



Gopher head coach Glen Mason

the line of scrimmage, aiming at the outside breast of the defensive player opposite them. If they can, they hook the defender and create a running lane outside the tight end. If they can't hook the defender, they try and maintain contact and move the defender in the same direction that they want to run, creating seams back inside for the runner to see and cutback towards. When this happens, the blocks by the backside linemen are the difference between a two-yard gain, and a substantial one.

What the Ducks Must Do to Win:

Force the Gophers to cough it up: Minnesota was decisively beaten only



Wide Reciever Jared Ellerson

once this season, by Iowa 40-22. In that game, the Gophers had 93 plays for 568 yards of offense, but they gave up five turnovers and were only able to get one back. In their loss to Michigan they gave up two picks, one for a touchdown, and against MSU, lost three fumbles. In their three losses, they gave up ten of their 16 total turnovers for the season. In twelve games this season, Minnesota's defense only produced 12 turnovers, a low number considering the team's overall standing in the league. Oregon must win the turnover game: they were undefeated in '03 when their quarterbacks did not throw an interception, and managed to beat the Beavers allowing one. *Jam up and contain the run:* Defensively, it would be helpful if the Ducks held the Gophers under 100 yards rushing, although that's a tall order, even if you were asking Santa. They shut down Heisman hopefuls Chris Perry of Michigan, and OSU's Steven Jackson this fall, but Minnesota has much more balance, and firepower. The Ducks

OREGON OFFENSE	
SE 1	Samie Parker (5-11, 177, Sr.)
T 79	Robin Knebel (6-6, 316, Jr.)
G 74	Nick Steitz (6-4, 305, Jr.)
C 63	Dan Weaver (6-5, 282, Sr.)
G 72	Adam Snyder (6-6, 310, Jr.)
T 77	Mike DeLaGrange (6-6, 328, Jr.)
TE 85	Tim Day (6-4, 268, So.)
QB 11	Kellen Clemens (6-2, 214, So.)
TB 24	Terrence Whitehead (5-10, 207, So.)
FB 32	Matt Floberg (6-3, 240, Sr.)
SE 6	Demetrius Williams (6-2, 180, So.)

MINNESOTA DEFENSE	
DE 92	Mark Losli (6-6, 275, So.)
NT 95	Anthony Montgomery (6-5, 315, So.)
DT 51	Darrell Reid (6-2, 270, Jr.)
DE 90	Eric Clark (6-4, 240, Fr.)
LB 52	Kyle McKenzie (6-1, 230, So.)
LB 59	Ben West (6-2, 240, Sr.)
LB 58	Terrence Campbell (6-2, 200, So.)
CB 25	Ukee Dozier (6-1, 180, Jr.)
SS 20	Justin Isom (5-8, 185, Sr.)
FS 27	Eli Ward (6-0, 215, Sr.)
CB 4	Trumaine Banks (6-0, 215, Sr.)

will look long and hard at formation and down/distance tendencies and will have to gamble to keep the Gophers off balance in the running game. *Force Abdul-Khaliq to make bad throwing decisions:* Khaliq has not really had a bad game this fall, maybe that's why it's more likely he could have a "downer" in the bowl game. The Ducks' secondary is healthy again, and the additional depth should afford Aliotti some flexibility in trying to confuse Khaliq's throwing decisions with five and possibly six defensive backs in the game during certain situations. Get momentum plays from kick returns and punt returns: In Oregon's final three games, Justin Phinisee, in punt returns, and Kenny Washington, with kickoff returns, made huge contributions to the offensive energy and field position. Without them, Oregon's offense struggles to keep up with its reputation, earned in seasons before this one. Right now, Minnesota is a three point favorite. Based on statistics,



Sophomore linebacker Terrence Campbell

both team and individual, the Gophers should probably be favored by more. This year's Oregon team went through a fantastic turnabout, engineered by head coach Mike Bellotti's finest coaching job in his eight years as the "Head Duck". An improved work ethic, which carried over to more spirited, competitive play, drew the team together over the final part of the season and the Ducks surprised everyone but themselves, with four wins in their

last five games. Oregon will have to play a flawless game, their best of the year to beat Minnesota in the Sun Bowl. The fact that the Ducks have several weeks to prepare somewhat offsets Minnesota's offensive advantage. If their "turnabout" sticks through the holiday season, holds up to feelings of self-satisfaction and is still fueled by the desire to establish themselves as a competitive football team, Oregon's got a shot at this one. **O**

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