

Bears' offense breaking records

Echemandu and McArthur could lead the Golden Bear offense to its first victory over the Ducks in 10 years

By Jesse Thomas
Sports Reporter

This weekend could mark a 10-year reunion for Cal.

It was 10 years ago that the Golden Bears last defeated the Ducks.

The 1993 game in Berkeley is significant because of how Cal (5-5 overall, 3-2 Pac-10) managed to win the game. The Bears overcame a 30-point first-half deficit to prevail over Oregon, 42-41.

That game is in the past. And Oregon has dominated the series for the past nine meetings, winning with a combined score of 212-103. Saturday night's meeting should be different.

Head coach Jeff Tedford will take to the sideline to try to outsmart his former colleague Mike Bellotti in a battle of brilliant offensive minds.

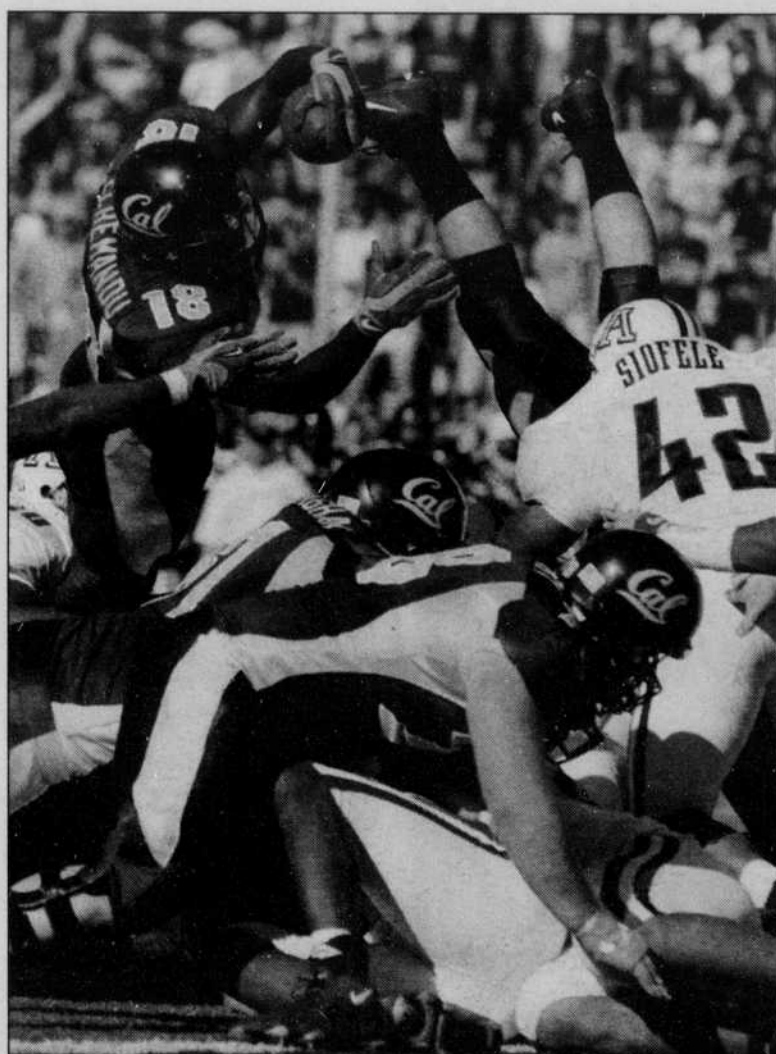
"I have tremendous respect for him and will always have tremendous respect for him," Tedford said. "I'm sure there'll be kind words in wishing each other well but again, (it's about) wanting to compete and wanting your team to win."

And Cal has some stars back on the roster that haven't faced Oregon in a long time. Senior tailback Adimchinobe Echemandu will make his return. Echemandu hasn't played against Oregon since the 2000 season after missing back-to-back seasons because of personal reasons.

The Lagos, Nigeria, native is now making up for lost time. Echemandu has emerged as one of the Pac-10's premier rushers, already having gained 1,009 yards on the ground.

Echemandu is averaging 5.5 yards per carry thus far this year and 132.8 rushing yards per game in his last five appearances. He already ranks No. 7 on Cal's all-time single season rushing list and has become just the 10th player in Golden Bear history to rush for more than 1,000 yards.

Echemandu isn't the only star on the



California Media Services

Senior tailback Adimchinobe Echemandu (18) has rushed for 1,009 yards this year.

Cal team to have earned more than 1,000 yards this season. Junior wide receiver Geoff McArthur is second among all NCAA Division I-A players in total receiving yards at 1,037.

McArthur has earned more than 100 yards receiving five times this season. If he has another big game against the Ducks, McArthur could break the single season receiving record for the Bears. Dameane Douglas set the team record of 1,150 yards in 1998, catching 100 passes that season.

McArthur has only caught 58 passes thus far, averaging 17.9 yards per catch. In Cal's last game at Arizona State, McArthur brought down only four passes, but earned 160 yards, averaging 40 yards per catch.

Tedford praised McArthur after the game, calling him one of Cal's most consistent players. But McArthur seems to be staying humble about the whole situation.

"It gives me chill bumps to know he thinks so highly of me," McArthur told the Contra Costa Times earlier this week. "He has molded me."

After the game, McArthur contin-

ued to give praise to his fellow teammates and credited Cal's success on their behalf.

"We were running on all cylinders," McArthur told the Contra Costa Times. "Our offensive line was opening holes, Aaron (Rodgers) was throwing balls where they needed to be."

If Cal is running on all cylinders against Oregon, it will be a difficult team to beat. Echemandu can cause havoc on the ground and McArthur could scorch the Oregon secondary. Quarterback Aaron Rodgers is coming off his finest game of the season after passing for 307 yards and three touchdowns against the Sun Devils.

As the Golden Bears come off their finest offensive showing all season — throwing up 51 points last weekend — the Bears will look to earn the first win in Autzen since 1987. It could be a blowout like it was against the Sun Devils or possibly a second-half comeback like the 1993 showdown.

Contact the sports reporter at jessethomas@dailyemerald.com.

Ducks hope to maintain focus for four quarters against Cal

Oregon has lost four of its last five games; the Ducks are searching for intensity and consistency Saturday

By Jon Roetman
Sports Reporter

When Demetrius Williams hauled in an 85-yard touchdown pass from Kellen Clemens on Saturday against Washington, it appeared Oregon's losing ways had come to an end.

The scoring toss gave the Ducks a 10-0 first-half lead over the Huskies, which seemed fairly secure after a 35-0 trouncing of Stanford a week prior.

But as quickly as it seemed that Oregon had broken old habits, the Ducks returned to form by allowing 42 unanswered points, leading to their fourth loss in the past five games.

"We felt real confident going in to halftime," Williams said of the Ducks' 10-7 lead at the break. "When we

came back out, it was a different game. We didn't have the same intensity."

Saturday's loss to the Huskies recalled a scenario painfully similar to last season. Just as the Oregon gets that winning flavor back against Stanford, a Washington school slaps the taste out of its mouth the following week.

Oregon linebacker Jerry Matson said the Ducks have to remember how good it feels to win if they are to avoid last season's collapse.

"Our break surely wasn't that long," linebacker Jerry Matson said. "It's kind of disappointing to go right back into (the loss column)."

"At least we got to taste victory and have some incentive for our guys to play. Hopefully we haven't forgotten what it took to get there, and hopefully we can return real soon."

Oregon players and coaches alike know that Oregon must maintain its focus for the entire game in order to

be successful. In the Stanford win, Oregon's focus and intensity carried into the fourth quarter when, despite leading 28-0, the Ducks held the Cardinal out of the end zone with a seven-play goal line stand. In their four losses, the Ducks either started slow or came out flat in the second half.

Oregon head coach Mike Bellotti was pleased to hear what his players were saying about wanting to play a complete game.

"Those are my exact words," Bellotti said. "I like the fact that they say that they believe that. It's very important (to be focused). No matter how we play in the first half, we have to play four full quarters and maybe more. We haven't done that as often as we need to, and that's the challenge to this group of kids."

With Jeff Tedford leading an exciting California team into Autzen Stadium, Oregon players know they'll have to be

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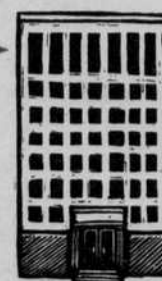
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