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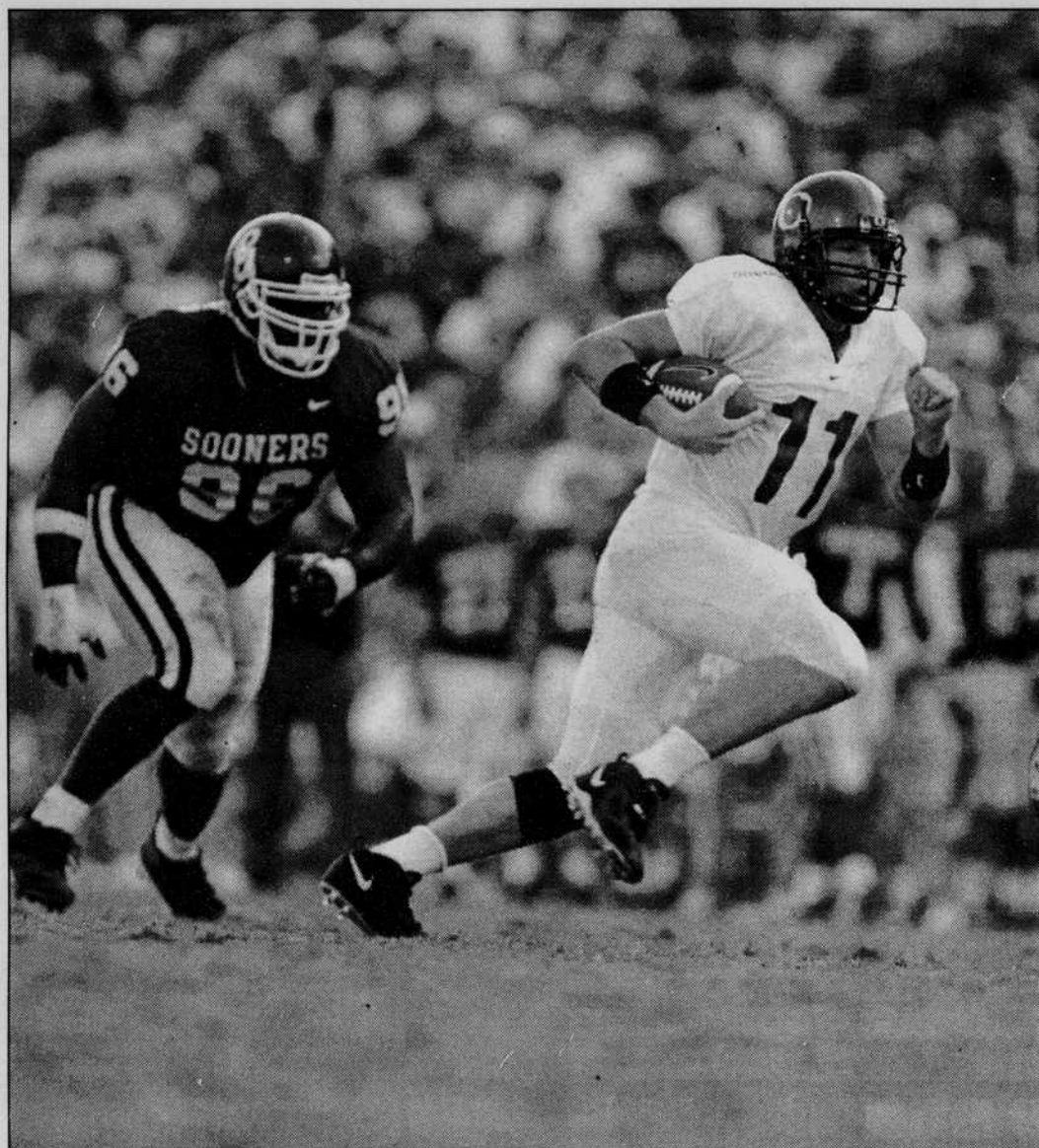
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Oregon quarterback Kellen Clemens has thrown one touchdown pass in his last seven games. He threw for 179 yards last week in the 31-7 loss at Oklahoma.

MARK
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Oregon: Clemens continues TD streak

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on Washington's all-time passing list with 6,781 yards and 67 touchdowns for his prep career.

"He was in the mix (for the backup position) but was beaten out," Bellotti said. "He was closer in some ways to being our second quarterback, and I was optimistic that he could challenge not just for the backup role, but eventually for the starting role. It was a very competitive situation. I wish him well."

No smell of victory for Idaho since 1950

Saturday's tilt will mark the 59th meeting between the schools since the series originated in 1901. Only California, Oregon State, Stanford, Washington and Washington State have faced the Ducks more times than Idaho.

Oregon has won the past 22 games since the Vandals' last victory in 1950, while Idaho's only win in 34 tries in Eugene (there were two ties) occurred in 1925. The Ducks are 7-0 in games played vs. Idaho in Autzen Stadium.

In the Ducks' last victory against Idaho, running back Onterio Smith rushed for 104 yards and three touchdowns to propel Oregon to a 58-21 win. The Ducks jumped out to a 34-7 advantage with less than a minute elapsed in the third quarter despite the Vandals accumulating

more total yards of offense (404-403) by game's end. Kicker Jared Siegel successfully converted all three field goal attempts, and quarterback Kellen Clemens came off the bench to misfire on his only pass in addition to succumbing to a quarterback sack for a 6-yard loss.

Outland Trophy candidate

Adam Snyder would probably like to concern himself with nothing more than the next practice or next opponent, but the senior lineman is already on the Outland Trophy watch list. The Outland Trophy is given annually to the best lineman in college football.

You would have to go back almost 40 years to find the last time the Ducks returned a first-team Pacific-8/10 all-conference offensive lineman.

Snyder started all 13 games last year, with his biggest moment coming when he was named Pac-10 Offensive Player of the Week following Oregon's 31-27 win over Michigan. That marked the first time a Pac-10 offensive lineman was afforded the honor since UCLA's Jonathan Ogden in 1995, and the first such Oregon honoree since Gary Zimmerman in 1983.

Lucky seven

With touchdown passes in each of his first two games this season, quarterback Kellen Clemens has extended his streak of consecutive

games of throwing at least one touchdown pass to seven. In comparison, Jason Fife had a streak of 12 straight in 2002, while Joey Harrington only managed a streak of eight games from 2000 to 2001.

What's a missed PAT?

Jared Siegel has run his string of consecutive conversions to a school-record 95 successful kicks. The senior has only missed two attempts in 151 tries in his collegiate career, and only Mississippi senior Jonathan Nichols is currently riding a longer uninterrupted string, as he has made 101 in a row. Both Siegel and Nichols are a long way from the NCAA record of 161 made without a miss, set by Tennessee's John Becksvoort (1991-94).

Nelson steps up his play

The pain from the departure of Ducks free safety Keith Lewis has been eased somewhat by the strong play of sophomore free safety J.D. Nelson.

Nelson — who is said to be the opposite of Lewis' visible and vocal style of play — has asserted himself on the field. He posted a team-high 10 tackles vs. Indiana and then followed that performance up with eight stops against Oklahoma. Nelson is the son of former Stanford All-American and Minnesota Vikings running back Darrin Nelson.

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Preview: Ngata and Phinisee questionable

Continued from page 2

down Idaho quarterback Michael Harrington and the Vandals' short, precise passing attack.

"The defense has a lot of confidence right now," junior defensive end Devan Long said. "I think we played great for three quarters (against Oklahoma), and I think we're going to do real well this weekend."

While the defense is confident, it will likely be without two of its stars.

Junior cornerback Justin Phinisee and sophomore defensive tackle Haloti Ngata are both suffering from leg injuries and will be game-time decisions. Bellotti said he would like to keep both athletes out of the game if possible.

Junior cornerback Aaron Gipson suffered a concussion against Oklahoma, but will play Saturday, pending medical clearance.

Bellotti said Oregon will turn the season around, starting with

a win against Idaho.

"(Oregon players) have a lot of pride," Bellotti said. "They understand to this point that we have under-achieved. Not saying with wins and losses, but the way that we play. To me, it's more important that we play up to our potential and we feel good when we leave the field, and the winning and losing will take care of itself."

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