

By 24-22 to Missouri

Oregon blows opener in last six seconds

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Of the Emerald

The Ducks' new Tennessee defense got its first look at a wishbone offense and their first taste of defeat, both courtesy of the Missouri Tigers, in Columbia where both teams opened their seasons.

Oregon got the early breaks as they recovered a fumble on the opening kickoff and marched the short 35 yards to the goal line and first blood of the season as Maurice Anderson plunged in from the two. Then Tiger quarterback Joe Cherry stopped two of his own drives with sloppy ball handling at crucial points allowing the visitors a 13 point bulge when they carried 60 paces for the second tally of the day.

At this point the shamrock lady began tossing her clover in the other direction. Hugh Woodward missed the extra point attempt and Missouri caught fire to drive fifty five yards for a TD with a good conversion. Cherry then

began operating out of the power-formation and with the help of a pass interference penalty led his mates down the field from his own 39 to a 14-13 lead with forty four seconds left in the half.

Dan Fouts pulled a minor miracle out of his bag of passing tricks and by the time the clock showed two seconds the Webfoots were close enough for Woodward to boot it through the uprights to move Oregon in front.

Less than a minute after action resumed, John Mosely grabbed an intended Fouts to Specht aerial and carried it into the end zone.

The joy was short lived Fouts engineered a 71-yard drive culminating in a 49-yard pass play to Specht, made possible when a defender tried too hard to intercept or knock down the ball and not quite hard enough to tackle Specht. The Ducks missed the two-point conversion when Fouts hurried his pass.

The big board continued to show Missouri down one until the last six seconds of the battle. After losing the ball through one their many fumbles the Tigers had to start again from Oregon's 41 with just 29 ticks on the timepiece. Then with the game at stake Greg Hill managed the 31 yarder which gave the Tigers the two-point win.

Earlier Oregon had had one touchdown called back by penalty when a lineman wandered too far down the field during a screen pass play.

There were bright spots among the gloom. A healthy Dave Peiper swarmed all over the field with a dozen tackles and as many assists while his secondary mates were in on nearly every play in the first quarter. Mike Jodoin and sophs Steve Donnelly and Mike Popovitch were especially noticeable in the action as was Fred Manuel until his early exit resulting from a discussion of the game with a Mizzou player.

The Green Machine moved as

well as could be expected with their string soph fullback and Dan Fouts not quite up to his usual accuracy. Receivers were able to get open consistently and there were no fumbles lost in 64 carries.

A bright light in the punting

department flashed on too as Bob Palm averaged 44.4 yards and planted two over 50 yards with good bounces and coffin-coring several. His kicking evaded the receivers and resulted in very little runback yardage.



Sooner fullback Leon Crosswhite.

Sooners (sigh) next for Ducks

Oregon's youthful defense gets the supreme test Saturday.

Fresh off a 34-7 thumping of Arizona, the Ducks travel to Norman, Oklahoma and a date with Greg Pruitt, Leon Crosswhite, and that awesome Sooner wishbone.

If Dan Fouts can match his 20 of 33 performance in the air and the Ducks score over four touchdowns, it might be close.

Oklahoma's high-powered offense, which includes a backfield that's six-deep in depth, doesn't figure to get less than 28 points and Oregon will need all the help it can get to accomplish that measure of defensive success.

Pruitt leads the Sooner charge. Last year he averaged 9.3 yards per carry and gained 1,665 yards on the ground. Crosswhite is a brutal blocker and leads Pruitt through the holes.

Running the Oklahoma wishbone this year is newcomer Dave Robertson, who threw five passes, completed them all for 155 yards last Saturday as the Sooners whopped on Utah State 49-0.

The defense that must stop Pruitt and his mates includes six new starters. Perhaps the greenest portion of Oregon's unit is the secondary—where free safety Steve Donnelly and cornerback Jack Conners and Pete Carlson line up.

Oregon's linebackers—Mike Jodoin, Mike Popovich, and Steve Herr—drew praise from Arizona coach Bob Weber after Saturday's game. "They hit hard . . . real hard," Weber said.

They'll have to.

The play along the defensive lines will be crucial. The linebackers will have to hit harder and read the keys off Robertson's options.

Tim Guy and Keith Davis hold the most responsibility—the wishbone places the most pressure at the defensive end spots. Meanwhile the Sooner secondary faces no easy task in trying to stop Duck receivers Greg Specht and Bob Palm.

It was Palm who zipped by all-American candidate Jackie Wallace for two touchdown catches.

Says quarterback Fouts, "Our receivers can beat anybody one-on-one." Chances are the success Palm and Specht find may depend on how much of a running game Oregon is able to come up with.

Coach Dick Enright had good news this week with the word that fullback Greg Herd should be in action. Herd was injured in the Ducks' last full-scale scrimmage prior to the Missouri game.

"Buffalo" gives the Ducks the punishing short-yardage runner they need on third down.

Against Utah State the Sooners threw 70 men onto the field in 91-degree heat. The Ducks wilted quickly. It's that kind of depth that has Enright worried, because battling Oklahoma on even terms means trying to stay up with their fresh troops.

Included in the Sooner 'second' team backfield are two freshmen, and one-quarterback—Kerry Jackson—gained over 100 yards.

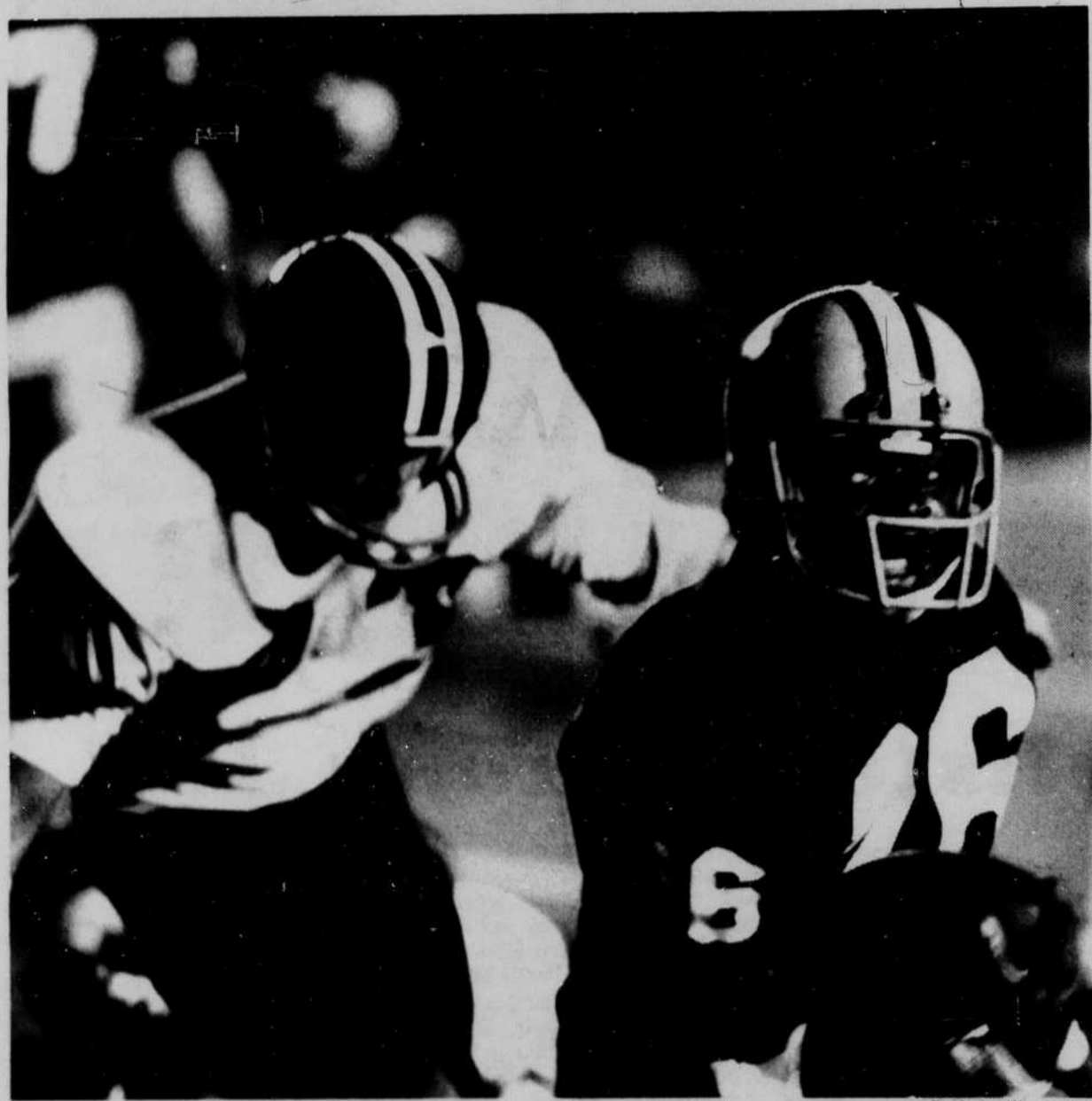


Photo by Wes Loder

Reecie Anderson finesses for yardage.

Oregon-Arizona statistics

Team				Oregon				Arizona				
Rushing plays	46	45						Rushing	TC	YG	YL	Net
Yards gained rushing	378	223						Davis	3	10	3	7
Yards lost rushing	39	78						Shuford	7	33	0	33
Net yards rushing	339	145						Upchurch	14	39	4	35
Passes intercepted by	21-34	9-23						Hamilton	5	93	12	81
Net yards passing	284	55						Demory	4	9	27	-18
Total plays	82	68						McCall	6	16	1	15
Total offense	425	200						Boyd	5	16	31	-15
First downs rushing	10	8						Brisco	1	7	0	7
First downs passing	11	1						Passing	PA	PC	PI	YG
First downs penalties	3	2						Davis	7	2	0	15
Total first downs	24	11						Demory	12	4	1	15
Punting	7-38-7	10-46-7						Boyd	4	3	0	25
Punt returns	9-75	5-25						Pass Receiving	No.	Yds.	TD	
Kickoff returns	1-15	5-105						Kerr	1	15	1	
Interception returns	1-21	2-0						Palm	5	110	2	
Fumbles-fumbles lost	3-1	4-2						Specht	5	53	0	
Penalties	4-66	6-61						J. Anderson	7	62	0	
								Francis	3	46	0	
								Punting	No.	Ave.		
								Palm	7	38.7		
								Kickoff Returns	No.	Yds.		
								Winn	1	15		
								Punt Returns	No.	Yds.		
								Winn	9	75		
								Interceptions	No.	Yds.		
								Donnelly	1	21		
								Interceptions	No.	Yds.		
								Williams	2	0		