Oregon's men from the South win a Civil War

By JOHN HENDERSON
Of the Emerald

CORVALLIS — The wide-open offense which had buried itself in its own publicity most of the year, bore out of its cocoon in the second half once again to knock off Oregon State 23-14 in the annual Civil War at Parker Stadium Saturday.

Down 14-0 at halftime after gaining just 101 yards, the Ducks rode the arm of junior quarterback Jack Henderson to post 23 second-half points for their first comeback victory of the year.

"There's a whole lot of character in there," said Oregon Coach Don Read pointing to the Ducks' exploding locker room. "It takes character to come back in the second half like we did. The kids believed in themselves, and that's what it's all about."

Read had to feel sorry the season ended Saturday with the Ducks 1-6 in Pacific-8 play and 4-7 overall. The offense, it seems, has finally come around. After compiling 373 yards Saturday, Oregon has averaged 390 yards a game in three of its last four contests.

The only difference Saturday was, it finally put some points on the board.

"We weren't pissed off," said Henderson who was 17 of 37 for 218 yards. "We just settled down because we know we're better than they are. Blowing our heads wasn't going to do it. We were beating ouselves out there. They didn't stop us."

"We had problems with our offense in the first half because their defense was jumping around calling signals, and our kids had some problems hearing," said Read. "But we changed our cadence (signals) to one that was constant, and they did all right."

It was obvious the offense found itself when it drove 98 yards on its first series of the third quarter for a 42-yard field goal by Roy Geiger.

The Ducks had no problems on their next possession when they drove 76 yards in nine plays for a touchdown and a 14-9 score. Henderson hit senior Greg Bauer for 24 yards to the Beaver 46, and Eugene Brown for nine yards to the 35. After two short plays to the 38, Henderson sent tight end Jeff Butts streaking down the field, and hit him ahead of safety Tom Stevens for a touchdown.

"It was a matter of reading where the strong safety is," said Henderson. "They had just one deep so I sent two deep on that side."

After the two teams exchanged interceptions, Oregon took advantage of a 26-yard Beaver punt to go ahead for good in the fourth quarter. Henderson hit Bauer for 14 yards to the OSU 44, Billy Vincent for 11 yards to the 33 and Tom Cafferty for 18 yards to the 15.

Jim Johnson ran four yards to the 11 before bulling seven more for a first down at the four with 9:05 left to play. After Johnson ran for three to the one, Henderson kept the ball around right end on the option to score untouched. The Ducks went for two, and Henderson scored on the same play around left end to give Oregon a 17-14 lead with 8:04 left to play.

The Ducks wrapped it up after they held Oregon State on fourth down at the Beaver 37. Johnson ran nine yards to the 28, and a personal foul penalty gave Oregon a first down at the 13. Johnson hammered eight more to the two, Brown lunged to the one and Henderson snuck in for a 23-14 lead with 2:35 left.

While the offense made a quick turnabout in the second half, the defense did the same to the injury-riddled Beaver offense. Oregon State embarrassed Oregon with a 13-yard halfback pass from Rich Dodge to Lee Overton for a 7-0 first quarter lead. Quarterback Scott Richardson came back in the second quarter to direct an eight-minute drive which covered 85 yards and was topped by a razzle-dazzle touchdown.

On first down from the four, Oregon's jocks were hung out to dry on the goal post when Richardson handed to Dodge, who passed back to the wide-open Richardson in the end zone for a 14-0 lead, on the second TD.

"That drive of 88 yards really stunned us," said defensive end Mel Cook. "It was just a mental letdown. We made some adjustment, and got our asses in gear. Coach vonAppen (defensive coordinator Fred) really laid it down on us at halftime."

That was all the offense the Beavers could muster as their longest drive in the second half was just 37 yards.

So the Ducks and Beavers finished tied for last place in the Pac-8 with Oregon State traveling to Hawaii next Saturday with a 1-10 record. Now all that waits is the Wednesday decision by University Pres. Boyd on whether to keep or fire Read as head coach.

If the players were to decide, Read could start recruiting today.

"I wrote a letter to Boyd," said Bauer, "with a petition that 70 or 80 guys signed. This is going to be a winning program, especially if they keep Read. I just hope they give him the chance. If they don't, it'll take three or four years to even get started again. If they go looking for a new coach, I know some players who will have a decision to make, too."

The Pacific 8

	W	L
USC	7	0
UCLA	6	1
Stanford	5	2
California	3	4
Washington	3	4
Washington State	2	5
Oregon	1	6
Oregon State	1	6

Saturday's results

USC 24, UCLA 14
Stanford 27, Cal 24
Washington 51, Wash. St. 32
Oregon 23, OSU 14
(USC to meet Michigan in Rose Bowl)

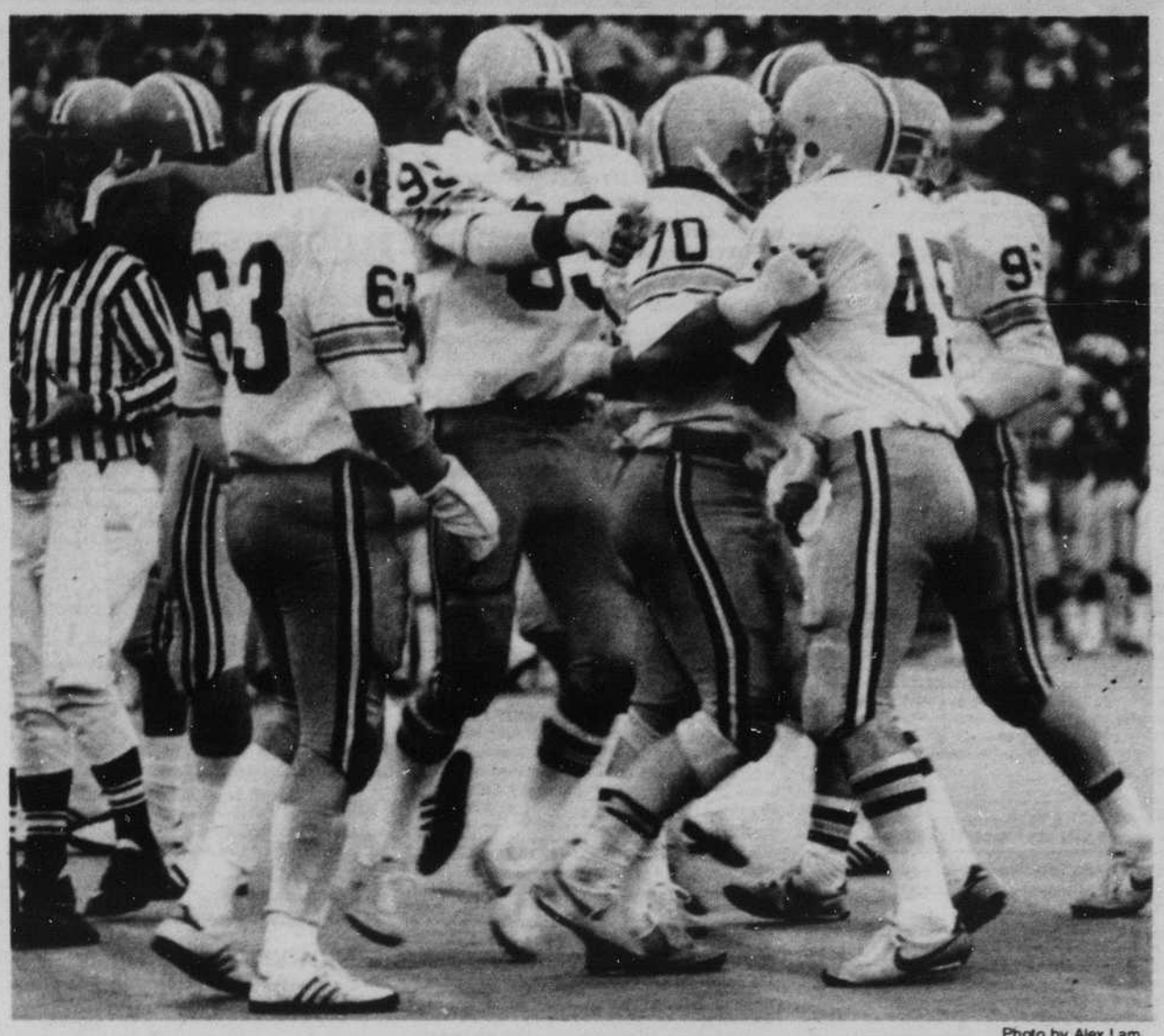

Photo by Alex Lam

With their 23-14 win over Oregon State, the Ducks became the first Oregon team since 1955 to beat the Beavers two years in a row.

At Denton, Tex.,...

It's NCAA time for Duck harriers

By DAN LINDAHL
Of the Emerald

A bit beleaguered but definitely unbowed, the Oregon men's cross country team will make its run for the national title today when it competes in the NCAA nationals in Denton, Texas.

Coach Bill Dellinger rates the 1976 squad as his most talented ever depth-wise, but he is not about to forecast any national championships. Foremost in causing Dellinger's hesitance is the rash of health problems which have beset the Ducks.

Dave Taylor, Matt Centrowitz and Peter Spir are all hampered by one ailment or another and added together, their problems spell trouble for Oregon.

"When you reach nationals you don't win with a bunch of cripples," stated the Duck mentor.

Based on past experience, Dellinger is well aware of just what it takes to win national championships. Under the direction of Dellinger, the Ducks won the national title in 1971, 1973 and 1974. And the former coach of the year gives this season's team a good shot at doing the same — if it can get healthy.

"Spir has an ear infection, Taylor is still nursing a hamstring pull and Centrowitz has a touch of the flu," lamented the head track coach. With a totally fit contingent the Oregon coach feels his club would have a shot at the national title.

Dellinger is still hoping by race time the entire team will be recovered enough to give the kind of performance he feels they are capable of. And if they are, pre-race favorites UTEP and Providence will have their hands full.

So far this season, Oregon has run in two meets and won each handily — first capturing the Northern Division championship then running away with the Pac-8 title. Due to the physical problems, Dellinger feels much of the momentum gained by those wins has been lost, but nevertheless his team displays the kind of skill Oregon has.

Even if the team isn't fully recovered, it doesn't mean Oregon has conceded the meet.

"We can still go back there with three or four healthy runners and do reasonably well," predicted Dellinger.

Several factors could play important parts in the race — including the course, which is on a golf course and described as flat and fast, the snow, which has been measured in depths up to two inches lately, experience and of course health. But there is one overriding factor that Dellinger is sure will be the ultimate decider.

"The guy with the talent is the one who's going to win," he said.

And that is one area — talent — in which Oregon is in great shape.

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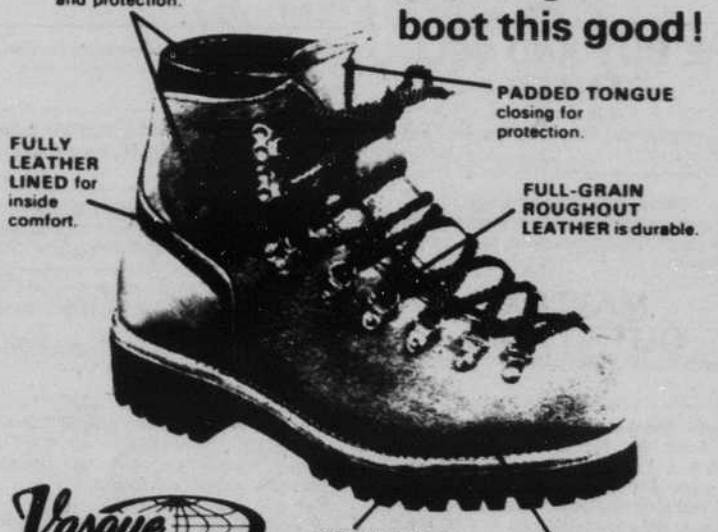

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