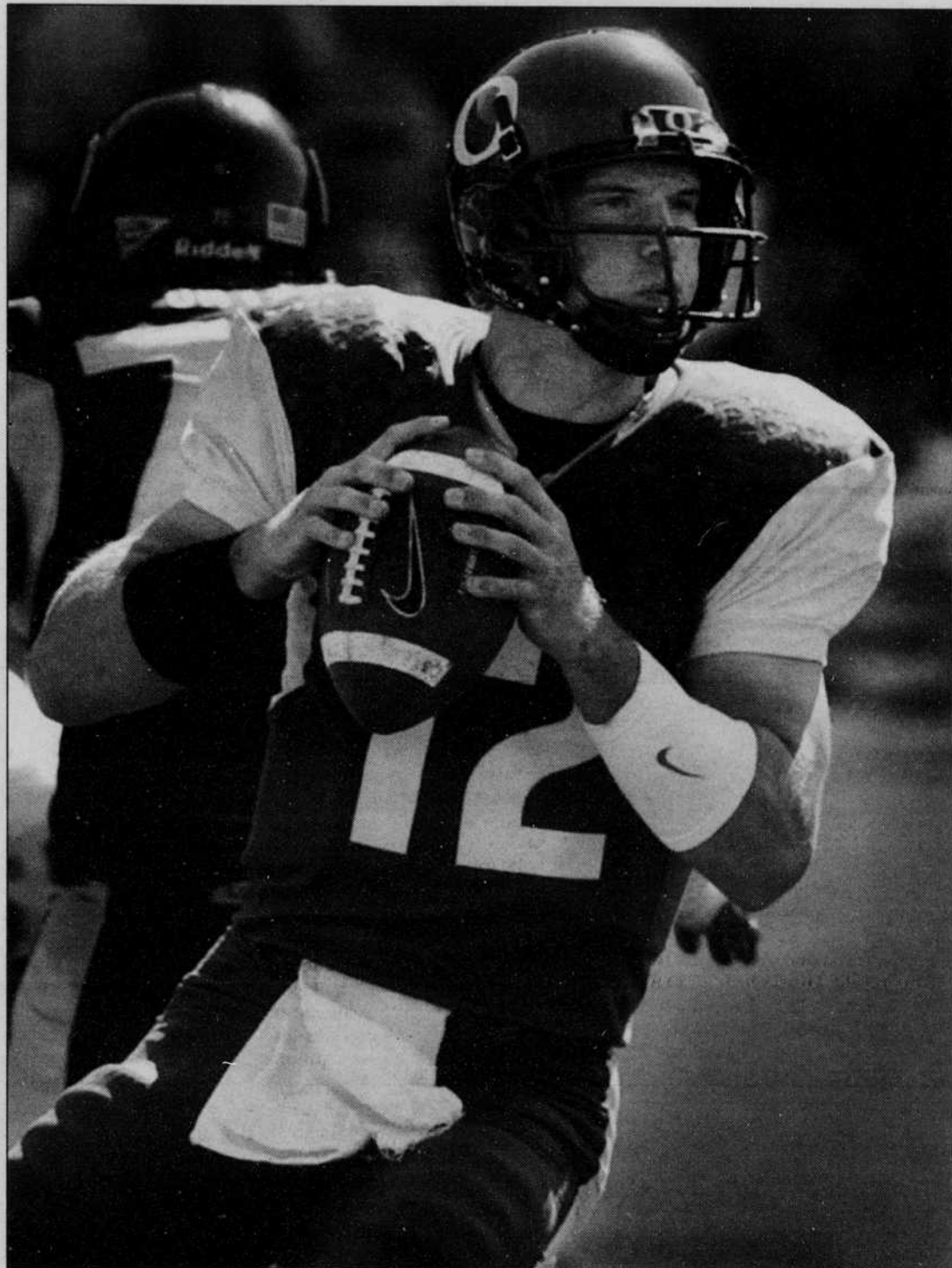


Wednesday, October 8, 2003



Mark McCambridge Senior Photographer

Quarterback Jason Fife said the Ducks need to find the spark that helped them to a 4-0 start to begin the season.

'Tight-knit' Ducks pushed by energy, 'family' attitude

Senior Courtney Nagle returns to action in filling the role as Oregon's leader on the courts

Alex Tam
Freelance Reporter

Many athletes and coaches will agree that good camaraderie is a key element toward the success of any team sport.

Oregon women's tennis head coach Nils Schyllander expressed that exact sentiment after watching the Ducks practice the past two weeks.

"Our team right now has lots of energy," Schyllander said. "It is like a family atmosphere and we have a very tight-knit group."

Freshman Dominika Dieskova achieved her first singles win in her college career last weekend at the Riviera/ITA Women's All-American Championships in Los Angeles. It is a positive start for the women after suffering through a tough schedule and untimely injuries last season.

Although the Slovakian native is one of the younger players, Schyllander believes her play does not reflect her inexperience at the college level.

"Experience-wise, right now, she is a junior and senior," Schyllander said. "She'll be a very good player."

Senior Courtney Nagle competed Tuesday at the All-American Championship qualifying rounds at UCLA. She was

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Ducks remain close in spite of losses, look for intensity

Oregon's goal now is to dig itself out of the hole created by two straight losses after Friday

By Hank Hager
Sports Editor

This is where the Ducks' team chemistry and leadership will come in handy.

Members of the Oregon football team have spoken all season about the team's improved leadership from last year. With the Ducks struggling — having lost their last two games — that leadership and chemistry will have a chance to shine.

"I think that this week, especially, the senior leaders and the older guys on the team, we're going to have to look to each other to make sure we're picking people up, we're having fun out there and making sure things get done," senior quarterback Jason Fife said.

Oregon is coming off a 17-13 loss to Utah on Friday, a game the Ducks controlled point-wise until the fourth quarter.

Fife said the Ducks have lost the "intensity and fun" that helped lead them to a 4-0 record to start the season. Since then, the Ducks suffered a 55-16 blowout loss at the hands of Washington State and the loss to the Utes.

"I don't think it's going to be very hard to get it back," Fife said. "Now that we know what's missing, it's just a matter of turning the dial back up. I don't know how we lost it. We just lost that little spark, but we'll be able to bring it back this week."

Oregon had a players-only meeting before Monday's practice after the team watched game tapes. Fife said the short meeting's purpose was to re-emphasize

head coach Mike Bellotti's points that had been made earlier.

The Ducks sit in the middle of the Pacific-10 Conference with a 1-1 league record and are among a handful of teams behind Washington State and Oregon State, both at 2-0.

Arizona State is Oregon's opponent Saturday, with a bye-week coming after that. The game against the Sun Devils is a rematch of last season's shootout. Arizona State hung 35 points on the board in the second half at Autzen Stadium in that game en route to the 45-42 win.

"We really are pretty close as a team this year," Jerry Matson said. "The things that happened last year should not happen this year because we are really tight. Hopefully, that benefits us."

He talks, but not in vain

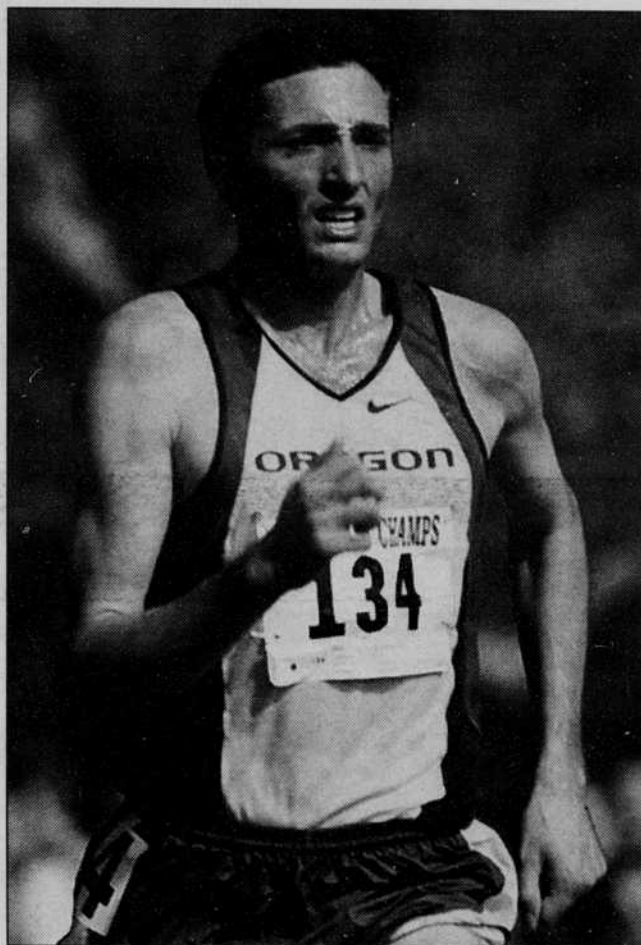
If it looked as though Paris Warren had a chip on his shoulder when the Ducks visited Utah on Friday, then that was the case.

The junior caught 10 passes for 54 yards against Oregon. The wide receiver was playing in his first game against the Ducks since transferring from Oregon after the 2001 season.

He predicted before the game that the Utah offense would be able to overcome Oregon's defense enough to give the Utes the win.

The Ducks stopped Utah, for the most part, but the Utes' offense — which consisted of many unconventional formations and plays — was too much in the end.

"We knew what to expect," Matson said. "They ran a lot of the stuff we saw on tape. Definitely the speed of it, how quickly it happens, was different than in practice. The coaches told us in practice we couldn't simulate it. I think the speed of it

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Geoff Thurner Oregon media services

Eric Logsdon was selected to the Pacific-10 Conference All-Academic honorable mention team last season.

Travel decreases, Ducks focus on class schedules

Rest for the Oregon men and women gives each team's athletes a chance to focus on school

Scott Archer
Freelance Reporter

It was a slow week for cross country.

However, the women were in action Saturday, finishing sixth overall at the Willamette Invitational in Salem. Otherwise, the women's team has been resting from the Willamette Invitational. Seniors Eri Macdonald and Magdalena Sandoval are preparing to travel as individuals to the Pre-NCAA Invitational in Cedar Falls, Iowa.

The men's team was idle and will continue to be until they attend the Pre-NCAA Invitational on Oct. 18. They will travel along with Macdonald and Sandoval.

Although the men will have a total of three weeks off before traveling to the meet, the break has not been easy.

"We have been making positive steps attitude-wise since our race at (Roy Griak Invitational)," junior Eric Logsdon said. "But we won't get real answers until we travel again."

Logsdon also said that the team does not have any major changes that need to be made. However, the team's success "comes down to being focused and taking care of business."

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DUCK TENNIS

DUCK CROSS COUNTRY