

# Starting Over

*The Duck offense looks to revamp with a new coordinator and playbook*

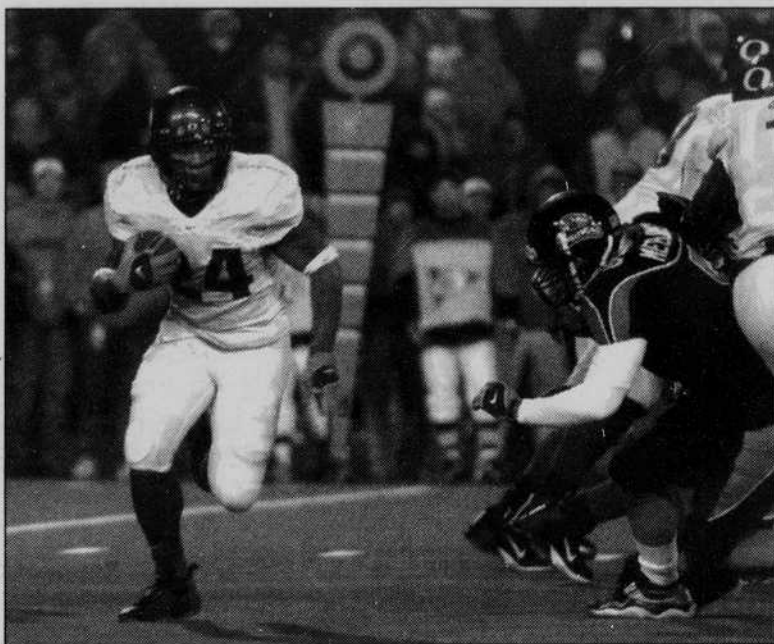
BY CLAYTON JONES  
SPORTS REPORTER

A new-look offense with a bunch of old faces is eager to turn around Oregon's performance from its disappointing season last year.

With new offensive coordinator Gary Crowton's spread offense, a senior quarterback and plenty of talent at the skill positions, the Ducks are eager to wash away the memories of the program's first losing season in 10 years.

"I think the excitement born from new coaches and a new offense is awesome and exciting, but it still all comes down to the basics," head coach Mike Bellotti said. "I think (the team) understands that we are on a mission this year. We failed to accomplish our goals last year, and this is an opportunity to fix that."

Last season, the Oregon offense ran hot and cold and finished the year fifth in the Pacific-10 Conference in total offense, averaging 397 yards per game. With Oregon's



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Oregon running back Terrence Whitehead is eager to share the offensive responsibility with quarterback Kellen Clemens. The two enter their senior seasons on pace to break into the record books.

point production decreasing every season, Bellotti believed the team needed a change and hired former BYU head coach and offensive specialist Crowton to direct Oregon's

new spread offense.

According to Bellotti, the spread offense will utilize all the space on

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## UNITED for the win

*The Ducks' defense looks to strengthen team coherence by blending 22 returning lettermen with fresh faces*

BY SHAWN MILLER  
SPORTS EDITOR

Which unit on a football field is most valuable? Simply put: Offense wins the attention of spectators; defense wins games.

That said, the Oregon defensive squad is looking to take win number one in the season opener Sept. 1 at Houston.

Although the Ducks ranked fourth in the Pacific-10 Conference in total defense (338.9 yards per

game average), they ranked eighth in turnover margin and ninth in opponents' third-down conversions.

"I think that we learned some valuable lessons last year," Oregon head coach Mike Bellotti said. "We limited some of the big plays, but we were not as good on third down. We were less of a pressure team and more of a containment team."

"So we are going to try to get a mix and a balance and a blend there, much like we are going to do on offense, to maximize our effectiveness."

The defense returns 22 lettermen, including seven starters. The defensive line and cornerback positions are stacked with experience and award winners, while the middle of the defense is working with new faces.

"We have veterans up front and in the secondary, so I think that bodes well for our defense against the pass," Bellotti said. "I think the linebacking corps is a huge question that will determine the fate of the defense."

### One-on-one

Seniors Aaron Gipson and Justin Phinisee are key cornerbacks with sophomore Jackie Bates and junior

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