

■ Duck football

Ducks gain momentum with win over Cougars

Oregon players and coaches are optimistic after Saturday's 41-38 victory at Washington State

BY JON ROETMAN
SENIOR SPORTS REPORTER

After Oregon's dramatic come-from-behind victory against Washington State on Saturday, the Ducks greeted their Martin Stadium cheering section with the exuberance of a team that had just won the Rose Bowl.

Athletes swapped high-fives with ecstatic fans and released thunderous roars of pleasure. But it was the actions of two Oregon coaches at the opposite end of the field that truly epitomized the emotional 41-38 win.

As head coach Mike Bellotti prepared for television interviews, receivers coach Dan Ferrigno rushed the dean of Pacific-10 Conference coaches and delivered a hug with more force than most linebackers use on a given tackle. Bellotti's ensuing smile lit up the darkening Palouse sky and showed signs of a feeling the Ducks hadn't experienced for quite some time: relief.

Oregon's win against Washington State was more than just a barn-burning display of offensive authority. It was a victory that put the Ducks back into the hunt for the Pac-10 title and helped them avoid their first 1-4 start since 1982, when Oregon lost eight of its first nine games and finished 2-8-1.

"Those guys did not give up," Bellotti said of his players after the game. "They never lost faith despite some unbelievable (Cougar) plays and some unbelievable (officiating) calls."

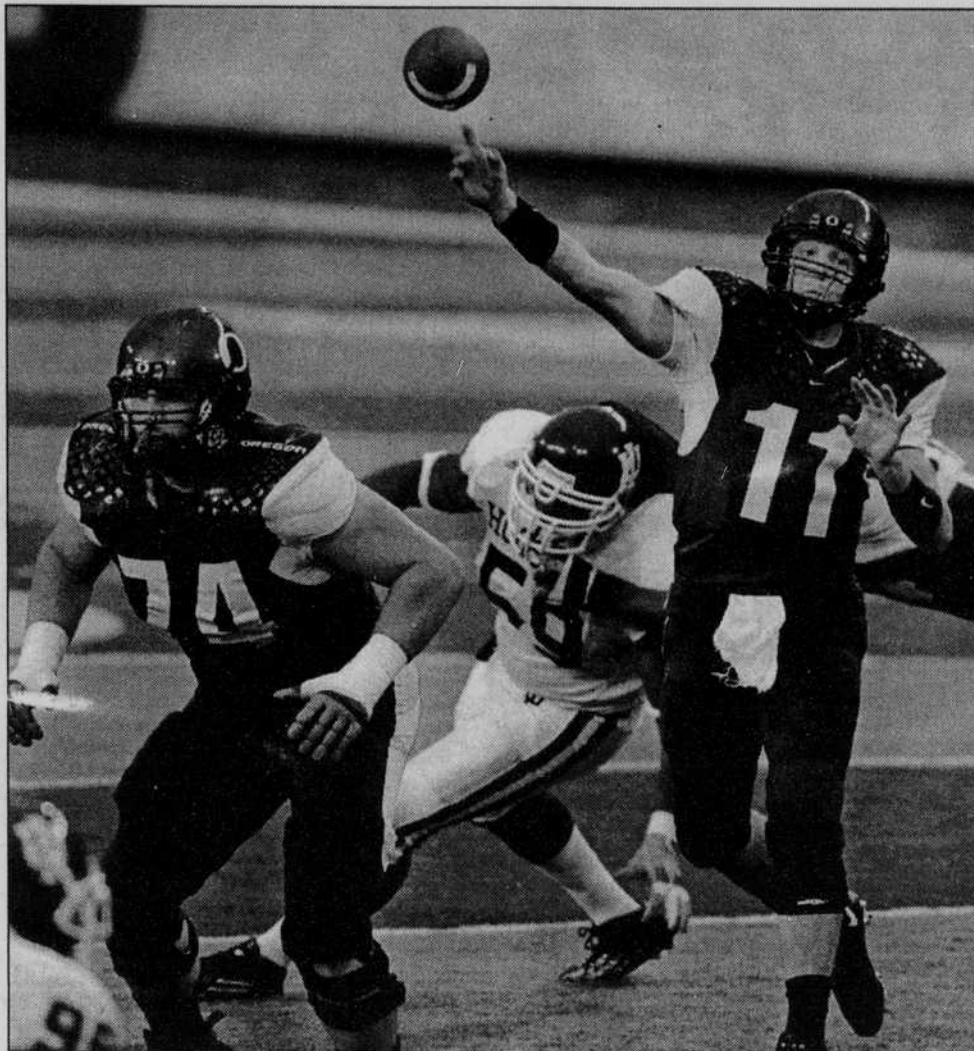
"These kids ... I love 'em."

Offensive tackle Adam Snyder said Saturday's win lifted a lot of pressure off the team's shoulders and should act as motivation for the rest of the season.

"It's something we needed to do," Snyder said. "When you see that reward I think it's a big, positive influence."

Clemens hosed

Oregon quarterback Kellen Clemens' career performance on Saturday was strong enough to warrant nomination for the Cingular/ABC



ERIK R. BISHOFF | PHOTOGRAPHER

Kellen Clemens, seen here against Indiana, threw for 437 yards and had a hand in all six of Oregon's touchdowns. Despite his career performance, California's Aaron Rodgers became the Pac-10 Player of the Week.

Sports All-America Player of the Week award, but wasn't good enough for Pac-10 Player of the Week honors. The Burns native completed 36 of 55 passes for 437 yards and three touchdowns and also rushed for 36 yards and three more scores, but lost out to California quarterback Aaron Rodgers. The junior completed

29 of 34 passes — including tying an NCAA record 23 in a row — for 267 yards and a touchdown during a 23-17 loss to top-ranked Southern California.

Clemens' passing yardage total was the seventh-highest in Oregon history, five yards shy of Akili Smith's 442-yard performance against

Washington in 1998. Bill Musgrave's 489-yard effort against BYU in 1989 tops the list.

Clemens' 473 yards of total offense ranks second all-time behind Musgrave, who amassed 498 yards during his 1989 performance.

Bellotti said Clemens deserved conference honors.

"Yeah, I'm a little surprised," Bellotti said of Rodgers winning the award. "Kellen put up record numbers in a winning effort against the No. 2 defense in the conference and had a hand in six touchdowns."

"I know those statistics are unmatched in our conference this past week. I know Aaron is a good quarterback and tied a record for efficiency, which is important, but I do think winning and the overall aspect of the game is important."

Oregon teammates said Clemens' play down the stretch of Saturday's win was inspirational.

"The way he composed himself was unbelievable," Snyder said. "Looking at him helped us on the offensive line to bring us down for a second and do what we needed to do to win."

Playmakers

The Oregon offense had four players each account for more than 100 yards of offense on Saturday, with two surpassing the 200-yard mark.

Wide receiver Demetrius Williams busted out of his season-long slump by catching 12 passes for 126 yards. While the junior failed to reach the end zone, his ability to get open created opportunities for his teammates.

Tight end Tim Day had the best game of his career, catching eight balls for 152 yards and a pair of touchdowns. Bellotti said the Ducks forced the ball into the 268-pounder across the middle of the field.

Lost amid Oregon's impressive aerial display was the performance of running back Terrence Whitehead. The junior totaled 237 yards, with 166 coming on the ground. The Los Angeles native is now eight yards short of the 500-yard mark for the season.

In all, the Ducks gained 646 yards of total offense against the Cougars, including 393 in the second half.

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■ Duck volleyball

Attendance increases as Pac-10 play heats up

Oregon is struggling to keep up with a conference featuring six nationally ranked teams

BY STEPHEN MILLER
SPORTS REPORTER

Oregon is starting to feel the repercussions from losing the spark plug of its attack. The Ducks were outscored 208-151 in two losses last weekend against Arizona and Arizona State. Without Lauren Westendorf's 5.06 kills per game, Oregon's crippled offense has not found an immediate resolution to its struggle.

Sophomore Sarah Mason earned 26 of Oregon's 80 kills in the last two matches. She is averaging 3.86 kills per game, which is eighth in

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■ Men's golf

Ducks finish ninth at Stanford tourney

Eric Hastings finished the tournament tied for 14th place, while Gregg LaVoie and Joey Benedetti also had solid performances

BY SCOTT J. ADAMS
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The Oregon men's golf team dropped two spots in Tuesday's final round to finish ninth at the Alistair Mackenzie Invitational in Fairfax, Calif.

Sophomore Eric Hastings finished the three-round tournament in a tie for 14th after shooting his third consecutive round of 72 at the par-71, 6,583-yard Meadow Club.

The tie for 14th was Oregon's highest finisher and also was a personal best for Hastings, surpassing his tie for 24th at the Northwest Collegiate Classic last month.

Oregon State won the tournament by seven strokes after a final round of 283, four strokes under par. In second place was No. 20 Purdue with 855 and California was third with a 856. Two other Pacific-10 Conference teams finished in the top ten with No. 22 Washington at ninth and Stanford at tenth.

In individual play, Northwestern's Dillon Dougherty and Purdue's Bobby Bennett tied for first with 6-under-par 207s.

Oregon freshman Joey Benedetti fell after

a promising first two rounds. He finished in a tie for 33rd after an 8-over-par 79.

Springfield native Justin St. Clair shot a 3-over-par 74 in the final round to finish the tournament in 39th place. Junior Gregg LaVoie finished tied with St. Clair after also shooting a 74 in the final round.

LaVoie and Benedetti were the only Ducks to shoot an under-par round. LaVoie shot a 70 in the second round while Benedetti also shot a 70 in the first round.

Oregon finished the second round clinging to a one-stroke lead over Illinois. The Ducks carded a team score of 580, placing them seventh after the second round.

The Ducks were aided with youthful support from Benedetti, who led the team with an even-par 142. Benedetti ended the second round tied for eleventh in the tournament. Benedetti's career-best two-round scores of 70 and 72 left him six strokes behind tournament leader Travis Bertoni of Cal Poly. Bertoni finished the second round at 136 after a first-round 69 and an improved second-round 67.

Hastings matched his first-round score with an encore 72, bringing his score to two strokes over par at 144. Like Benedetti, Hastings finished in a tie, but for 17th place after two rounds.

St. Clair continued his consistent ways with a decent second-round performance which found him six strokes over par at 148 after the second round.

St. Clair sat tied at 42nd place with teammate LaVoie, who shaved an impressive eight strokes off his first-round score to end the second round with a birdie 1-under-par after the second. LaVoie was the only Oregon player to finish the second round with a score better than his first round.

Oregon State continued to dominate team play and finished atop the field tied for first with Northwestern at 565 after the second round of play.

Pac-10 Conference foe California found themselves alone in fourth place at 569, followed by Kansas State and Cal Poly tied at 572 after two rounds.

Stanford, the hosting school, sat one stroke behind Pacific with a 593, good enough for 12th place after the second round.

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