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Best bet  
College football:  
Oregon at Washington  
7 p.m. Saturday, TBS

Friday, October 31, 2003



**Jon Roetman**  
Roughing the passer

## Detroit should learn from Raiders

Joey Harrington and Marques Tuiasosopo will step onto the same field Sunday for the first time since September 2000.

Oh, how things have changed since then-No. 20 Oregon faced then-No. 6 Washington at Autzen Stadium.

Harrington, a junior at the time, threw for 119 yards and a touchdown while leading the Ducks to the 23-16 win. Tuiasosopo threw for 229 yards in their loss, which eventually cost the Huskies a shot at a national title.

While both quarterbacks will once again be leading teams in need of a win Sunday, similarities to the duo's Pacific-10 Conference glory days begin and end there.

Three years removed from a collegiate contest of immense importance, the former Pac-10 Offensive Players of the Year are now in charge of disappointing NFL squads.

Harrington has struggled through his first two seasons in Detroit. After a 3-13 campaign last year, he is taking most of the blame for the Lions' 1-6 start to the 2003 season. The third-overall pick in the 2002 draft, Harrington was thrown into the mix almost immediately, rather than being given time to observe from the sideline. Other than the Colts' Peyton Manning, history has shown that young quarterbacks struggle when they are forced to play too soon.

Harrington was handed the starting job just three games into his rookie season, taking over for an ineffective Mike McMahon. He has thrown 20 touchdown passes and 28 interceptions in his brief career, while amassing a passer rating of 58.7.

Tuiasosopo was never subjected to the pressures of saving a franchise as a rookie. Selected by Oakland in the second round of the 2001 draft, Tuiasosopo was given the chance to learn from the 2002 NFL Most Valuable Player, Rich Gannon, for his first two years in the league.

Tuiasosopo finally got his chance Oct. 20 against Kansas City when Gannon went down with a shoulder injury. The former Husky passed for 224 yards in relief duty and led the Raiders to the Chiefs' 1-yard line before time expired on his attempted fourth-quarter comeback.

The Raiders have put Tuiasosopo in a position to succeed. After soaking up information and getting a chance to throw to the likes of Jerry Rice and Tim Brown in practice, Tuiasosopo is light years ahead of where Harrington was when he got his first chance to start.

Being an older team and one in decline, the 2-5 Raiders should give Tuiasosopo the starting nod for the rest of the season. He's had the chance to stand on the sideline and observe. Now, let him get some playing time under his belt, especially with the Raiders out of playoff contention.

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## OSU defeats Ducks in four

Oregon blows an eight point lead in game three Thursday before falling to the Beavers in four sets at McArthur Court

By **Jon Roetman**  
Sports Reporter

The Oregon volleyball team could sense it. The 1,303 fans in attendance at McArthur Court could see it. After splitting games one and two with Oregon State Thursday, the Ducks inched closer to winning their first Pacific-10 Conference match of the season when they took a 23-15 lead in game three.

Then everything fell apart. Led by sophomore outside hitter Karah Rhoades, the Beavers (13-11 overall, 3-9 Pac-10) went on a 16-6 run — including eight consecutive points — to capture the decisive game three, 31-29, en route to a 3-1 (30-23, 27-30, 31-29, 30-24) win over the Ducks.

Oregon set the tone early in game three, jumping out to an 8-3 lead after a kill by junior Lauren Westendorf bounced off the chest of Beaver setter Laura Collins. But the Ducks couldn't put the Beavers away, mixing too many unforced errors in with their kills.

The Oregon State run in game three was similar to a run the Beavers made earlier this year against the Ducks. After falling behind 15-4 in game three of the season's first Civil War meeting, the Beavers went on to outscore the Ducks 26-13 to close out the game and the match.

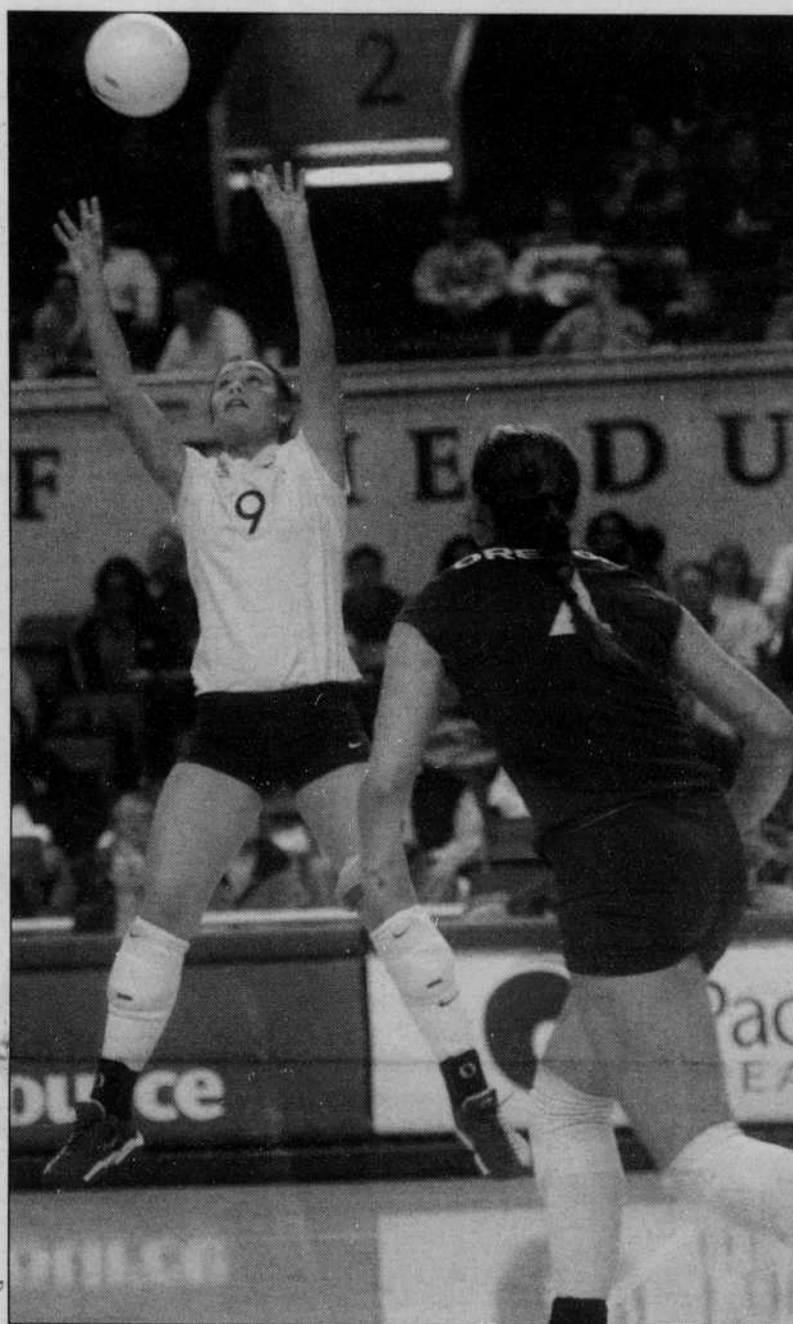
"Actually, that thought went through my head," Rhoades said in reference to the Beavers' early-season comeback. "We were down a couple points and I just thought, 'hey, we've been here before.' (We used) that experience to come back."

Rhoades was a constant thorn in Oregon's side, recording a double-double with 16 kills and 14 digs. She finished with 20.5 total points, including four service aces and a block assist.

"The crowd was rowdy tonight and it's a tough place to play no matter who you are," Rhoades said. "(Oregon) gave us a fight but it's a big win for us."

The loss was a painful one for the Ducks. Numerous mis-

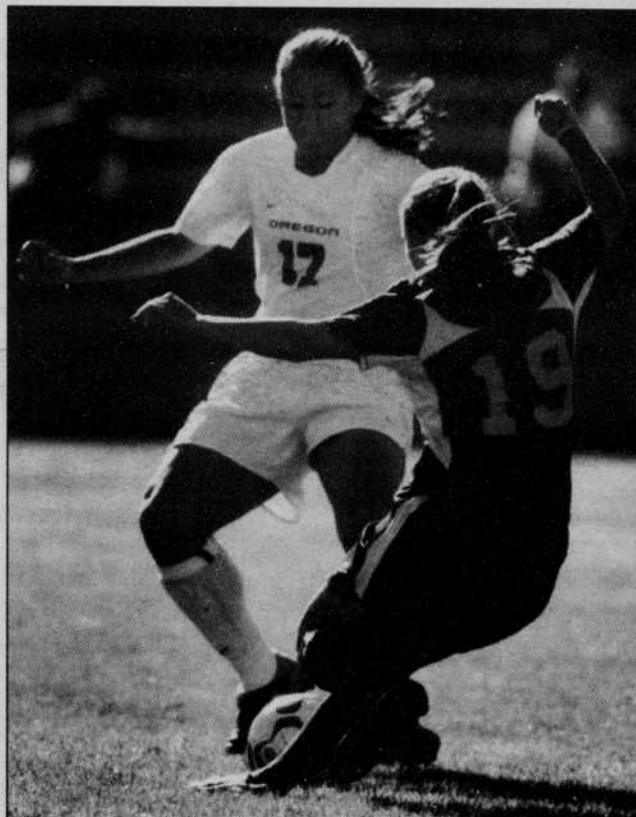
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Danielle Hickey Senior Photographer

Jodi Bell (9) dished out a match-high 48 assists in Thursday's loss to Oregon State.

## NCAA tournament at stake for Oregon



Mark McCambridge Photographer

Forward Nicole Garbin said the Ducks "have nothing to lose" as they head into their final two weekends of regular season play.

Oregon visits Arizona and Arizona State in a weekend that could vault the Ducks to their first postseason berth

By **Jesse Thomas**  
Sports Reporter

Oregon finally has control over its postseason destiny — the first time the situation has arisen.

As the Ducks head out to their final road trip of the season, they await a weekend that holds larger implications than any other has.

Oregon heads south for a two-game stint with the Arizona schools. The Ducks play Arizona State on Friday

in Tempe at 6 p.m. and finish the weekend on Sunday in Tucson with a game against the Wildcats. That game starts at noon.

"This is what we have been working all season for," sophomore defender Carlie Ashcraft said. "This is what all the fitness and all the training is working towards."

Oregon (8-8 overall, 2-3 Pacific-10 Conference) enters its final regular season road trip with confidence. The Ducks are coming off a 2-0 win over California last week at Papé Field, the team's second shutout

since August.

The Ducks have never advanced to the postseason in the seven-year history of the program. Arizona State, which Oregon faces on Friday night, has qualified for the tournament in two of the last three years.

"This weekend is very important for us, especially Friday," redshirt sophomore Nicole Garbin said. "Friday we need to get the 'W.' It's kind of a make-or-break-your-season type of game. If we get that win on Friday then Sunday's going to come a lot easier."

Arizona State (8-4-3, 2-2-1), which was ranked as high as 11th earlier this season, will also be looking to keep its postseason hopes alive after being swept by USC and UCLA last weekend.

Oregon holds a 2-4-1 series record against the Sun Devils. The last time the Ducks were in Tempe, in 2001, they won 3-2. Arizona State, now unranked, has shut out five opponents this season.

"They're a good team and they're finishing their last weekend at home so they'll be motivated," Oregon head coach Bill Steffen said. "Arizona State is a very talented team. It's going to be a real battle because we each have our motivating factors."

After Friday's matchup, Oregon will head to Tucson to face Arizona. Like the Ducks, the Wildcats have never advanced

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