

Fail to Score in First Quarter after 96-Yard Drive

Ducks Muff Opportunity, Lose 17-14

By D. L. SONNICHSEN

Football Rating Authority

PALO ALTO (Special)—"We lost it in the first half," insisted Oregon coach Jerry Frei after watching Stanford come from behind to defeat the Ducks 17-14 in Palo Alto.

Trailing 14-7 after three periods, John Ralston's Indians rebounded for a field goal and touchdown in the final 15 minutes to hand the Webfoots their seventh defeat.

But the grim Frei didn't think Stanford's 10-point comeback should have been so significant.

"The game shouldn't have been in that position in the second half," Frei lamented. "I thought where we blew the thing was in the first quarter when we didn't score."

Oregon Fails to Score

The Webfoot leader was referring to UO's ultimately futile 96-yard drive which carried them from their own three to the SU one, and consumed 7:14 of the opening quarter.

If the Ducks could have scored—instead of being halted on fourth down at the one—Frei's men would have led 14-7 at halftime . . . 21-7 after 45 minutes . . . and taken a 21-17 win back to Eugene. If . . .

As it was, Oregon was tied 7-7 at the half . . . led 14-7 after 45 minutes . . . and dragged a 2-7 record behind them on the return trip. Reality . . .

The Ducks' general dominance of the initial half, and the 96-yard drive in particular, prompted Frei to call the game "as good an offensive showing as we've made."

Productive Offense

Unquestionably, UO's attack was at its sharpest on that all-important drive. Fullback Jim Evenson—Saturday's leading rusher with 101 yards on 28 carries—accounted for 60 of the Ducks' 96 yards during the progression.

But with fourth and goal at Stanford's two, Evenson could manage just one yard, 35 inches before the rock-like body of Indian defensive tackle Bill Nicholson blocked the only end zone route.

Stanford took over in the shadows of their own goal, but four seconds later Oregon had another golden opportunity to get on the scoreboard first when Jack Root's fumble was recovered by linebacker Keith Sherman at the Stanford nine.

Field Goal Wide

However, again fate kicked the visitors in the solar plexus.

Two incompletions by John Harrington sandwiched around Blaine Nye's deflection of an Eric Olson pass necessitated a field goal attempt from the 19. Gunther Cunningham's boot sailed wide on fourth down.

Fans on the Oregon side of Stanford Stadium complained

of a breeze at this point. "Oregon is really blowing it today," said one UO alumnus, windily.

Oregon's failure to score combined with a punchless Stanford offense—which could run only 10 plays—to provide a 0-0 first quarter.

By intermission, each team had managed a touchdown, though the 7-7 tie was hardly satisfactory to the win-starved Oregon partisans.

Indians Lead

Stanford scored first, completing a 69-yard drive when quarterback Mark Marquess left-handed a pass to Jim Cross, running a post pattern, for the TD. Marquess sucked UO's defenders toward the line with a beautifully executed fake to his fullback before hitting Cross for 18 yards near the goal posts.

Bill Shoemaker's upright-splitting placement put SU in front 7-0 with just 1:49 remaining before halftime.

But only 36 seconds later Olson scrambled away from a horde of onrushing red-shirted linemen and completed a looping pass to Lynn Hendrickson at the goal line. The pass barely missed a high-flying seagull, but Hendrickson outpositioned three Indian defenders to make the catch after running a button-hook pattern. Cunningham kicked the PAT for a 7-7 deadlock at the halfway point.

Stanford threatened to go ahead early in the third quarter when Ralston's men took the opening kickoff and moved to the Webfoot 18 in tractor-like fashion. Principle violator of Oregon's defense was soph halfback Howie Williams, who rushed for 99 yards in the game, 66 coming after halftime.

Thomas Retrieves Fumble

Disaster struck the Indians at the 18, however, as Marquess was belted from the side on a pass attempt. UO defensive end Bill Thomas recovered at his own 26.

Jack Rust was forced to punt after Oregon failed to take advantage of the fumble, but moments later Rust recovered another juggle by Marquess at Stanford's 35. This opportunity was not wasted.

From the 35 Olson launched one of his patented floating spirals downfield to end Steve Kantola. Kantola made the catch after a mid-air ballet involving himself and Stanford defender Dick Oliver. Both Oliver and Kantola went up for the pass, and both landed with a piece of it. In the ensuing violent tugging match, Kantola wrestled the ball away, giving Oregon a first down at the five.

Four plays later halfback Claxton Welch used his renowned jumping ability to nose the ball over from the half yard line. Cunningham's second conversion gave the white-shirted

visitors a 14-7 lead which lasted into the final period.

The comeback which eventually broke the Ducks' back began with an Indian escapade from their own 37. Williams' powerful running—which can only be likened to a tail-flexing fish swimming upstream to spawn—and short bursts by Root and Marquess, carried the Palo Altans to the UO 23.

But on third and six, Rust hurled Marquess to the turf after only a two-yard gain, setting up Bill Shoemaker's field goal attempt. "Shoe" rocketed the ball between the uprights from 41 yards out, to slice the Oregon margin to 14-10.

Immediately after Stanford's kickoff, workhorse Evenson had the ball jarred from his grasp, with Stu Kellnar recovering for the Indians at Oregon's 17.

Four plays later Marquess turned apparent disaster into

victory. From the two, the miniscule southpaw fumbled the center snap, but quickly scooped it up and hot-footed his way around left end for the winning TD.

Statistically, the Indians dominated the second half to the same degree that their opponents had been in control during the first 30 minutes.

The Big Red ran up 11 post-intermission first downs to Oregon's two, and had a 19-14 advantage for the game. The lemmon and green managed only 76 yards total offense in the second half, while SU totaled 116. Stanford had a 240-228 advantage in total offense for the game.

(Continued on page 5)

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LIME, REGULAR AND MENTHOL

Crew Finishes Third In Seattle Tourney

Oregon's eight-oar crew team finished third in the first-year division of the Seattle Invitational Regatta Saturday, but clocked a faster time than either the varsity division winner, Washington, or the JV winner, Seattle.

The Ducks, with Art Libien at

cox, and Jens Housely, Tom McKim, Chuck Neff, Tom Bel-austegui, Bart Poston, Tim Kirk, and Dave Stiles and Don Ramberg at the oars, finished the 1400 meter course at Green Lake, Seattle, in 4:15.

The University of Washington varsity clocked 4:21 and Seattle University JV, 4:43.

Oregon finished ten seconds behind the first-year division champion, the University of British Columbia. Oregon State was second. In reaching the finals, Oregon defeated the A and B teams of the Green Lake Rowing Club, and Pacific Lutheran.

"We're real encouraged by this performance," crew coach Don McCarty remarked. "We've only been on the water for three weeks, so most of these other teams have had the jump on us."

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