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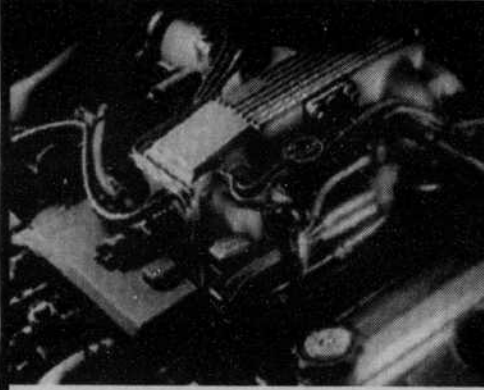
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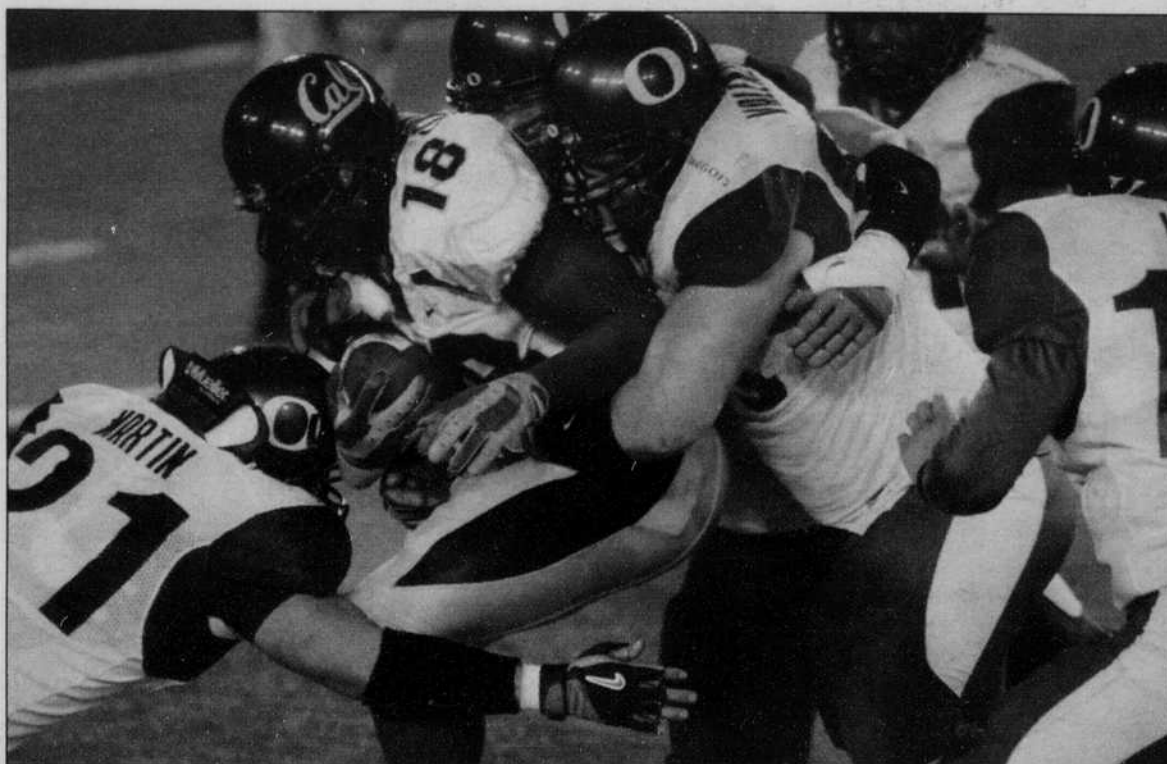
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Mark McCambridge Photographer

Oregon's defense controlled California's Adimchinobe Echemandu (18) on Saturday, holding him to 65 rushing yards.

PREVIEW

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"I just think we'll get their best," Mitchell said. "They've lost two in a row. I think that they'll come out and give us their best, and we'll try to give them ours."

Both teams know bowl invitations are at the forefront of the game. The Ducks and Bruins both enter the game with six wins, which guarantees they will be at least .500 when the season ends. That, however, will not guarantee a postseason.

The Bruins are one game ahead of the Ducks in the Pac-10 standings, but UCLA is slumping. It has lost two in a row — an upset by Stanford and a

blowout loss to Washington State — and it is hungry for its seventh win of the season.

"They didn't play real well in the last few games," Oregon wide receiver Demetrius Williams said. "They've had a few letdowns. I see them as a real good team, and it will be a challenge for us."

At Oregon's weekly video session on Monday, players saw UCLA running back Maurice Drew, a freshman who has come on to lead the Bruins in their ground game. They saw two quarterbacks — Matt Moore and Drew Olson — who have virtually shared the starting quarterback role.

They saw a defense that is ranked second in the Pac-10. That's a defense that has the conference's leading tack-

ler, Brandon Chillar, and its sacks leader, Dave Ball.

"I look at (UCLA's) roster, and it's amazing the number of people we recruited, offered and did not get," Bellotti said. "I think that it really doesn't matter how UCLA's been playing or how we've been playing. It's very important for us to show well."

For some Ducks, it will be their first chance to go home. For others, it will be their last game in an Oregon uniform in Southern California.

Oregon won't be back to the Rose Bowl against the Bruins until the 2007 season.

The Ducks want to make a lasting impression.

Contact the sports editor
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MOMENTUM

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means, but it does help our confidence, which coming out of that Washington game was hurt."

Confidence has had its effects on Oregon this season. The Ducks know what confidence can do to a team and the positives it brings. They know that their team needs it to win.

"It can help for a fourth-quarter comeback," Clemens said. "I don't know if the team that wasn't very confident to win that game would've won it. Being confident that you have the ability to win and show up week in and week out is going to help in practice, which in turn carries over into games."

Being able to perform week in and

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

Justin Phinisee
Oregon cornerback

week out hasn't been the easiest task for the Ducks this season. Aside from the four-game winning streak to start the season, Oregon hasn't won two in a row since.

But that could change in the Rose Bowl this weekend. If the momentum from Saturday's win leads the Ducks into Los Angeles, they could have the upper hand against a UCLA team that has lost two straight.

Yet Bellotti is skeptical.
"I hope so, but I don't know," Bel-

lotti said of what momentum can do for his team. "I thought we would have achieved something like that after Stanford, and we certainly did not. I think it's very important that we do understand what we've done correctly to get where we are and what we've not done."

What Bellotti does not doubt is the effects emotion can have on his team. He saw how it worked on Saturday night, where Oregon looked like the team of old. Oregon will need it again against UCLA.

"Emotion has to be our 12th man on the field," Bellotti said. "When you don't have it, you're down a man. When you have it, and it's generally self-instilled, then I think you can play to a higher level."

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RICE

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recruited to play and maybe a touch of that November magic.

Oregon's seven November losses have come at the hands of four teams. Three losses were Civil War matches. Two are the recent back-to-back losses to Washington. The Ducks also have dropped a game to Arizona State and Washington State previously in November.

So the Ducks will need to win this weekend, or the next, to really earn a bowl spot. A non-televised game at the Rose Bowl — one bowl game the Ducks have no shot at this season — and a grudge match between in-state rivals.

Sounds exactly like the action-packed end-of-season scenarios that the Pac-10 creates every year. Got to love that shaker jar.

Contact the senior sports reporter
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Her views do not necessarily
represent those of the Emerald.