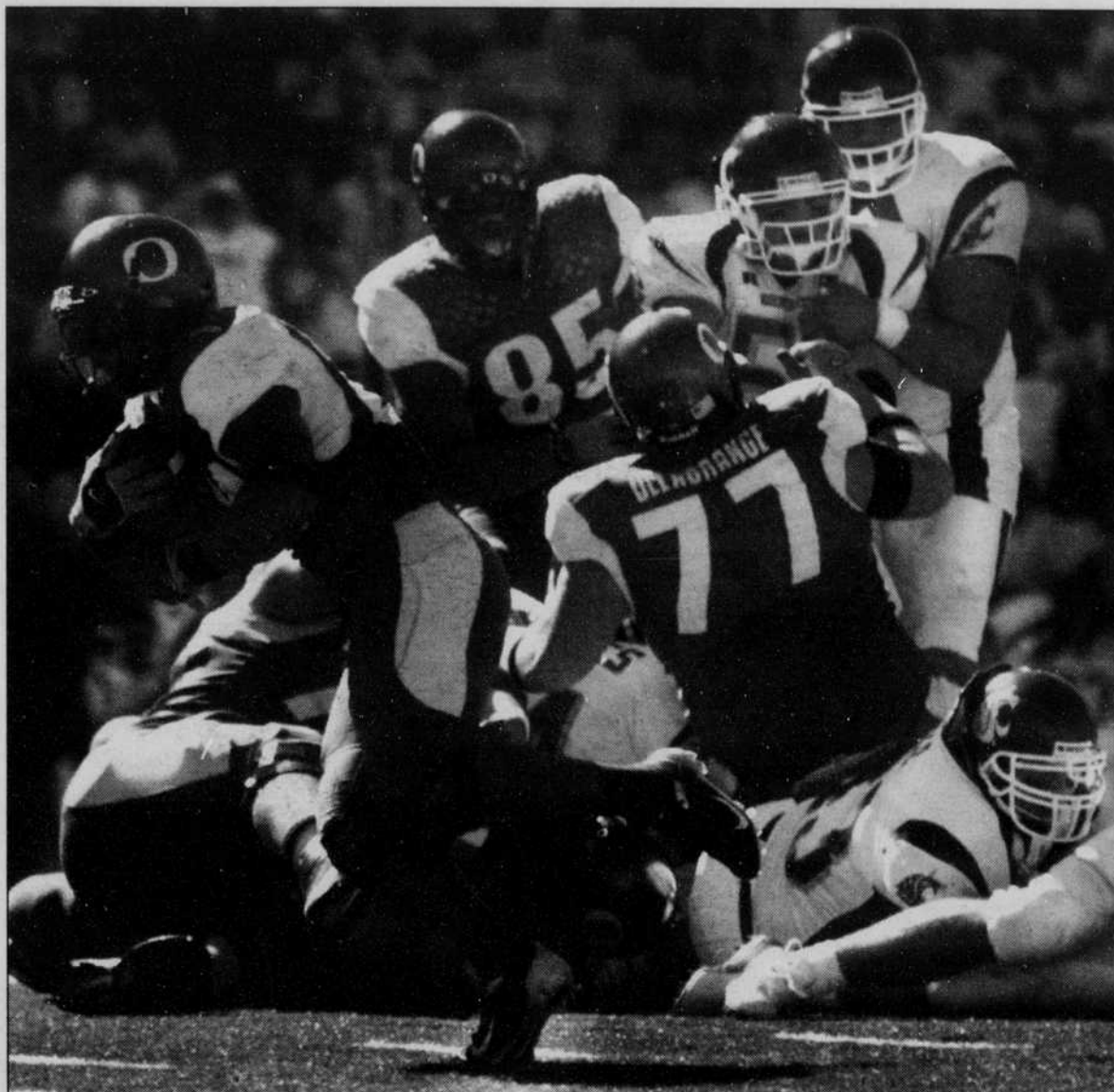




Mark McCambridge Senior Photographer

The offensive line has been an integral part of Oregon's success this season, but the line has allowed nine sacks in the past two games.

UO offensive line ready to protect QBs Fife, Clemens

Oregon's offensive line has struggled, but the Ducks are prepared to eliminate the mistakes this week

By Jesse Thomas
Sports Reporter

For the Oregon football team, the line of scrimmage has become a line of measure.

The Duck offensive line has not performed to its potential in the past two weeks, and everyone on the team knows it.

"There can't be any real excuses for not getting the job done," right guard Michael DeLaGrange said. "It's not hard just to block someone and get them out of the way or hold a guy from getting to the quarterback. That's all we got to do, and something we need to get done."

Oregon has not gotten it done lately. In games against Washington State and Utah, the offensive line allowed a combined nine sacks.

"Our biggest problem is at the line of scrimmage," Oregon head coach Mike Bellotti said. "We're not doing a good enough job of blocking."

All of this comes after a win over Michigan. The Ducks allowed one

sack in the 31-27 win over the Wolverines. After that performance, left tackle Adam Snyder became the first Pacific-10 Conference offensive lineman to receive Pac-10 Player of the Week honors in eight years.

"It's been frustrating," center Dan Weaver said. "We've been playing some solid guys but we aren't playing up to our potential for sure. I don't know what it is but we are definitely going to change some things in the way we practice and the way we do things. Hopefully it will regenerate that same old attitude we had."

What happened to that attitude?

"Once you beat a team of Michigan's caliber, it's almost natural," Weaver said. "Nobody's as good as Michigan on the rest of our schedule, so maybe we don't have to prepare as much, but it's not the case. We have to prepare even more."

Preparation will be key, especially in the minds of the coaches.

DeLaGrange said the Ducks plan to step up the intensity this week in practice so they can be fully prepared for anything the Sun Devils bring.

What will it take to be the offensive line of old?

"We have gotten away from some of the fundamental things that we

Turn to **OFFENSE**, page 10B

Pac-10 play slows with two games

UCLA takes on Arizona and the Huskies finish their nonconference schedule against Nevada

Scott Archer
Freelance Reporter

It's a slow week for Pacific-10 Conference games. Outside of the Oregon-Arizona State contest, only UCLA, Arizona, Stanford and USC play conference games.

Washington is in action against nonconference opponent Nevada. Currently, only Oregon State, Washington State and UCLA are undefeated in Pacific-10 Conference play.

UCLA (1-0 Pac-10, 3-2) at Arizona (0-2, 1-5)

Arizona looked like it might rebound from a tumultuous ride under the John Mackovic regime last Saturday against Washington State. Mackovic has been succeeded by former defensive coordinator Mike Hankwitz.

While it seemed like the Wildcats might break from tradition and make the game respectable, Arizona relapsed and lost control in the second half, losing to Washington State, 30-7. On the bright side, the Arizona offensive line shut down the Cougars' 22-game streak of at least one quarterback sack.

Meanwhile, the Bruins made a statement against Washington last

week. The Bruins came from behind to dominate the Huskies in every way. UCLA scored 24 points in the fourth quarter against Washington en route to the 46-16 win. It was the first time all year a team had scored against the Huskies in the final quarter.

"We feel that was a huge step for our team, and we want to make sure we can capitalize off of that leading to (Saturday)," UCLA head coach Karl Dorrell said. "We are finally getting the execution to along with all of those things that we've built."

Last year, the Bruins shut down the Wildcats' offense in a 37-7 route. Arizona had nine first downs and rushed for 12 yards. The Wildcats gave up six sacks in a late season meeting in Tucson.

"Our only concern is ourselves," Dorrell said. "I think our foundation has been set for quite some time."

Nevada (2-0, 3-2) at Washington (1-1, 3-2)

The last time these two teams met, the Chicago Cubs' streak of 95 years of playoff futility hadn't begun. It was 109 years ago when Nevada and Washington last clashed, and quite a few things have changed.

Namely, offense.

Saturday's matchup should be contrary to the team's previous meeting.

Washington inched by Nevada in a 2-0 victory that featured no touchdowns.

Defense in the current matchup could be a concern.

"On defense I think they have great speed," Washington head coach Keith Gilbertson said. "I spent time looking at their defense, and I'm impressed with their defensive speed."

Washington wide receiver Reggie Williams ranks 10th all-time in Pac-10 receiving with 192 receptions. Williams has a catch in 30 consecutive games, spanning every game of his career with the Huskies.

"We can't throw to (Williams) every time," Gilbertson said. "Certainly Reggie is the lead dog, and we want to get him the ball."

Washington is coming off a shocking 46-16 loss from last Saturday courtesy of UCLA.

"After last Saturday, we are not over-looking anybody," Gilbertson said. "It's good we have another game and have something to look forward to."

Scott Archer is a freelance writer for the Emerald.



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