

Monday, October 27, 2003

Back in action: Oregon takes down Stanford

Terrence Whitehead rushed for a career-high 172 yards in the convincing win over the Cardinal for Oregon's fifth win of 2003

By Minda Rice
Senior Sports Reporter

The Ducks flocked together with a group effort for a 35-0 win against Stanford on Saturday.

After three consecutive losses and a bye week, Oregon (5-3 overall, 2-2 Pacific-10 Conference) shut out a Pac-10 opponent for the first time in head coach Mike Bellotti's tenure.

"Overall, that was a total team victory, and one we certainly needed," Bellotti said. "We worked very hard the past couple weeks and I think, despite several injuries, that we played well."

DUCK FOOTBALL

The Oregon offense made a statement in the first drive with five straight running plays by tailback Terrence Whitehead.

"You want to be able to control the line of scrimmage and make sure you're getting rushing yards," quarterback Jason Fife said. "It just opens up the offense and the passing game."

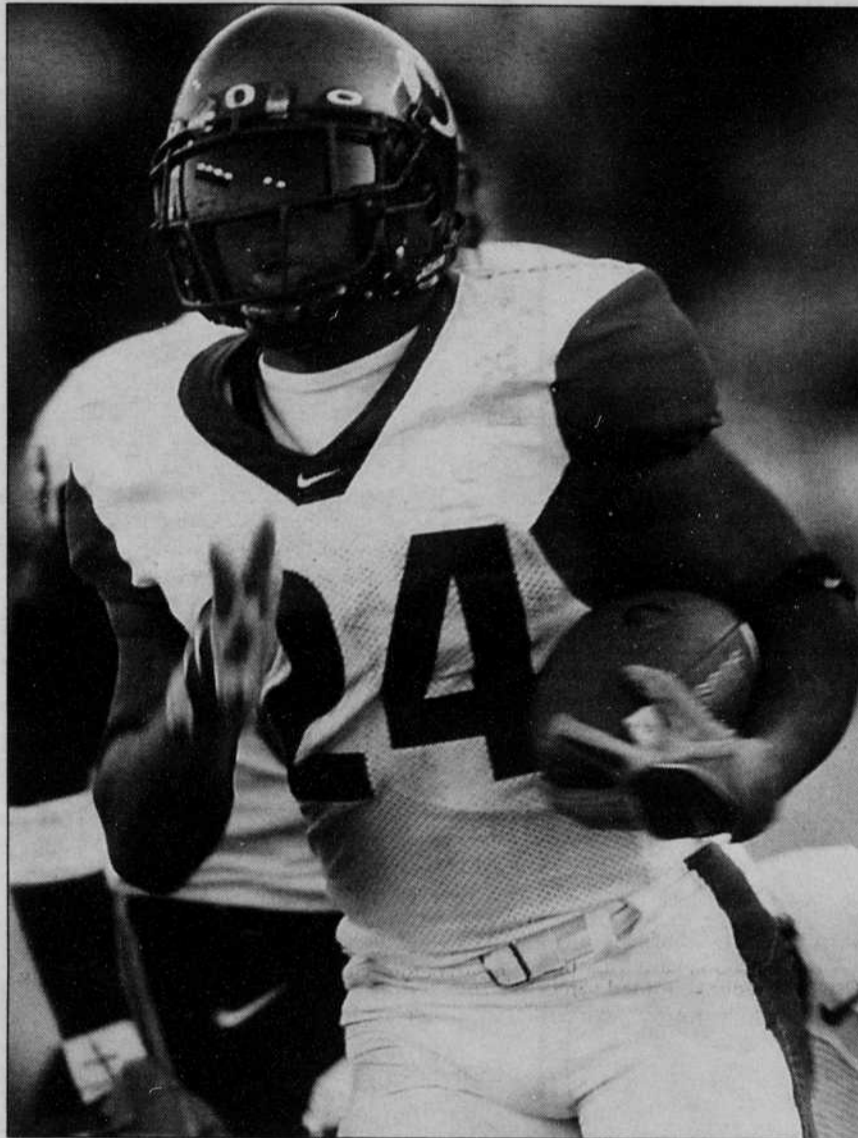
Whitehead himself made a statement in the game, accounting for a career-high 172 rushing yards, including a nine-yard touchdown run and a 44-yard touchdown jaunt.

"I always expect to run that much and I'd like to run even more," Whitehead said. "I'm looking to do whatever it takes to help get a W."

Oregon's rushing game — a 193-yard effort — overshadowed the 265 yards that Kellen Clemens and Fife combined to throw. The Ducks had 40 rushing attempts compared to 27 pass attempts. All four of Oregon's offensive scores occurred on running plays. Three of those came with the Ducks inside Stanford's 10-yard line.

"We had in our game plan that we were going to run the football no matter what," fullback Dante Rosario said. "We did just that and it worked well."

Running the ball opened passing lanes for the Ducks.
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Mark McCambridge Photographer

Terrence Whitehead led the Ducks with 172 yards rushing against Stanford.

Oregon shuts out its first Pac-10 opponent since 1992 in a dominating defensive day at Autzen

By Hank Hager
Sports Editor

It's a goal-line stand the Ducks hope will carry them through their final four games of the season.

It was a seven-play goal-line defensive series that kept the Cardinal from scoring a single point, propelling Oregon to its first Pacific-10 Conference shutout in 11 years.

It epitomized the Ducks' day defensively. A day where Stanford could do nothing right and Oregon looked like the team that went to the Fiesta Bowl two seasons ago.

"The stand at the goal-line was maybe one of the greatest things I've ever seen," Oregon head coach Mike Bellotti said.

With 11:27 to play in the fourth quarter — and Oregon comfortably ahead 28-0 — safety Marley Tucker and linebacker David Martin got to Stanford quarterback Chris Lewis for a 14-yard sack that ended the most significant set of defensive plays for the Ducks this season.

With Stanford at the Oregon 1-yard line, running back J.R. Lemon attempted a one-yard run. That didn't work. In the next play — from the 2 — he was stopped again.

The Ducks got to Lewis for a
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Whitehead becomes offensive key after big day

Oregon running back Terrence Whitehead ran for a career-high 172 yards against Stanford on Saturday, but perhaps his most im-



Hank Hager
Behind the dish

pressive feat of the afternoon came with the Ducks in control.

Oregon was up 21-0 in the early moments of the third quarter when the sophomore touched the ball for the third time of the second half.

He ran to the right side of the field but quickly reversed to the left and found a seam in the Stanford defense. He then went untouched for a 44-yard touchdown that capped an Oregon drive of just one play.

He ran 23 times against the Cardinal. That's not a tough workload for the running back, but shows that his 7.5 yards per carry was well spent.

"Terrence ran well and the offensive line blocked well all day, setting the tempo for the game," Oregon quarterback Kellen Clemens said.

Whitehead's performance against the Cardinal signified his desperation as the running back the Ducks so desperately need.

When the Ducks are successful offensively, the key is balance. Clemens and senior Jason Fife can find any receiver when they have the defense on its toes. But when the defense can focus on one aspect of the Oregon offense — as Washington State and Arizona State both did earlier this season — Clemens and Fife be-

come flustered and ineffective.

That's where Whitehead becomes a key cog. He established himself on Saturday.

When Onterio Smith went down late in the season, Whitehead stood up and became a capable running back.

When Smith left after the season, doubts as to Whitehead's ability became apparent. There were worries he wouldn't be able to be a starter so soon. After all, he sat out part of last season for academic reasons, so he had yet to experience Division I athletics on the full scale.

Saturday, all of that went out the window. With Oregon in tow against Stanford, the Whitehead thrived.

"Going into this week, we wanted to establish the run," Whitehead said. "To run this offense, we have to have a good running game."

The last four games of the season, however, are where Whitehead will earn his stripes. When the Ducks were on top of the world at 4-0, he was visible, and so were the other

Ducks' runners.

With Washington coming up and a dangerous California team the week after that, he will need to be the featured back who can divert the offense's attention. He doesn't necessarily need to produce the Oregon points, but he will need to help Clemens and Fife lead the team into the end zone.

His qualities as a gamebreaker showed against the Cardinal, a team that had been ranked fourth in the Pac-10 and 17th nationally in rushing defense entering the game.

Against the Huskies and Golden Bears he will need to be that gamebreaker again. If he can't, it could be a long four games.

Bet on the former.

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His opinions do not necessarily
represent those of the Emerald.

Ducks take split with Stanford, California

Oregon suffers a 3-1 loss to Stanford on Friday, but bounces back to shut out California 2-0 on Sunday at Papé Field

By Jesse Thomas
Sports Reporter

Oregon head coach Bill Steffen had a reminder for his women's soccer team on Saturday.

He told the team that they would win more games than any other team in program history.

Sunday's 2-0 victory over Cal put the Ducks one step closer to that goal. It was the Ducks' eighth win of the season, which ties the best win total in program history. The Ducks finished 8-8-2 in 2001.

Oregon (8-8 overall, 2-3 Pac-10) did what has worked all season by making the first strike against the Golden Bears count. The Ducks are 4-0 this season when they have scored first.

With just 10 minutes expired, Oregon

was awarded an indirect kick. Forward Nicole Garbin lined the shot to the left side of the goal where forward Mele French was waiting. French out-jumped her defender and connected on the header from five yards out to give the Ducks a 1-0 lead.

"Every single game, I go into the game thinking I want to score early so we can kind of relax and control the game," French said.

French felt that it wasn't offense that



Mark McCambridge Photographer

Forward Cristan Higa (2) collides with Cal's Alivia Mazura.

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