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KEITH ALLEN | Oregon wide receiver on his drop late in Saturday's game against Cal

■ Duck football

## Oregon drops chance to upset No. 4 Cal

*Clemens' final pass to wide receiver Keith Allen goes incomplete, leaving the Ducks with a 28-27 loss*

BY JON ROETMAN  
SENIOR SPORTS REPORTER

BERKELEY, Calif. — Oregon had a chance to upset No. 4 California Saturday at Memorial Stadium but let the opportunity slip through its fingers.

Literally. With the Golden Bears leading 28-27, the Ducks faced a fourth and 11 on the Cal 41-yard line with less than two minutes remaining. Oregon quarterback Kellen Clemens fired a strike to wide receiver Keith Allen — who was standing wide open on the Cal 23-yard line — but the ball bounced off the senior's hands near the Oregon sideline, ending any hope of a Duck victory.

The one-point win propelled Cal (7-1 overall, 5-1 Pacific-10 Conference) into sole possession of second place in the Pac-10, while Oregon (5-4, 4-2) was left wondering what might have been.

"There are no moral victories," Oregon head coach Mike Bellotti said. "It doesn't get us to where we want to go."

Allen, who did not have a reception Saturday, said he started turning his head to look upfield before securing the football on Oregon's final offensive play.

"I just dropped it," Allen said. "I beat the DB really bad, so I was thinking about going to the end zone with my first touchdown in a big game."

Allen's miscue was one of several by a depleted Oregon receiving corps late in the second half. With wide receiver Demetrius Williams and tight end Tim Day slowed by injury, the Ducks were forced to rely on true freshman Cameron Colvin, sophomore Kyle Weatherspoon and Allen as primary

downfield weapons for the second half. Colvin dropped a pair of passes during the Ducks' final drive, including one that was nearly intercepted by Cal cornerback Harrison Smith.

The inability of Oregon receivers to make plays spoiled an impressive day by Clemens. The junior completed 19 of 33 passes for 218 yards and four touchdowns and was doing everything he could to lead the Ducks to victory on their final drive.

"Kellen had an awesome day," Colvin said. "He's a great quarterback. We need to help him. He's out there trying his hardest, so we have to help him a lot because we're his guys. He needs to have confidence in his receivers and all the guys he goes to."

"I think I let him down personally." Day caught five passes for 46 yards and two touchdowns before leaving the game with an ankle injury. Williams, who has battled a turf toe injury for most of the season, stepped onto the field for only one play and dropped a pass.

After trailing 27-21 at the half, the Golden Bears came out of the locker room determined to run the football. Senior J.J. Arrington's 119 second-half yards helped wear down the Oregon defensive line and kept the Duck offense off the field. Cal limited Oregon to only eight offensive plays in the third quarter and held a 230-57 advantage in total yards during the second half.

Arrington exploded for a 43-yard run on the last play of the third quarter to set up Cal's go-ahead touchdown on a 19-yard pass from quarterback Aaron Rodgers to wide receiver Geoff McArthur.

Arrington finished the game with 26 carries for 188 yards and a touchdown. "I don't expect us to kill everyone we play," Arrington said. "We knew we'd have to be patient against these guys. I hoped we could wear them down if we were patient."

Oregon came out strong early, taking a 20-14 lead late in the first quarter on a 16-yard touchdown pass from Clemens to Day. It was Clemens' third touchdown pass of the quarter, and the Ducks' offense looked unstoppable. Kicker Jared Siegel missed the ensuing extra point, however, bouncing it off the right upright.

Siegel's miss — his second of the season — proved costly as Oregon went on to lose by a single point.

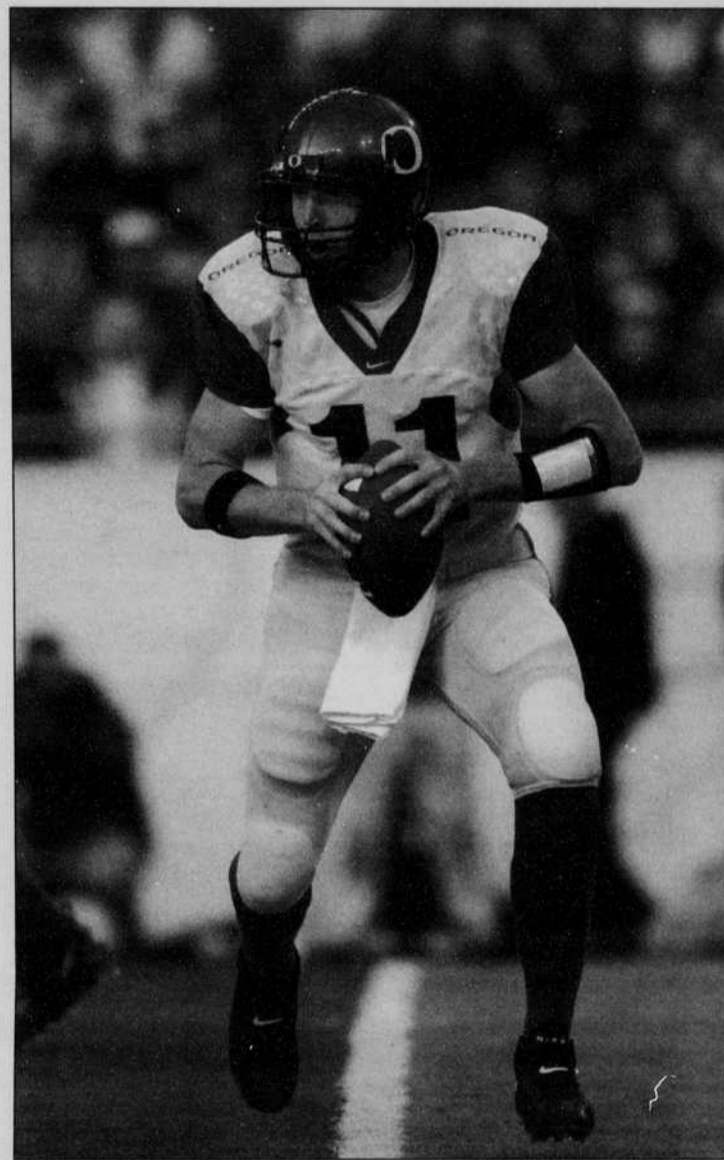
"Football is a game of inches," Siegel said. "If you ever had a do-over, I would have used my college do-over on that play."

Oregon's first half was likely the best it had played all season. The Ducks held a nearly two to one advantage in time of possession and were able to run the ball at will against the vaunted Golden Bear defense. Running back Terrence Whitehead gained 77 yards in 11 first-half carries, despite feeling weak and getting sick before kickoff.

The Ducks increased their lead to 27-14 with a little more than two minutes remaining in the second quarter when Clemens lobbed a pass to wide receiver Marcus Maxwell in the back left corner of the end zone for a 7-yard touchdown. The pass culminated a 12-play, 73-yard drive that took six minutes and 30 seconds off the clock.

Cal answered quickly, however, moving 75 yards in six plays to cut Oregon's lead to 27-21 before the half on a 21-yard touchdown pass from Rodgers

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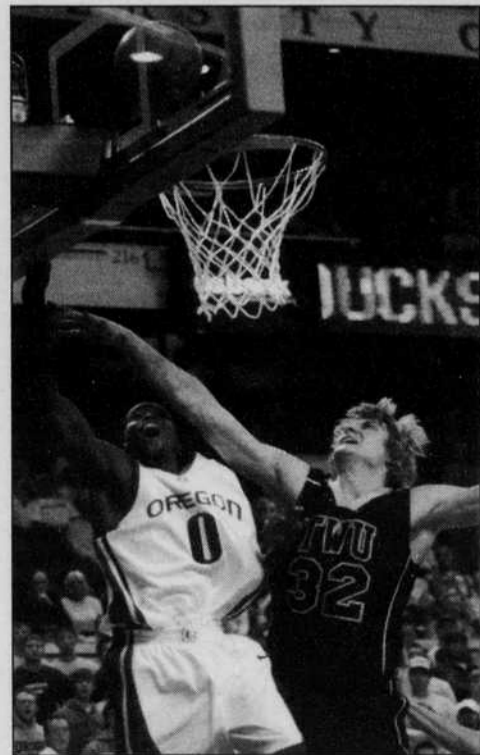


ERIK R. BISHOFF | PHOTOGRAPHER

Oregon quarterback Kellen Clemens, seen earlier this season, threw four touchdown passes in the Ducks' near-upset of fourth-ranked California in Berkeley on Saturday.

■ Men's basketball

## Oregon overpowers Trinity Western in exhibition game



DANIELLE HICKEY | PHOTO EDITOR

Oregon point guard Aaron Brooks (0) goes for a layup during the Ducks' first exhibition game against Trinity Western Sunday at McArthur Court.

*Freshman Malik Hairston awed the Mac Court crowd Sunday with 30 points in Duck debut*

BY ALEX TAM  
FREELANCE SPORTS REPORTER

It didn't take long for Malik Hairston to make his impact felt in his first game wearing an Oregon uniform.

Behind Hairston's 30 points in just 19 minutes of play, the Ducks used a strong second-half showing to defeat Trinity Western 106-79 in an exhibition game Sunday in front of 8,918 at McArthur Court.

Hairston missed just two shots the entire game as he connected on 10 of 12 field goals, including 3 of 4 from three-point range. In the second half, Hairston scored 16 points in only eight minutes of play.

After the game, the 17-year-old gave credit to his teammates for getting him the ball in the right places at the right time.

"The guys just found me when I was open," said Hairston, who added nine rebounds and

three assists. "I mean, they tried to make me look good, and I want to return the favor in these upcoming games."

Oregon head coach Ernie Kent had nothing but praise for his star freshman, who he said was "completely at ease and composed" every minute he was on the court.

"Let's just remember he's only 17 years old," Kent said. "(He) made all the right plays, all the right decisions. What a treat to have a player of that caliber."

However, Kent said that fans should not expect Hairston to wow the crowd with eye-popping plays throughout the season, as that is not the type of player he is.

"I think people are waiting to see Michael Jordan, with the dunks and all that — that's not his game," Kent said. "His game is a complete, all-around game."

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■ Women's basketball

## Ducks overshadow Western Oregon in a 75-23 blowout

*The women's basketball team shot more than 50 percent in Friday night's slaughter of the Wolves*

BY STEPHEN MILLER  
SPORTS REPORTER

The story of the women's basketball exhibition game is one of David and Goliath — reversed. The larger Oregon team prevailed over Western Oregon's undersized squad 75-23 in front of 2,948 fans Friday at McArthur Court.

The Ducks shot 32 of 63 (50.8 percent) from the field as they reversed the food chain and devoured the Wolves, a Division II team.

Junior Chelsea Wagner used the first possession of the game to drain a three-pointer for Oregon, the same way she began last week's intra-squad scrimmage. Wagner made two shots from long distance in the first minute of the contest. She finished the night with nine points on 3 of 6 shooting, all from beyond the arc.

"We took a lot of first-look shots in the first half," said Oregon coach Bev Smith, whose team made 5 of 21 from three-point range. "We need to work on getting the ball inside."

Oregon's Andrea Bills did not miss from the inside, nor from anywhere else, but she agreed that the Ducks needed to penetrate the paint more often.

"Everybody was looking for each other, but we need to be more aggressive and just take it to the hole," senior center Bills said.

Bills finished 5 for 5 with a game-high 12 points. She pulled down seven rebounds but made only 2 of 6 free throws.

"I felt pretty good, but I have to get in the gym and shoot some more free throws because that isn't where I wanted to be," Bills

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