

Welch, Ducks 'Grind Out' Victory

By DON MACK
Of the Emerald

With Claxton Welch leading a grinding ground attack, the Ducks ran around and through Idaho's vulnerable line to overcome the pass-minded Vandals, 23-8, in Autzen Stadium Saturday.

Welch led all ground gainers with 139 yards in 28 carries while quarterback John Harrington passed and ran for 128 yards. Harrington made good use of the pass-run option while Welch, later voted the outstanding backfield man by the press, shot through gaping holes in the Vandal line for seven first downs.

It appeared to the estimated 17,250 fans that by the lopsided third quarter score, 17-0, Oregon was easily enroute to its 17th straight victory over Idaho.

Midway through the third quarter coach Jerry Frei began freely substituting his players to provide some action for everyone.

Hasty Move

Frei's move, he later admitted, was a hasty one, for the Oregon momentum was momentarily taken away in the third quarter. The nation's leading college division passing team took advantage of the less-experienced subs.

Late in the third quarter the previously erratic arm of Vandal quarterback Steve Olson began to find its favorite target, Jerry Hendren. With 10 minutes left in the game Olson found Hendren in the end zone for a 20-yard touchdown pass. A two-point pass conversion followed, and Idaho was back in the game, 17-8.

Frei sent the starters back into the game in that fourth quarter to ward off any further penetration into Duck territory. This move and a subsequent three-yard plunge by Stan Hearn with 58 seconds on the clock iced the contest for the Ducks.

First Blood

Oregon drew first blood in their first series of downs. Idaho failed to move the ball and three illegal procedure penal-

ties pushed the punter back to his 12-yard line. The ball then travelled only 25 yards and Oregon took command on the Idaho 37.

The ball was in the end zone in eight plays when Harrington swept left end on a 15-yard keeper. Ken Woody converted to make the score 7-0.

Penalties stalled two subsequent drives by the Ducks in the first half. Offensive pass interference thwarted Oregon after the home-townners had moved from their nine to the Idaho 39. Later, on the Idaho 32, Harrington overthrew Den-

ny Schuler in the end zone, but the referee tossed his handkerchief charging the Ducks with an illegal receiver downfield.

Meanwhile the Oregon defense, led by the game's outstanding lineman, George Dames, was holding the Idaho first half passing attack to 46 yards and the rushing yardage to 14.

In the last minutes of the second quarter linebacker Keith Sherman intercepted an Olson pass on the Idaho 10-yard line. Harrington's crew moved the ball to the four before calling on Woody for a successful 21-

yard field goal, raising the Duck advantage to 10-0.

Oregon again hit paydirt halfway through the third quarter when Harrington capped an 88-yard, 10-play scoring drive with a 28-yard completion to split end Bob Newland in the end zone. Welch ran for 50 yards and two first downs in that series, including a 22-yard burst through right guard. Woody converted for a 17-0 score and the Ducks breathed easy.

Idaho then gained some momentum, with Olson hitting receivers for good yardage. The Vandals scored on their first

play after receiving the kick-off on a 54-yard pass play, only to find a red flag on the field and a charge of clipping, thus nullifying the apparent touchdown.

Idaho's last threat before the fourth quarter 8-point touchdown came when Olson started from the Idaho 25, passing 10 of 11 plays for 53 yards and finally turning the ball over to a stubborn Oregon defense after four straight incomplete passes from the Oregon 14-yard line.

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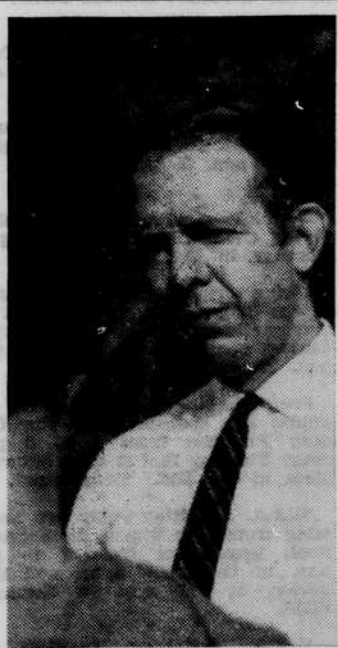
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