

'Yesterday's Heroes'

Berry and Ducks do it to Indiana again

By PAUL BUKER
Of the Emerald

Bullet Bob Berry returned to Eugene Friday night. Well, Portland technically.

And in an amazing replay, came back to direct Oregon to a thrilling 28-22 victory over Indiana.

Remember that Webfoot triumph in 1963? It came on a muddy Nov. 16 in Portland's Multnomah Stadium and sent the exciting Ducks winging to the '63 Sun Bowl and a 21-14 win over SMU.

Last year Ducks beat Beavers

It was the year Oregon went 8-3 and it was the last year that the Ducks could beat Oregon State.

Friday night, on local channel 13, Berry's last-second heroics against Indiana were re-incarnated on the tube. It's part of a 13-series TV program that features great moments in Oregon athletic history. They call it, memorably, "Yesterday's Heroes."



Bob Berry

...beats Hoosiers with last-second pass to H.D. Murphy

Forget the show's scheduling (10:30 p.m. Friday nights) and forget stone-face announcer John Cary. That isn't what makes the program good. What does is pure nostalgia... from the lusty packaged crowd noise to the rah-rah rendition of "Mighty Oregon" at the finish.

Cary narrates over black-and-white footage of what so far has been all grid highlights.

Cary talks to the stars

After the game films some of the stars talk to Cary in the studio. Friday it was Duck guard Dave Tobey, who now works with Pro Management, Inc. and handles the contract of baseballer Dave Roberts among others.

Unfortunately it's only a half-hour show. That means some big plays get glossed over. Like Friday night in Cary's 5-second synopsis of a 14-point Oregon comeback in the second half.

Indiana, with bruiser Tom Nowatzke leading the way, had pushed the smaller Ducks around in the first half on this day in Portland. The Hoosiers led 14-0 at intermission and at that point, looked ready to blow it open.

"Yesterday's Heroes" then had to bow to time pressure and forget the third quarter.

A very fast comeback

"As we enter the crucial fourth quarter," Cary mouths from cue cards, "the Ducks are leading the Hoosiers 14-13."

Quite a comeback. So what happened in that third quarter? Well, what the cameras didn't show for those who forgot is this:

Duck guard Ron Jones forced a bad Hoosier punt, Oregon took over in good position, and Berry rifled a 21-yard TD pass to Dick Imwalle. Then all-America Mel Renfro, playing his last season as a Webfoot, scored and ran over a two-point conversion.

14-13 Ducks and back to "Yesterday's Heroes."

"Alright," says Cary, "Indiana comes right back." And they do, going ahead 19-14. But Rich Schwab makes a saving tackle on Indiana's two-point conversion attempt and with 12 minutes left Berry hits Larry Hill for another Oregon touchdown and a 21-19 lead.

Nowatzke boots field goal

Nowatzke, Indiana's 6-3, 200-pound all-American, kicked a 26-yard field goal to shove the Hoosiers back on top 22-21.

Just 1:37 left. Can Berry do it? Can the Ducks do it? They did Friday night.

Renfro made a fantastic catch near mid-field and churned to the Indiana 40-yard-line with the clock ticking away. H. D. Murphy hauled in another Berry aerial to move the ball to the Hoosier 34.

With 20 seconds left Berry threw incomplete, then, coming back with the same play, split the seam up the middle and hit Murphy with the winning TD.

Pandemonium at Multnomah Stadium when H.D. flagged down that 29-yarder. And what a boost for the Ducks. They went on to clout the Beavers 31-14 in the last game of the regular season, then whopped the Mustangs in the Sun Bowl.

Renfro on tube earlier Friday

Where are they now? Berry of course is still No. 1 on the Atlanta Falcons. Nowatzke went on to star as a running back for the Detroit Lions. Renfro hit television earlier Friday night—live—for the Dallas Cowboys against the College all-stars.

Some of the notables on that 1963 team were Schwab, now the Webfoot frosh coach; back Lu Bain; fullback Bill Youngmayr, now an Oregon coach; Buck Corey, Ray Palm, and Doug Post, the backup quarterback.

Renfro, Bain, Murphy, and Schwab were gone the next year, '64. But with wildman Tim Casey leading a blitzkrieg defense, the Ducks went 7-2-1 in Berry's last season and along the way came up with that memorable 22-14 win over Penn St. at College Park.

Remember, that was the year the Lions won the Lambert Trophy. Sadly, it was also the year Oregon State beat the Webfoots 7-6 and got the berth in the Rose Bowl.

Cary the only drawback

Post, now a Parks and Recreation official in Eugene, won't forget that one. It was his 43-yard field goal attempt that fell short in the fourth quarter.

Which brings us back to the show.

The game this week wasn't announced. It might be the '64 game with the Beavers. Heck, it could be last year's confrontation with Washington. In that case, Dan Fouts and Co. would be in color.

The only drawback is Cary.

In the first half Friday night he had Rudy Kuechenberg making a tackle for Indiana. Trouble is Kuechenberg wasn't even on the Hoosier squad. He played for Purdue and later went on to the Chicago Bears. Oh well, you get the idea—they were gooood.

Don't be surprised then, if you suddenly hear that Dave Wilcox has made a crunching tackle in the third quarter of Oregon's 1971 game with Washington.

Dave who? Ah, yes, Another of "Yesterday's Heroes." (Now an all-pro with the San Francisco 49ers and former Webfoot great.)

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