

GOTW: ASU running game key for Walter

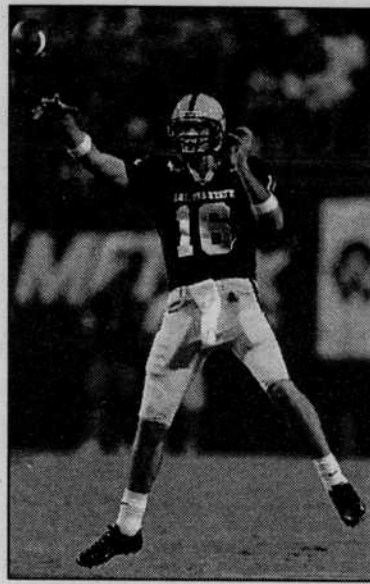
Continued from page 8

attempts without an interception (his last interception was Nov. 15, 2003 against Washington State).

Walter's favorite target is off to a hot start as well. Receiver Derek Hagan has caught 16 passes for 273 yards and three touchdowns in his first two games this season. The junior wide receiver caught eight passes for 154 yards and two touchdowns against Northwestern last week.

Arizona State's high-powered passing offense — ranked seventh in the nation averaging 324 yards per game — will be put to the test as Iowa boasts one of the best defenses in the country. The Hawkeyes are coming off a 17-10 victory over in-state rival Iowa State, holding the Cyclones to 236 total yards on offense.

Iowa's pass defense should give the Sun Devils fits as they are 19th in the nation giving up 146.5 yards per contest. The Hawkeyes' rushing defense isn't too shabby either: They rank third in the nation, giving up only 26.5 yards per game. With the rush defense being so dominant, Iowa is able to drop more players back into



COURTESY | ARIZONA STATE ATHLETIC DEPARTMENT

Arizona State quarterback Andrew Walter is four touchdown passes away (61) from passing the school record of 65 by Jake Plummer. Walter is also 16 away from tying the Pac-10 record of 77 by Hall-of-Famer John Elway.

coverage to defend the pass.

The key for Arizona State will be to get sophomore running back Loren Wade going in order to give Walter, Hagan and the rest of the Sun Devil offense more

openings to throw the ball.

Sophomore quarterback Drew Tate leads Iowa's offense. Tate was accurate against Iowa State as he completed 16 of 22 passes for 220 yards and a touchdown. The performance improved his passing efficiency to 147.3, ranking him 25th in the nation.

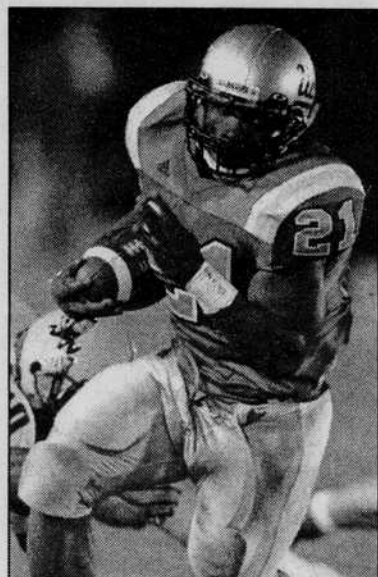
On the ground, the Hawkeyes feature senior running back Jermelle Lewis. Lewis was a workhorse against Iowa State, running the ball 30 times for 102 yards.

The Arizona State defense will be led by last week's Pac-10 Defensive Player of the Week Dale Robinson. The junior linebacker recorded 14 tackles last week and leads the Pac-10 with 5.5 tackles for losses this season.

Even though this will be one of the Sun Devils' toughest opponents this season, Koetter said he doesn't believe this game will define the team's season.

"My philosophies are big and every week is the Super Bowl," Koetter said. "I'm not trying to down grade this game. This is the biggest game we have this week."

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COURTESY | UCLA ATHLETIC DEPARTMENT

UCLA tailback Maurice Drew leads the Bruins' offense into Seattle after gaining 142 rushing yards last week at Illinois.

Pac-10: OSU tries to avoid first 0-3 start since 1996

Continued from page 8

20-12 to Colorado at home, while Idaho lost their second straight game, 14-7 to Utah State, to start the season.

Sophomore quarterback Josh Swogger looks to regain control of the Washington State offense completing just six of 27 passes for only 77 yards.

Oregon State (0-2) vs. New Mexico (1-1)

This game will be the rematch of last year's Las Vegas Bowl, in which the Beavers trounced New Mexico 55-14. Oregon State, though, will try to avoid their first 0-3 start to a season since opening the 1996 campaign 0-5.

The Beavers are led by receiver Mike Haas, who set a Pac-10 record with 293 yards on 12 receptions in last week's 55-34 loss at Boise State. Haas, a junior from Portland, was named the Pac-10 Offensive Player of the Week. For the season, Haas has averaged 171.5 receiving yards per game (first in the NCAA).

Oregon State has won two of the teams' past three meetings, including last year's Las Vegas Bowl victory and a 28-20 win in Albuquerque, N.M., in 2000.

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Dixon: Dixon's ability looks promising to teammates

Continued from page 3

defensive tackle Haloti Ngata said.

"He's the complete player out there and reminds me of Mike Vick," tight end Tim Day said. "He's young and learning behind Kellen Clemens, so I think when it is his chance, he will be very good."

Dixon hears all the comparisons to Vick and Randall Cunningham, and he doesn't mind but said he has his own style to the game.

He also mentions he has learned a lot from two of the Ducks star offensive players: Kellen Clemens and Demetrius Williams.

"Kellen tells me everything I need to know and is a good role model for me," Dixon said. "With Demetrius, seeing that he is a receiver tells me about situations I should and should not throw the ball [in]."

Though he is one of Oregon's top freshmen, it doesn't keep him from getting pranked from his older teammates.

"They'll play dirty jokes on me or put something in my hair, but I know it's out of love," Dixon said. "They'll also tell me there will be a team meeting in five minutes in a certain place, and there won't be one."

Despite the pranks, Dixon will be the main man at Oregon one day and bring a brand of football that will excite fans. He knows this, as well, and wants to make his mark on the long quarterback history at Oregon.

"I want my name to be heard and for people to understand that Dennis Dixon was a quarterback at the University of Oregon. That's my main goal," Dixon said.

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