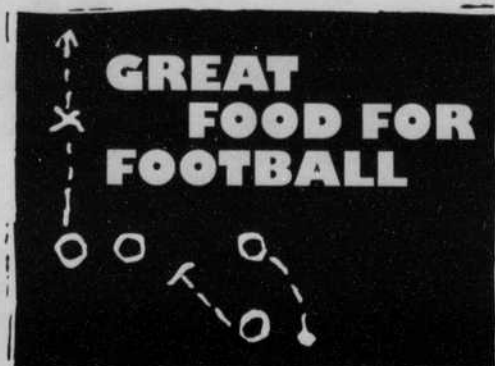




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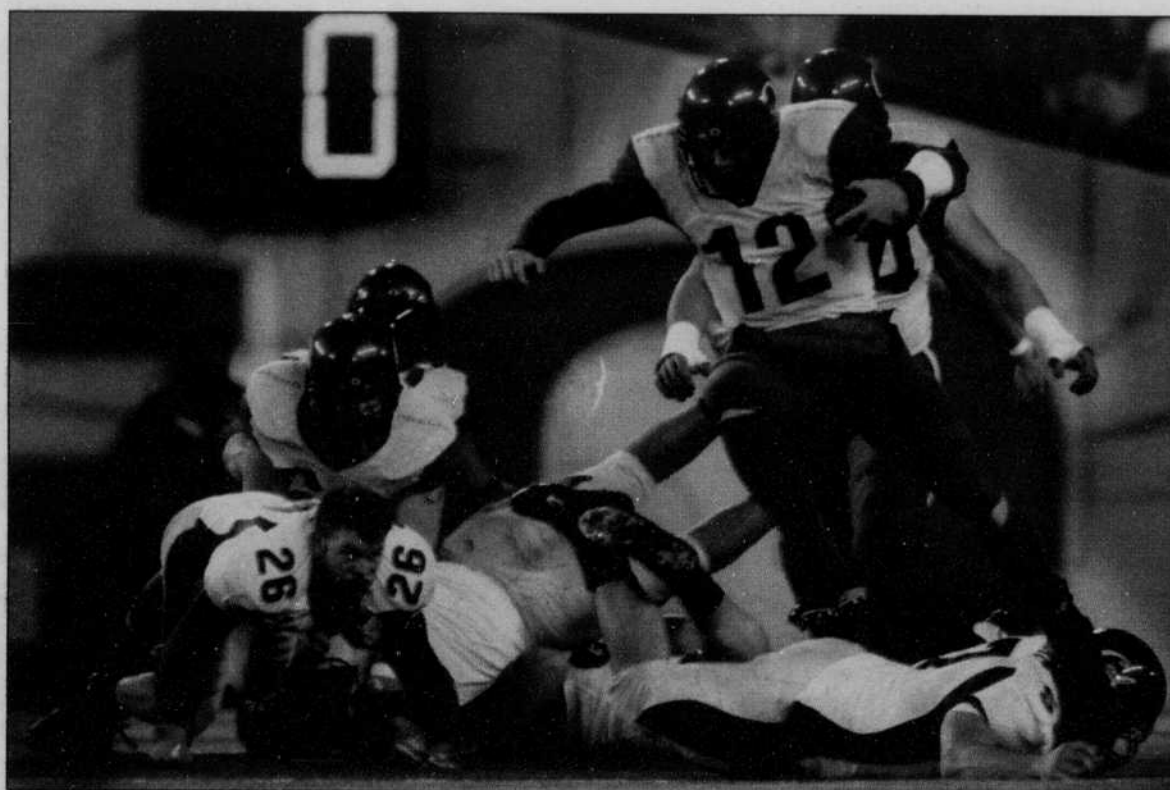
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Oregon Daily Emerald

GAME DAY

Friday, November 14, 2003

Sports Editor: Hank Hager



Mark McCambridge Photographer

Duck Jason Fife (12) hops over a California player while Golden Bear Ryan Foltz (26) looks on during Oregon's 21-17 win.

Part III: Ducks head south in search of seventh win

Oregon returns to the Rose Bowl where the Ducks and Bruins have battled to one-point games in two years

By Hank Hager
Sports Editor

Kevin Mitchell said he expects to have a lot of friends and family at Saturday's game.

It's a return home for freshman Kyle Weatherspoon, who said the first thing he wants to do is "see my mom."

Mitchell, Weatherspoon and a handful of other Ducks will get a chance to go home to Southern California when Oregon takes on UCLA Saturday at 12:30 p.m. It is the third straight season in which the Ducks will play at the Rose Bowl, yet another scheduling quirk in the Pacific-10 Conference.

"I don't like the three-times-in-a-row thing," Oregon head coach Mike Bellotti said. "But I understand the reasons to allow the geographic rivalries to continue. I was in favor of that. I don't understand why in all our infinite wisdom it has seemingly gone on for a long time."

Oregon has just three players that actually hail from Los Angeles — cornerbacks Marques Binns and Steven Moore and defensive end Darius Sanders — but there are myriad players who came to Oregon from the region. That includes quarterback Jason Fife, a native of Lake Elsinore; offensive lineman Adam Snyder, who hails from Whittier, which is approximately 20 miles outside of Los Angeles; and Long Beach's Sammie Parker.

With temperatures expected to be at a high of roughly 70 degrees, it will be a true homecoming for these players.

"It's exciting to get to go home and

see family and friends," Mitchell said. "It's exciting, and you really couldn't ask for any better of a situation."

The Ducks, though, will be all business when they step onto the Rose Bowl turf. Oregon and UCLA have seen their last two games decided by a combined total of two points, both of which were Duck wins.

Last season, it was a missed field goal by UCLA kicker Chris Griffith that gave the Ducks the 31-30 win. The year before was strikingly similar, with Griffith again missing a field goal in the waning minutes of the game. This one was a 50-yarder — 2002's was a 46-yarder — and the Ducks completed a fourth-quarter rally for the 21-20 win.

Only once since the 1989 season has either team defeated the other by more than 10 points. That happened in 2000 when Oregon won, 29-10, at Autzen Stadium.

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Ducks hope to feed off emotion against Bruins in pivotal contest

Momentum will be key for Oregon after the Ducks defeated California in the last minutes of last week's game

By Jesse Thomas
Sports Reporter

It was at the 10:07 mark in the fourth quarter of Saturday's game when Oregon head coach Mike Bellotti realized something was different on the sideline.

That was the time when Cal scored its final touchdown and took a 17-7 lead. That was the point when Oregon's mindset made a drastic change.

"At that point, our team woke up and said, 'enough is enough,'" Bellotti said. "For us at that point, I

don't know any one thing that happened other than the accumulation of frustration. Each player individually and collectively said, 'enough is enough.' Maybe they reached down a little bit deeper."

Free safety Justin Phinisee remembers what it was.

"We talked about having 'emo' on the field with us, that emotion out there, we had that last week," Phinisee said.

It was emotion that fueled Oregon to score 14 points in the fourth quarter for its first fourth-quarter comeback in 17 games. It was emotion that helped the Ducks become eligible for a bowl game. It was emotion that helped the Ducks remember why they like football.

"In the beginning of the season, the

first four or five games, (we were) coming out and playing hard, playing fast and having fun, and I think we kind of got away from that a little bit," Phinisee said. "I think those were fading away like I said last week, and I think we're back."

Emotion helped get the Ducks to this point. Oregon players believe that the momentum from the win will be a key component in the final two games against UCLA and Oregon State.

"(We have) quite a bit of momentum, but we can't get overconfident and overlook anybody," quarterback Kellen Clemens said. "UCLA is a very good team. They've struggled as of late, but so had we. We can't get overconfident going into this game by any

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