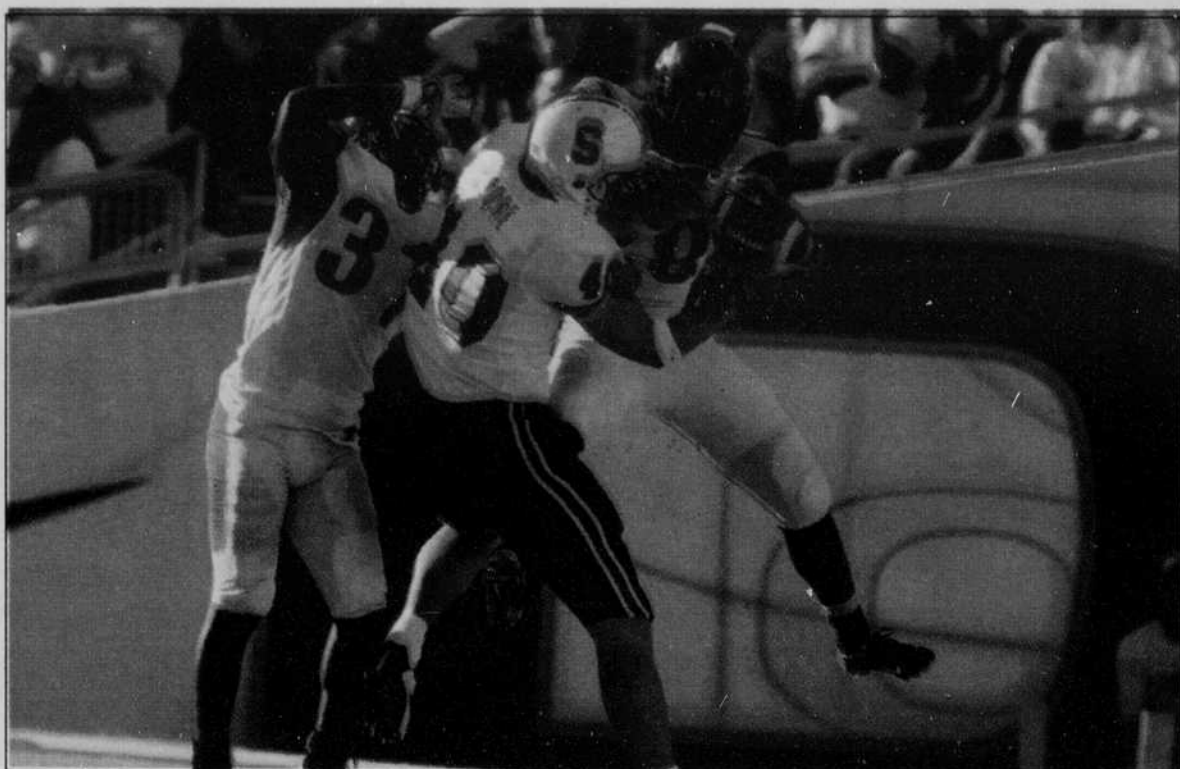




Adam Amato Photo Editor

Redshirt sophomore Justin Phinisee (31) has intercepted two passes and broken up four pass attempts in eight games this season.

PREVIEW

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it. "We were happy that we had won. We were going through a lot of tough times like we are now, and we expressed some emotion, just like WSU celebrating on our field before a game (in 2001)."

The rivalry takes place in Seattle this season, a city of nightmares for the Ducks in recent years. Oregon hasn't won in Seattle since 1997 — although they've only played the Huskies there once since then — and a trip to the Seattle Bowl last season wasn't quite what the Ducks were looking for.

Husky fans verbally harassed the Ducks during the team's 38-17 loss to Wake Forest.

This game should be no different.

"They'll probably take me in with open arms," Oregon safety Keith Lewis said with a smile. "They probably won't be too happy to see me like I won't be happy to see them. I ran into a couple of them at the Seattle Bowl. They did their trash-talking and I said my piece, but at the same time, hopefully they welcome me with open arms."

Just two Ducks remain from the team that traveled to Husky Stadium in 1999. Seniors Quinn Dorsey and Jason Fife were both freshmen on the trip.

Dorsey played minimally that season but did see a few plays against the Huskies. Fife was the third-string quarterback behind future NFLers A.J. Feeley and Joey Harrington.

Fife ended up redshirting that season.

The hostility the Ducks will face in Seattle may be unlike any the team has faced this season. Husky Stadium — with its scenic views, loud fans and usually poor weather — is Autzen North.

"I think it will be a lot like Mississippi State, actually," Oregon head coach Mike Bellotti said. "They're a very vocal crowd, very loud. Our kids responded very well to Mississippi State. They enjoyed that environment. They took a little bit of excitement from it."

"I'm sure we'll try to do the same thing for Husky Stadium. It is loud. It's a very raucous atmosphere and one, it's a great college environment."

The game will be a homecoming of sorts for six Ducks listed on the 2003 roster in the Oregon media guide. Of those six, Long and linebacker Jerry Matson have seen significant action for Oregon this season.

Two others, quarterback Johnny DuRocher and wide receiver Jordan Carey, are recently out of high school.

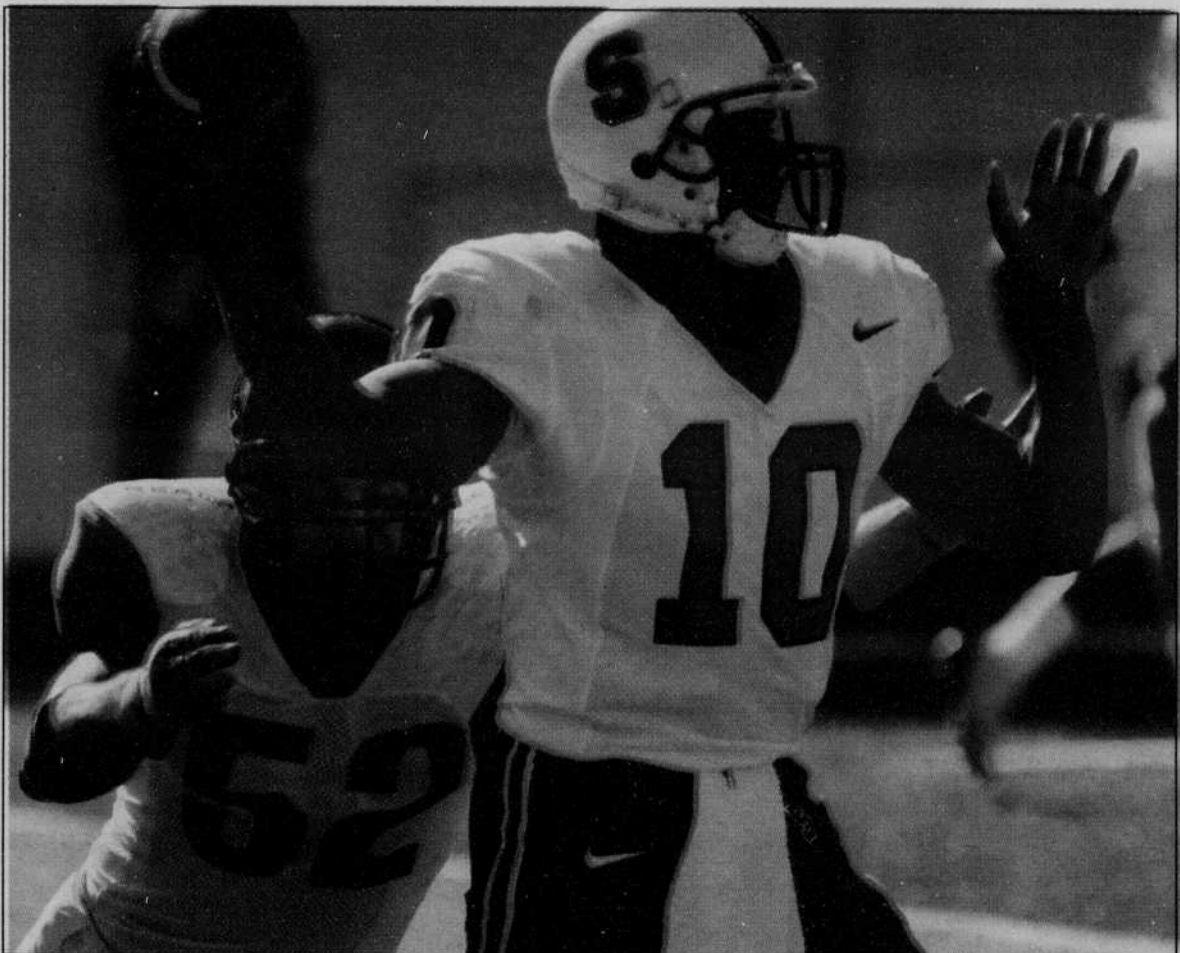
"I've been to a couple of Husky games when I was a young 'un," Long said. "They've got some pretty rowdy fans up there. I'm kind of excited. I always enjoy going to away games. I like playing against fans that kind of hate you."

As much as things change — the firing of Washington head coach Rick Neuheisel before this season and the loss of Onterio Smith to the NFL — they remain the same. Washington returns Williams, who burned the Ducks last season for 14 catches and 198 yards last season as a sophomore.

He is a familiar sight to Oregon fans, as is Pickett, a senior who has passed for more than 300 yards in a game just once this season. Williams is, however, still ready to strike at a moment's notice.

"We just can't give (Williams) an easy play," Oregon secondary coach John Neal said. "We give him an easy play if we let him get behind us, or miss a tackle and he runs down the sideline untouched. Obviously, that's not going to win us a game. We've got to have people around him. We've got to make sure we make tackles and as much as you can, have more than one set of eyes on him when the ball's in the air."

Contact the sports editor at hankhager@dailyemerald.com.



Adam Amato Photo Editor

Linebacker Jerry Matson (52) has 36 tackles this season, including seven tackles for a combined 22-yard loss and one sack.

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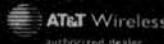
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