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■ In my opinion

Oregon still has plenty to prove against inferior Arizona squad

Penalties aside, Oregon's offensive execution Saturday against Washington State was something to behold.

Kellen Clemens lit the Cougars up for 437 passing yards and accounted for six touchdowns.

Demetrius Williams and Tim Day combined to catch 20 passes and Terrence Whitehead amassed 237 total yards.

All of those flashy numbers won't mean jack, however, when Oregon faces Arizona at Autzen Stadium on Saturday. If the Ducks want to be considered a quality team — like many of their players and coaches believe is true — they need another strong offensive performance against an inferior Wildcat team.

I know, I know. Any team in the Pacific-10 Conference can beat any other team on any given blah, blah, blah.

Right? Not in this situation. Not if Oregon wants to be taken seriously.

This is a game of opportunity for the Ducks.

The Oregon offense, which sputtered early in the season, needs to put together strong outings in



JON ROETMAN
ROUGHING THE PASSER

consecutive games. Oregon isn't expected to score 41 points and tally 646 yards every week, but having drives stall in the red zone or not being able to throw the ball downfield against Arizona wouldn't bode well for the rest of its season.

While the Wildcats' defense is ranked No. 22 in the nation for yards allowed, it surrendered five touchdowns to UCLA on Saturday during Arizona's first road game of the season.

Though Oregon is ranked No. 16 in the country with 445.6 yards of offense per game, the Ducks have struggled to get the ball into the end zone prior to beating the Cougars. Saturday's meeting with Arizona is an opportunity for Oregon to show its scoring barrage in Pullman, Wash., was no fluke. It's an opportunity for

Williams and Day to show they can get open consistently. It's an opportunity for Whitehead to reaffirm his up-and-coming status as one of the Pac-10's most dangerous tailbacks. Most of all, it's an opportunity for Oregon to get back to .500 and remain in the conference race.

Oh yeah, the Duck defense has some things to prove as well.

Oregon was victimized once again by the big play on Saturday. Washington State was held to 374 yards of total offense, but quarterback Josh Swogger torched Oregon cornerback Marques Binns for a pair of touchdowns and wide receiver Michael Bumpus broke several tackles to return a punt 52 yards for a touchdown.

Oregon faces an Arizona team that ranks dead last in the Pac-10 in passing offense, total offense and scoring offense. There's no way the Ducks should allow 20 points to the Wildcats, who have reached that mark only once this season — against hapless Northern Arizona.

Saturday presents an opportunity for the Oregon defense to eliminate

ROETMAN, page 7B

Oregon: Five blocked kicks for Ngata in career

Continued from page 5B

Washington State, Clemens tied the school record for most touchdowns in a game with Harrington (vs. Arizona State, 2000 and 2001) and Danny O'Neil (vs. Stanford, 1994).

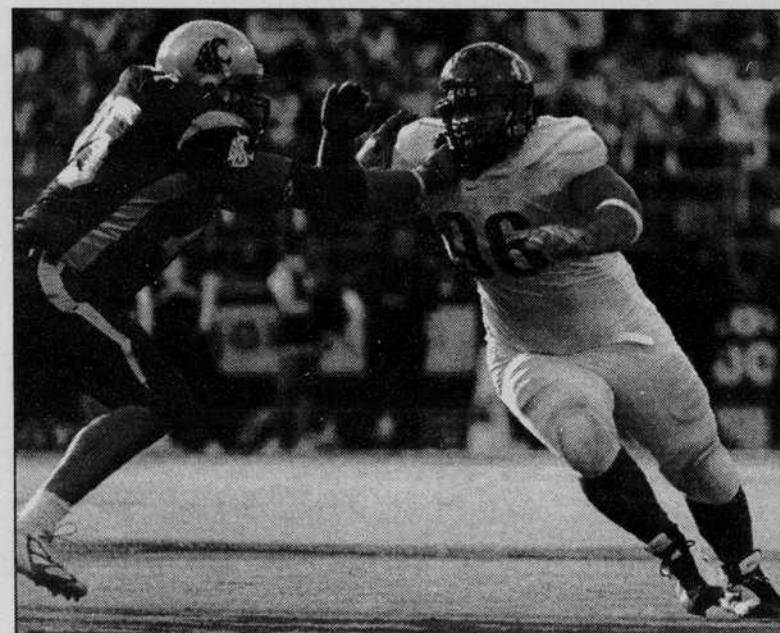
Clemens also had personal bests in total offense (473 yards, second all-time in Oregon history), completions (36, second all-time), pass attempts (55, tied for third all-time) and yards passing (437, seventh all-time).

Sustained achievement

Oregon embarked on this season in search of a school-record 11th straight winning season. The Ducks' 10 straight tied the school record set from 1902-11, while that feat has only been surpassed by three other conference opponents. USC (1962-82) and Washington (1977-97) each compiled streaks of 21 seasons in a row, while Stanford put together a streak of 13 from 1923-35.

Another block for Ngata

Redshirt sophomore defensive lineman Haloti Ngata is becoming a menace for opposing kicking units. His blocked extra point against the Cougars marked the second block in the last three games — he had a blocked field goal against Idaho — and the fifth of his career. He blocked kicks against UCLA (extra point), USC (field



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Defensive tackle Haloti Ngata blocked the fifth kick of his Oregon career against Washington State on Saturday when he turned away a Cougar extra point. It was his second block of the season, including a blocked field goal against Idaho.

goal) and Washington State (extra point) as a true freshman in 2001.

Stoops the sequel

After Saturday, Oregon will become the first program in the country to face two Stoops-coached teams in

one season. The Ducks were unsuccessful in their first attempt, against Bob Stoops' Oklahoma Sooners, after suffering a 31-7 loss in Norman, Okla.

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