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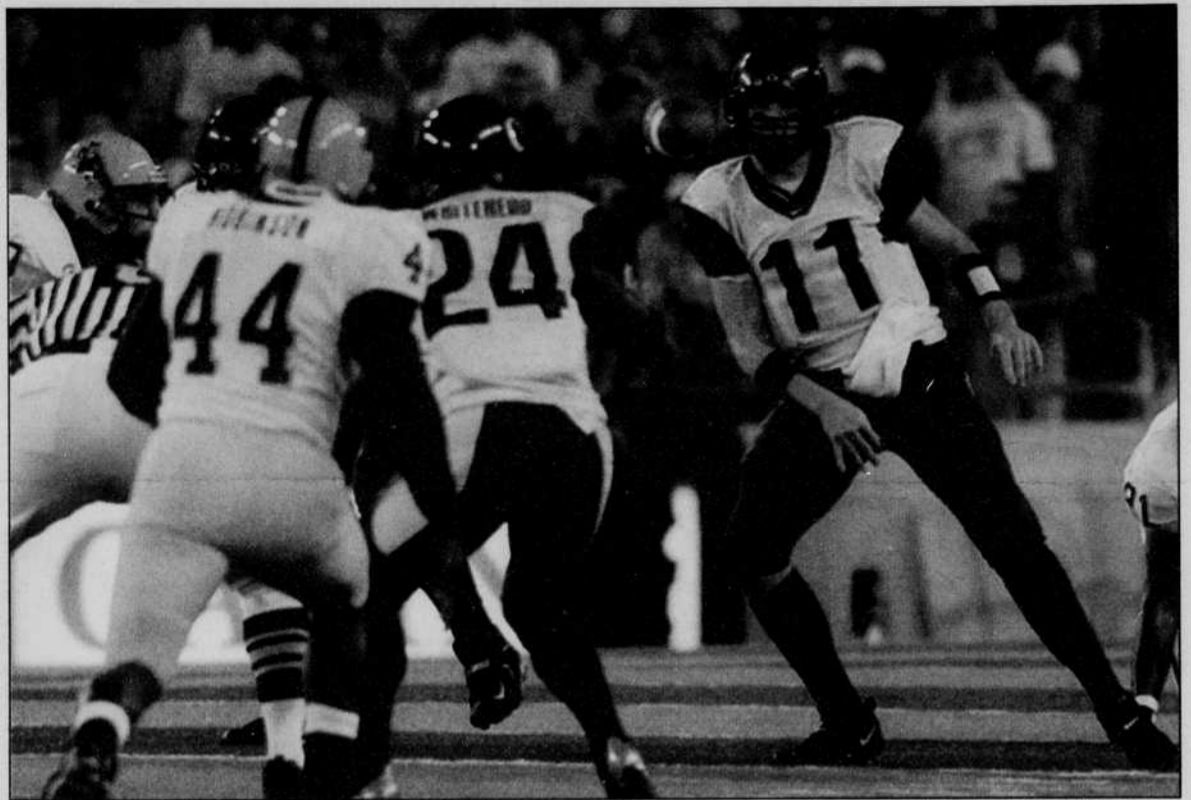
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DANIELLE HICKEY | PHOTO EDITOR

Oregon quarterback Kellen Clemens (11) throws a pass to running back Terrence Whitehead (24). Clemens ranks 15th nationally in total offense, averaging 271.6 yards per game, while Whitehead ranks 24th in rushing, with 101.1 yards per contest.

## Oregon returns to Autzen in search of bowl eligibility

*The Ducks must move past defeat against Cal and tangle with UCLA*

BY CLAYTON JONES  
SPORTS EDITOR

A tough loss to California last week has left Oregon's season in limbo going into a matchup with a UCLA team much in the same position Saturday at Autzen Stadium.

Both Oregon (5-4 overall, 4-2 Pacific-10 Conference) and UCLA (5-4, 3-3) are looking to solidify their bowl eligibility as well as move into position for a better bowl game.

"I see them in the exact situation that we are in," Oregon head coach Mike Bellotti said. "They have five wins and are desperate to get that sixth before they play their arch rival. They want to be bowl eligible and have a winning season."

The Ducks are concentrating on not letting their loss last week affect them this week.

"We are excited to get the taste out of our mouth of the Cal game," Oregon left tackle Adam Snyder said. "Even though we lost, we have to move on. It's key that we don't let the loss hit us twice."

Bellotti isn't taking last week's loss any worse than any other loss.

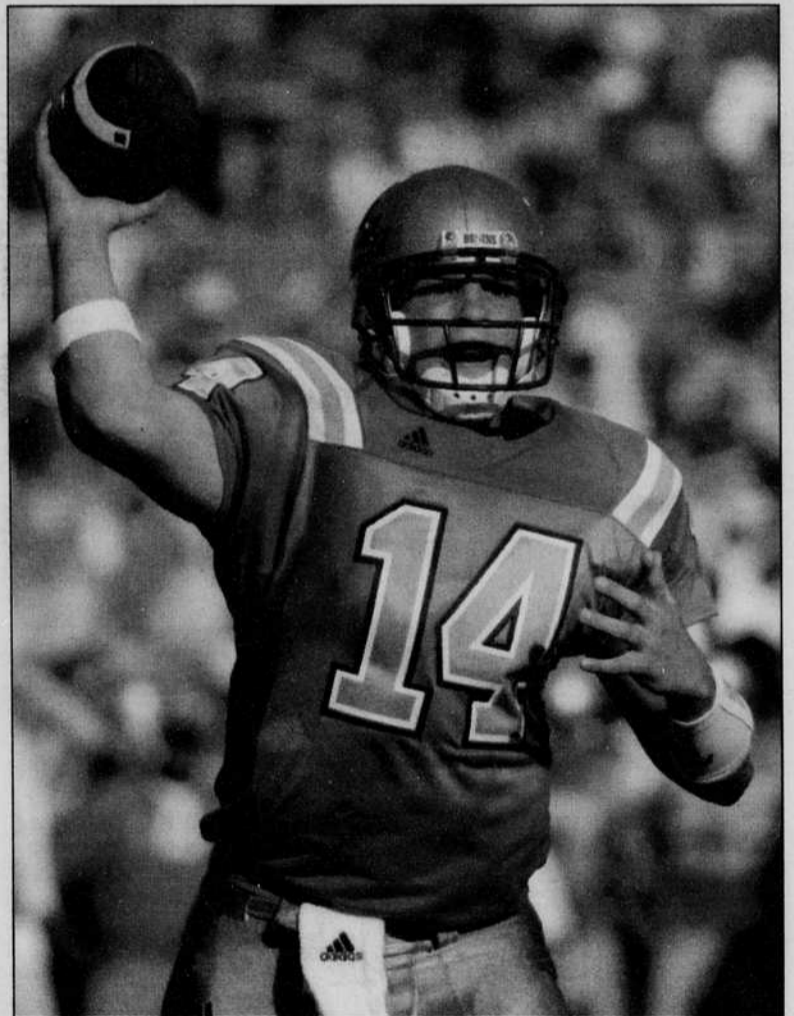
"Every loss is difficult and makes Monday morning tough," Bellotti said. "Winning is a relief and losing is only slightly better than dying."

UCLA is also coming off a tough loss to Washington State last weekend 31-29. Its defense was pushed all over the field, allowing 506 total yards with 321 of them coming on the ground.

"The season is not lost," UCLA head coach Karl Dorrell pointed out. "We need to really harp on the consistency now. We need to be more consistent with our production and more consistent with our execution."

The Bruin offense took a big blow last week as they lost Maurice Drew to an ankle injury. Drew, who is third in the conference in rushing, is listed as day-to-day, but Dorrell said his injury is pretty significant and will be a game-time decision.

If Drew doesn't play on Saturday, more of the burden will be placed on the shoulders of junior quarterback Drew Olson. Last week against the Cougars, he threw for 201 yards and



COURTESY | UCLA ATHLETIC DEPARTMENT

UCLA quarterback Drew Olson ranks fifth in the Pac-10 in total offense with 229.6 yards per game and sixth in passing with 219.6 yards per contest.

two touchdowns, but completed less than 50 percent of his passes.

UCLA will have its leading receiver back in tight end Mercedes Lewis. The 6-foot-6 junior from Lakewood, Calif., left last week's game with a bruised tailbone, but Dorrell expects him to play.

"He has a bruised tailbone which is not as significant (as Drew's injury)," Dorrell said. "We think he is going to be just fine and ready to go on Saturday."

The Oregon defense continues to shine as it ranks third in the Pac-10 in rushing and fourth against the pass. However, last week they seemed to struggle to get any pressure on Cal's Aaron Rodgers, resulting in his 275 passing yards and three touchdowns.

The Ducks weren't much better against the run, giving up 188 yards

to conference rushing leader J.J. Arrington in their loss to Cal. Things don't look as though they'll get much easier if Drew is playing, according to Bellotti.

"I compare (Drew) very favorably with J.J. Arrington; they're very similar," Bellotti said. "They're short in stature but very strong, very fast and very physical."

Bellotti also was disappointed in his defense's ability to tackle.

"We didn't finish tackle," Bellotti said. "We didn't take people to the ground. We tried to strike them up high, and we did not then get the second and third guys in on the tackles to the legs to bring them down."

While Oregon's defense may have struggled last week, the Bruin defense has struggled all year,