



Photo by Matt McCormick

Linebacker Tom Graham (52) airborne at left, blocks a Fred Barry attempt at a point after touchdown, during second quarter action at Autzen Stadium Saturday. Graham, named defensive player of the game, was credited with the blocked PAT,

causing a fumble on another, 11 unassisted and four assisted tackles. Moving to help Graham is cornerback Bill Drake (38).

Quackers show stuff in four hour bird-fight

By STEVE SMITH
Of the Emerald

How's this for a ho-hummer of a football game? Two teams take the field at 1:30 PST, and some four hours later leave the same field after having thrown the football a total of 97 times for 697 yards and 81 points.

Dull huh?

Throw in 15 broken records for the Ducks, and a couple of tough sophomore runners, and you have all the makings of a super-sleeper.

Ask the 24,700 bored fans who slept through Saturday's contest between Oregon's Fighting Quackers and the ninth ranked Falcons of Air Force just how dull the game really was.

Not very!

Aerial duel

In what must rank as the aerial duel to beat all aerial duels at Autzen Stadium, the Ducks and Falcons beaked it out Saturday until little was left but the sportswriter's cliches.

For the Ducks it was a "must win" as coach Jerry Frei and company set out to prove they weren't a one man team. With super-star tailback Bobby Moore sitting on the bench (or standing on the sidelines screaming his teammates on) the Ducks were faced with the problem of maintaining their potentially explosive attack.

The problem turned out to be no problem at all.

How proud

"Just how proud am I of our football team?" Frei asked after the game. "The character they showed today was out of this world. Eobby (Moore) is a helluva player. But we're a team. We proved that today. The kids just weren't gonna lose."

Soph quarterback Dan Fouts, who now holds most all Oregon single season passing records set quite a few of them against the Falcons.

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"I really had a lot of help (breaking the records)," the skinny Bay Area whiz exulted in the dressing room. "I bet the other Oregon quarterbacks never had as fantastic protection or receivers."

"Fouts was able to stop, plant both feet, look and throw the football," Frei charged. "He had absolutely superb protection."

On the other end of Fouts' aeriels was senior split end Bob Newland—playing his last game as a Duck at Autzen Stadium. The North Eugene graduate caught 11 passes for 153 yards, the former, a new Oregon record for a single game. His season total of 59 receptions breaks the season record of 54 set by teammate Moore last year.

Nice feeling

"It's a nice feeling to beat the record. It's always nice to hold a record," Newland said. "I like to compare myself with some of the top receivers in the country. The papers built this game up as a duel between Fouts and (Bob) Parker, Falcon quarterback and between (Ernie) Jennings and myself. I said what the hell, I might as well do a good job."

Jennings, the star flanker who borrows his speed from the team's Falcon mascot, turned in a fairly solid performance of his own, seven catches for 122 yards.

"Jennings is as good an opponent as we've met," said Frei. "I'm still not willing to trade any of ours, but he's a fine player."

Perhaps the most satisfying aspect of the win, is the assured winning season it gives Oregon, now 6-3, their first since 1964.

Next for the Ducks it's a mid-week trip to West Point, New York and a Saturday intersectional against Army. The Cadets have lost eight straight, but after road trip losses to Illinois and Washington, Frei is hoping the Ducks can prepare for the game.

"The season starts all over again tomorrow," Frei asserted. "Sunday starts the two game season."

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