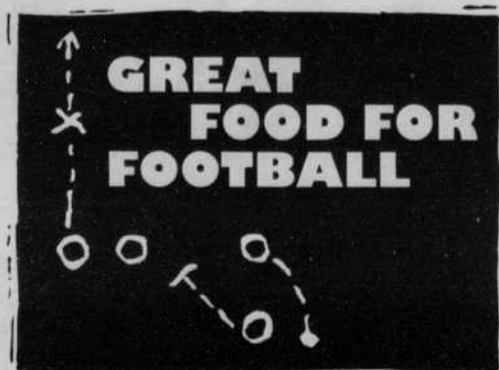


GAME DAY

Friday, October 24, 2003

Sports Editor: Hank Hager



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Mindi Rice

The girl and the game

Oregon finds fair weather in Autzen

The Ducks have crossed this road before.

While fans call foul and bring up that dreaded season — the 7-6 skeletons of 2002 — there may be some hope behind those grey Oregon clouds.

The skid this season, possibly a celebration of the Michigan win that went three weeks too long, began early this year.

That should give the Ducks plenty of time to recover and ready themselves for at least the Civil War and the fans that will bandwagon back into Duckville.

One would think that with all the rain Oregon gets, the fair-weather fans would be washed down the road to California.

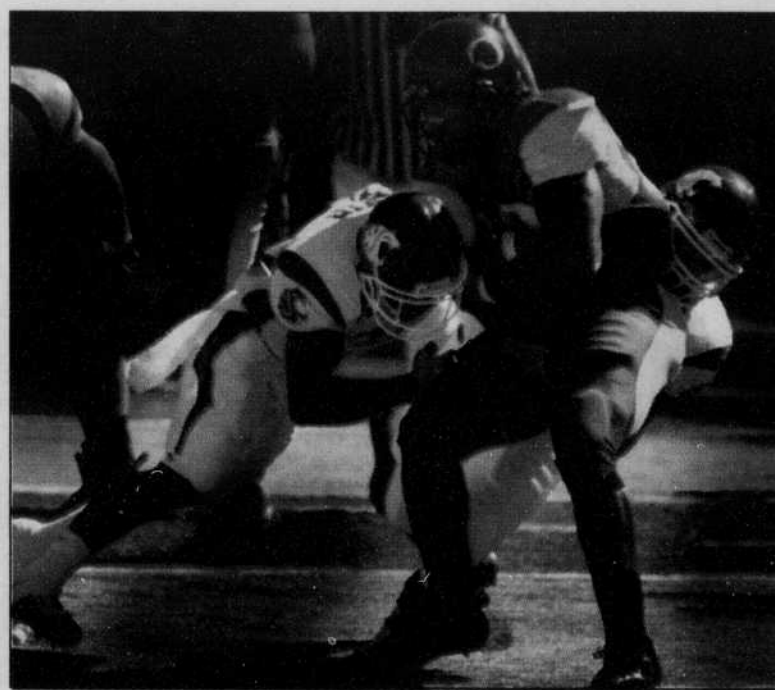
Two years ago — granted it was at the height of the Joey "Heisman" Harrington era — students lined up for eight-plus hours in the EMU to get their student ticket for the Civil War game. Some even camped outside Autzen Stadium the night before. Lines on ticket Mondays lasted from 45 minutes to two hours, even into the beginning of the 2002 season.

The 2003 Ducks?

Student tickets for Saturday's Homecoming game against Stanford were available as late as the afternoon of Friday — almost five full days after they became available.

The bandwagon has left Eugene. It was on its way to Corvallis but had to change plans after Washington came to town. It is now traveling to

Turn to **RICE**, page 13B



Mark McCambridge Photographer

Chris Vincent has shared starting tailback duties this season for the Ducks.

Oregon, Stanford searching to end three-game slides

Oregon hosts the Cardinal after the bye week gave Oregon players a chance to refocus and find motivation

By Mindi Rice
Senior Sports Reporter

One team will walk away after ending its three-game losing streak. The other team will have a four-game losing streak.

When the Ducks face Stanford on Saturday in their Homecoming game, they will be on a mission.

"We have a team that wants to get this thing back on track," Oregon free safety Keith Lewis said. "They're willing to go hard and practice more intense."

Intensity was a topic of discussion at Tuesday's practice.

"Practice has been a lot harder," punter Paul Martinez said. "More in-

tensity and a lot harder. Everyone's just picked it up."

The Ducks (4-3 overall, 1-2 Pacific-10 Conference) are picking up the pieces after three straight losses, two coming at the hands of conference opponents Washington State and Arizona State.

With Oregon's bye week coming after its three losses, head coach Mike Bellotti and his staff decided it was time for some motivational techniques.

"We showed that ABC replay (of the Ducks' victory against Michigan) in the (Pittman) Room last week every night during dinner," Bellotti said. "It was more important that the players saw it and saw the way that they played on offense, defense and special teams and their reactions to that game."

"We made a very significant point with that team — you've got to compete. If you've lost the will or desire to

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Stanford puts faith in QB Lewis to earn first conference victory

With a backup quarterback and inexperienced offensive line, the Cardinal seeks its first Pac-10 victory

By Jesse Thomas
Sports Reporter

The scenario is different, but the setting is the same.

Stanford returns to Autzen Stadium for the third year in a row, with this year's matchup set up as Oregon's Homecoming game. Prior to losing 41-14 to the Ducks last season, the Cardinal visited Autzen in 2001, also Oregon's Homecoming, and pulled the upset of the season in a come-from-behind 49-42 victory.

Quarterback Chris Lewis led the

Cardinal in the upset at Autzen two seasons ago. With starting quarterback Trent Edwards out with a shoulder strain, it appears that Lewis, the fifth-year senior, will again take the helm.

Second-year head coach Buddy Teevens is not worried about having to alter his quarterback rotation — a scenario in which three players could take snaps on Saturday.

"The play is pretty consistent across the board," Teevens said. "We do put a great deal of responsibility on the quarterbacks, getting in and out of plays and dictating our approach based on personnel. I feel that all of them can do a great job with it."

Edwards suffered his injury in Stanford's loss to Washington State last weekend. It was the third straight Pa-

cific-10 Conference loss for the Cardinal. They sit at 0-3 on the bottom of the conference.

All three of those losses have come against top-25 teams, where the Cardinal was outscored, 96-52. The Cardinal's most recent downfall came in the 24-14 loss to Washington State in which Stanford managed to hold the Cougars to just 70 yards rushing.

"It was a frustrating loss on Saturday," Teevens said. "Our players played hard in all facets of the game. Big plays affected the outcome — they made them and we did not. The attitude of the team is very solid. They realize how close we are and they're excited to get back to work."

Stanford is 2-3 on the season, and

Turn to **STANFORD**, page 11B

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