

Coach's Corner

AN INTERVIEW WITH OREGON FOOTBALL COACH MIKE BELLOTTI

THIS IS YOUR PLACE TO ASK THE COACH YOUR QUESTIONS EACH WEEK. Call or e-mail us at Ducks Illustrated after every game up till 10 am Monday and we'll choose what we think are the best questions each week for the coach. Email to: jettwin@yahoo.com or call 342-3720 and leave your question and name.

Q: Only 3 receivers made receptions against Nevada and none were by the tight end. Are you concerned about that going into the Arizona game?

A: I am. I want our third and fourth receivers to be more viable threats, whether its the tight ends or whoever, we need to develop the receiver positions more.

Q: We didn't see too many rollouts by our quarterbacks vs. Nevada. Was there a reason for that?

A: Actually the first pass of the game was a sprint out and it was done about 3 other times during the game. There were a couple of play action sprints. There was probably more drop back on third down because they were doing zone blitzes from the field so we avoided rolling into it.

Q: What is the theme for this week?

A: Probably finish plays, finish the quarters, finish the game. I think we have mounted very good leads and got off to very good starts and yet have failed to capitalize on those in terms of putting people away and I don't know that that's possible. I'm very pleased with wins and victories. I don't know if we improved as much as I would have liked from game 1 to game 2, but I think a lot of times that might be overrated to tell you the truth. I think the biggest thing is finish. We did a better job on special teams in terms of hustle and we

did a better job in the penalty situation albeit it can be improved but "finish" is the key word.

Q: What are you seeing in the Arizona team?

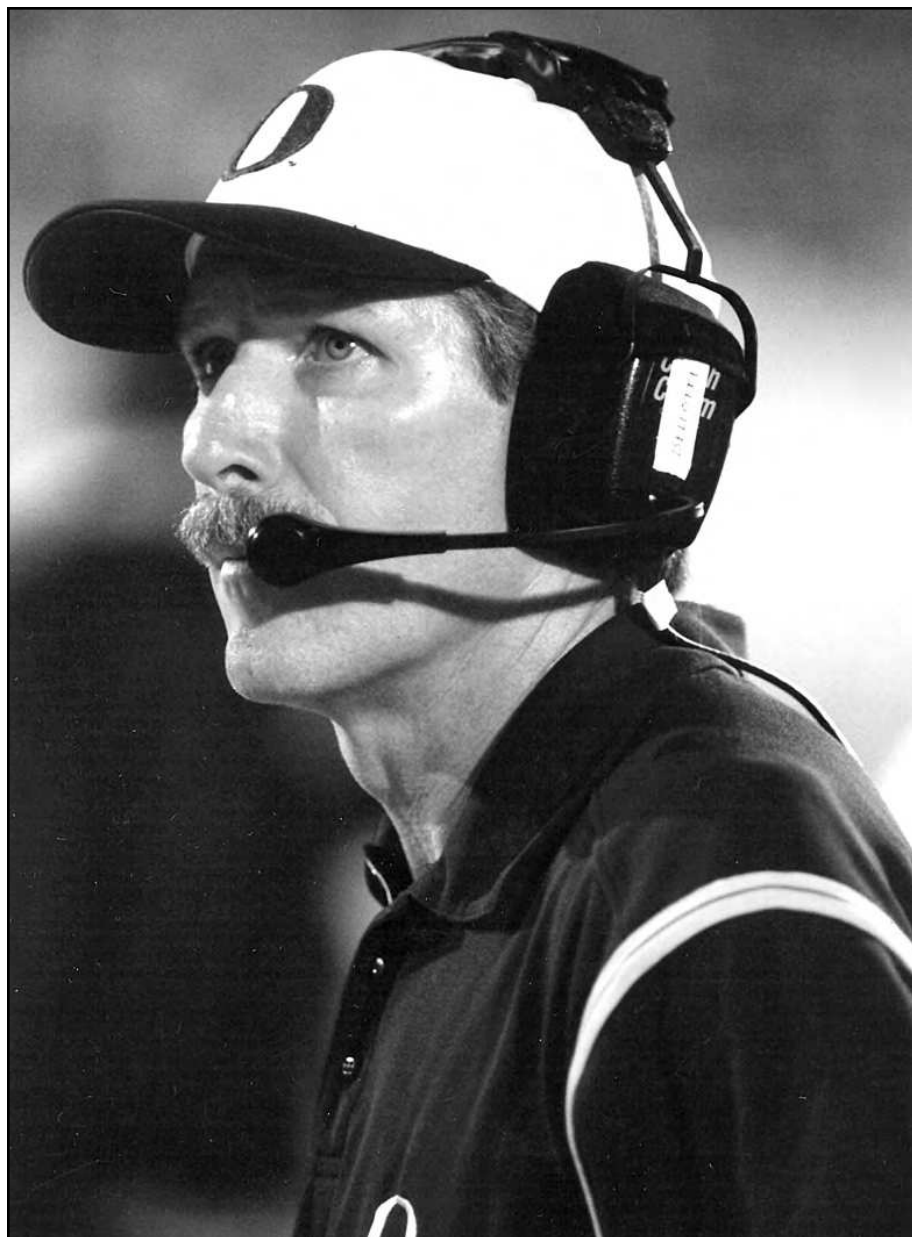
A: They had a very easy game the first game where they were ahead by 21 to 0 and 42 to 0 before the end of the 3rd quarter. It was just a wipe out. In the LSU game I think they just got overwhelmed early. They battled at the end. I got a chance to watch the last quarter on TV and they were playing hard, trying to score and played good defense. But LSU is a very talented team that seemed to have the right combinations going early.

Q: On the special teams penalties are the referees calling it different this year and are the same players for your team making the same mistakes?

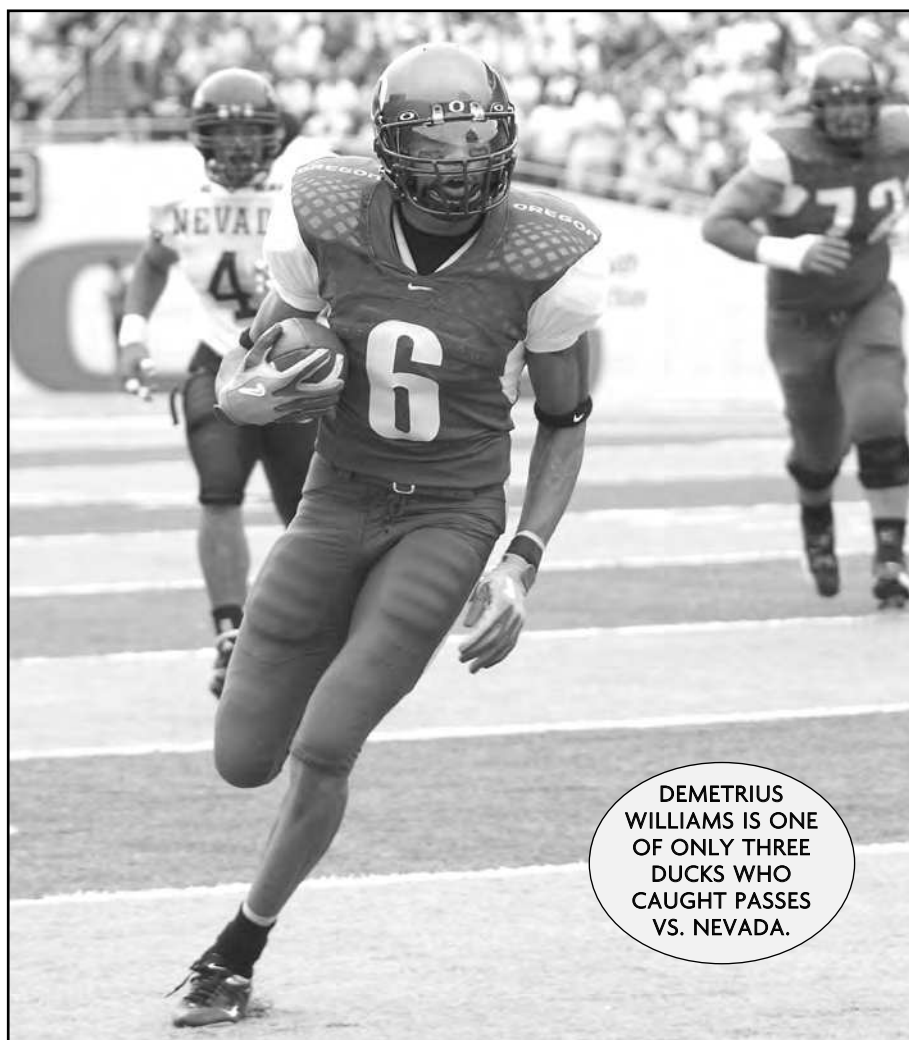
A: One on a kickoff return could have been called easily. It was a questionable play but it was called. Two of the penalties on punt returns I can't find on the film. I can't find any evidence of any illegal play. So, we'll turn it in and have it evaluated. I think the officials do the best job that they can and I think they do a very good job considering we don't have instant replay and their vision a lot of times is just a partial view. I think that we did do a better job of attention to detail, but still too many penalties. I'm not frustrated by that but it is a focal point.

Q: Do you think based on the LSU game where their defense was in the Arizona backfield early that their offensive line is a weak point that you can exploit?

A: No, their offensive line is a veteran group. They return 5 starters and I think they're a good group. I don't know what it was. Obviously if we could mimic that



Ducks Illustrated file photo



DEMETRIUS WILLIAMS IS ONE OF ONLY THREE DUCKS WHO CAUGHT PASSES VS. NEVADA.

Ducks Illustrated photo courtesy: Brian Schapper, BODOGSPORTS.COM

we'd love to. But I think their offensive line and their backfield is one of the strengths of their team. Those two tailbacks are very good tailbacks, both of them, and they have some players on defense. Siofele & Brooks are players. Their defensive line looked almost unstoppable against UTEP. So, it was a tale of two games. It's a little bit on how you get started and how things work out. The first couple of plays set a tone and you can recover from it or give in to it.

Q: Will pressuring their young quarterbacks be really important for this game?

A: Well obviously we don't want them to be comfortable and we don't want to allow them to do the things they'd like to do. We'd like to be able to dictate the tempo and pace of the game. But I think you have to be careful because Costa can run 4.2. So you have to be careful what you do because if he gets out there aren't a lot of people who can catch him.

Q: The lack of productivity by the offense, was that more what they did or you did or a combination?

A: I think it was a combination of things. In the 3rd quarter especially, we lose two possessions with the punt that touches our player and they recover. That's a huge play because we're going to get the ball on the 50 yard line on our first series and instead they get it and take it in. And then we have the interception for a touchdown which is another lost series. So I think you have to factor that in a little bit and it probably

took a little of the wind out of the offensive sails in the 3rd quarter. In the 4th quarter I thought we did a good job of driving when we needed to, ran the ball when we needed to. Kenny Washington certainly provided a spark, but overall there were probably four or five passes in the 3rd and 4th quarters that were not thrown quite just right or not caught which were catchable and would have hugely affected the game. I mean big plays, big field position play, possible touchdowns that would have changed the momentum of the game.

Q: With Arizona getting blown out could there be some overconfidence with this team?

A: No. We have not played a complete game. We have not played well enough. It's still all about Oregon right now. Our opponent is less of a focus right now than our own team. We need to get better and take care of our own house, make sure we're playing well. I expect Arizona's best game. I expect them to rebound, recover, and to go back to the drawing board in some respects and find some new things we've never seen before to spring on us because it's the start of the Pac-10 season.

Q: Samie Parker is effective on special teams too. Is the benefit you receive from him on special teams worth the potential risk of injury?

A: I don't think we have anybody who can do as well as Samie. I obviously believe it's worth it or I wouldn't do it. **O**