

■ In my opinion

Tim Day, Oregon offense will explode against Stanford

Tim Day moved gingerly around practice Monday with a protective boot on his sore right foot.

Oregon's massive tight end sported his trademark grin, however, because the device was only precautionary.

In fact, with 12 receptions, 237 yards and a pair of touchdowns during Oregon's last two games, it appears Day has returned to form as an intimidating pass-catching force.

Unless, of course, Pacific-10 Conference coaches have found a way to incorporate a plastic shoe into their defensive schemes.

With the latter being unlikely, Oregon's offense should continue to flourish with the resurgence of Day and wide receiver Demetrius Williams.

Williams followed up his 12-catch,



JON ROETMAN
ROUGHING THE PASSER

126-yard performance at Washington State with a nine-catch, 153-yard effort against Arizona.

The duo has re-energized the Ducks' downfield passing game and showed both could get open in consecutive contests for the first time this season.

"We're starting to get consistent now," Day said. "It's what we needed

to do all season. We are back, and I think our big players are starting to step up. We're starting to roll."

The Ducks' ability to stretch the field vertically has made their offense legit. Defenses can no longer focus on stopping running back Terrence Whitehead or eliminating shovel passes and underneath crossing routes.

Williams pointed to a more relaxed Kellen Clemens as the catalyst for Oregon's success.

The junior quarterback has thrown for more than 300 yards in each of the last two weeks and is second in the Pac-10 in passing yardage. Clemens has also made smart decisions, playing five straight weeks without throwing an interception.

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Oregon: Clemens nears Fife's consecutive TD record

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In the Ducks' 30-24 season-opening loss to Indiana alone, they turned the ball over seven times and forced only two turnovers.

Clemens has eleven, looking for twelve

With his touchdown last week against Arizona, junior quarterback Kellen Clemens extended his streak of consecutive games with a touchdown pass to 11. Clemens is now one behind former Duck Jason Fife, who threw a touchdown in each of the 12 games in 2002. Other Duck notables include Heisman Trophy finalist Joey Harrington, who compiled a streak of eight (2000-01), and Akili Smith, whose eleven straight games in 1997-98 leave him tied with Clemens.

Anyone got a ticket?

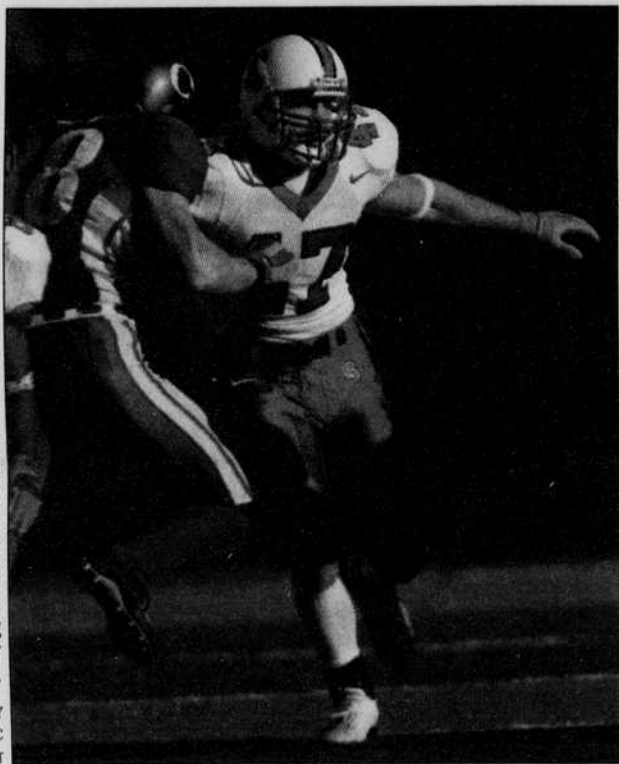
For the seventh straight year, the

Ducks have set a record for football season ticket sales. The Ducks have already sold 40,725 season tickets, surpassing the old record of 40,435, set last year. Oregon has extended its string of consecutive sellouts at home to 33. The smallest crowd the Ducks have attracted since Autzen Stadium was remodeled was 55,187 vs. Idaho in 2002.

No bye this year

Because the Ducks did not open their regular season until Sept. 11, they will be forced to go the entire season without a bye week. With Bel-lotti, Oregon has compiled a 10-1 record coming off a bye week in his nine years as head coach (two byes in 2001 and 1996). The last time Oregon completed a season without a bye was 1994, the last time the Ducks played in the Rose Bowl.

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Stanford linebacker Kevin Schimmelmann leads the Cardinal with 43 tackles. The junior has played strong safety, outside linebacker and middle linebacker during his career at Stanford.

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Stanford: Rushing gets 99-yard TD return

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last week's interceptions. The senior cornerback leads the team in picks this year with three. Stanford's secondary this season consists of all returning players and will be a key factor for success against Oregon's pass offense.

"We need to play well and pressure the passer," Teevens said. "We've done a decent job through the course of the year of forcing the quarterback to throw the ball and find a receiver quickly. We've been okay at not allowing a lot of big pass plays. Those have been minimized by the fact that we play a lot of zone coverage."

Moore and more

Stanford's offense has greatly improved this season compared to last year. In 2003, the Cardinal averaged 16.9 points per game and 283 yards of total offense. In 2004, its total offense has improved to 389 yards per game, and Stanford has averaged 28.8 points through six contests.

In the Cardinal's first possession of the season, wide receiver Evan Moore caught a 22-yard touchdown pass. Since then, Moore has racked up a team-high 407 yards on 23 receptions. The 6-foot-7 sophomore has scored five touchdowns.

Besides Moore, wide-outs Mark Bradford and Justin McCullum have each tallied 20 receptions this season. Tight end Alex Smith is the Cardinal's leader with 25 catches.

Moore and Bradford, both two-sport athletes, are also involved with the Stanford basketball program. Bradford is a point guard, and Moore is a highly regarded power forward.

Wise gains

Hidden behind a young offensive line (four sophomores, one junior) and Stanford's sophomore quarterback, Trent Edwards, lie two experienced running backs. Junior J.R. Lemon and senior Kenneth Tolon have treaded serious yardage and have scored eight of

Stanford's 11 rushing touchdowns.

Each rusher has a different style of running, which has made tracking these players a task for the opposition.

Lemon leads the team with six touchdowns and 397 yards in 72 attempts on the ground. Tolon has amassed 274 yards on 62 carries.

What's in a name?

Junior T.J. Rushing has a fitting last name for the game he plays. As Stanford's primary kickoff returner, Rushing has averaged 33.6 yards per return, which is best in the Pac-10 and fourth in the NCAA.

In 10 returns, Rushing has accumulated 336 yards, one of which he took downfield for a 99-yard touchdown return against Brigham Young. Rushing has recorded 20 tackles - four for a loss - and one fumble recovery in six games as a cornerback. He has started two games for Stanford.

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