

Brooks — 'It was ugly'

Nothing pretty in Oregon's 24-0 loss to the Devils

By JEFF DICKERSON
Of the Emerald

Just when things were looking bad for the Oregon football team, they got worse.

Head coach Rich Brooks knew the Ducks were in for a fight against the Arizona State Sun Devils, but he had no idea how bad it would get, as ASU throttled Oregon 24-0.

"It was ugly," Brooks said Sunday in bright sunshine at Autzen Stadium, following a long plane ride from Tempe in the wee hours of the morning.

The players must have been tired from the late flight and the very physical game the night before. But certainly some of the sleepiness may have been averted with a victory over the 4-1 Sun Devils.

Brooks is the first to admit it is hard to beat anyone when the offense fails to put points on the board.

"We need to start putting the ball in the end zone," he said. "That was probably the worst we've done offensively since I came here."

The game was by far Oregon's worst offensive performance of the year. The Ducks managed a mere 131 yards on offense on 52 plays, while ASU countered with 460 yards on 89 plays. It was also the second straight game in which the Ducks failed to score a touchdown.

The strong ASU performance on offense was not indicative of poor defensive play by Oregon. Rather, because the Ducks' offense spent most of the game on the sidelines, Oregon's defense was thrust on to the field to face a continuous onslaught of attacks — and sooner or later the defense was bound to falter.

"Defensively, we played a very good game, but anytime you let the other team have the ball for that long, you're going to pay for it," Brooks said. "They snapped the ball 89 times — that's like playing a game and a half on defense."

The Oregon coach said his only criticism of his team's defensive performance was its inability to take the ball away from the ASU offense. Oregon gave up the ball four times on turnovers, while the Sun Devils had no turnovers.

The Oregon defense was put to the test almost from the start. After the Ducks punted on their first possession, ASU took the ball from its own 46 and drove to the Oregon 1 yard line. But the Duck defense held, and the Sun Devils were forced to settle for a field goal by Luis Zendejas with 8:43 remaining in the first quarter.

One of the most important plays of the year for the Ducks followed in the second quarter, as Oregon quarterback Kevin Lusk went down with a separated collarbone and will probably miss next week's game against Arizona. Freshmen Mike Owens and Mike Jorgenson spent the rest of the

game alternating at quarterback, but neither could drive the Ducks beyond the ASU 35.

The score remained 3-0 for the remainder of the half, but the Oregon defense had already spent too much time on the field on the warm desert night.

"We allowed them to have the ball for too long and allowed them to move the ball too much," Brooks said.

By the end of the third period, the Oregon defense could no longer hold back the ASU tide. With the running of Robert Weathers and company and the passing of Mike Pagel, ASU began to wear down the Ducks.

The Sun Devils scored the first touchdown of the game with 1:50 remaining in the third quarter after Mike Richardson intercepted an Owens pass at the Oregon 43. Pagel carried the ball into the end zone on a 1-yard dive to give the Sun Devils a 10-0 lead.

Little more than a minute later, ASU was on the board again after Oregon was forced to punt and Pagel directed a 70-yard drive on two pass plays.

The final score came following an Oregon fumble on its own 9 yard line.

The Ducks are 1-4 on the season and 0-2 in the Pacific 10 Conference, placing them in the Pac-10 cellar with Oregon State. The loss left Brooks to ponder the remainder of the season and how he can fix the offensive line.

"We had some missed assignments, but mostly it was just bad blocking by our offensive line," the coach said. "There will definitely be some changes on the offensive line — we're going to give some different people a chance to get the job done."

The Ducks, whose bye last week did not give them much of an

advantage, have one week to prepare for the Arizona Wildcats. The Wildcats should be sky-high when they come into Autzen Stadium, following a 13-10 upset of the nation's top-ranked team, Southern California.

In preparing for the game, the Ducks realize Arizona will bring a well-equipped arsenal to battle, Brooks said.

"Arizona is a good football team, much like Arizona State in the type of things they can do," Brooks said. He said his main concern is not so much what Arizona can do on offense as how he can get a quality performance out of the offensive line.

"It's been a frustrating year so far," Brooks said. "It's not like the 2-9 years when we had to fight and scratch for every victory. We're loaded with talent in a lot of positions, yet we can't seem to put any points on the scoreboard."

"We aren't going to win anything if we don't start generating some offense. That's hard to do when you only get 38 yards rushing in one game," Brooks said.



Photo by David Corey

Kevin Lusk went down in the second quarter with an injury, and the Ducks soon following, bowing to the Sun Devils, 24-0.

Yanks, Expos, Dodgers win playoffs

(AP) — Reggie Jackson, New York's celebrated "Mr. October," and Oscar Gamble smashed consecutive tape-measure home runs in the fourth inning Sunday night, rallying the Yankees to a 7-3 victory over the Milwaukee Brewers and the championship of the American League East.

Meanwhile in the National League East playoffs, Steve Rogers pitched a six-hit shutout Oregon Daily Emerald

and singled home the first two runs as the Montreal Expos beat the Philadelphia Phillies 3-0 to win their first title in the 13-year history of the franchise.

In Los Angeles, Jerry Reuss outpitched Nolan Ryan and the Los Angeles Dodgers scored three runs in the sixth inning to soar to their third straight victory over the Houston Astros, winning 4-0. L.A. qualified to meet the Expos in the National

League championship series.

In New York, Jackson's two-run shot into the upper right field stands, more than 50 feet above the 353-foot sign, erased a 2-0 Milwaukee lead. It was his 16th post-season homer and second of this series. Gamble followed with his second of the East playoffs, a 400-foot line drive into the right center field bleachers, chasing Brewers starter Moose Haas, who also lost the playoff opener.



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