

Turnovers turn corner for Bruins

By Paul Danzer
Of the Emerald

Somebody, somewhere, must have put a curse on the Oregon football team of 1982.

For the third time in as many weeks, the Ducks led or were close in most statistical categories in their game with the UCLA Bruins at the Rose Bowl Saturday. The Ducks ran more offensive plays (72-69), controlled the ball longer (32:04 — 27:56), were just 23 yards short of UCLA's explosive offense (290-313), and had one less first down (18-19) than did the Bruins.

About the only place the game wasn't close was on the scoreboard. UCLA won big there — 40-12.

So what happened?

Turnovers haunted the Ducks as they have all season. The Ducks turned the ball over four times, treating UCLA to

four scoring opportunities they just couldn't pass up. For the record, Oregon fumbled eight times, losing three of them, and chipped in a Dana Hill interception to set up the Bruins' final touchdown.

"We just can't afford to turn over the football because at this point we're not executing well enough to overcome those kind of mistakes," said Oregon coach Rich Brooks of Saturday's follies.

The one Duck who must feel especially cursed is sophomore quarterback Mike Jorgensen, whose stint at Oregon has been marked by one injury after another. This week it was back spasms that forced Jorgensen to take a seat after he led the Ducks 63 yards in nine plays on their first possession. That ended with a 39-yard Todd Lee field goal which staked the Ducks a 3-0 lead.

"I'm really tired of this," said a disgusted Jorgensen prior to a light workout

at Autzen Stadium Sunday. Jorgensen, who suffered a concussion at California two weeks ago and injured his ankle at Washington earlier this year, said the back spasms have bothered him all week, but he was hoping he could play through them. He couldn't.

Like Jorgensen's day, Oregon's lead was short lived. Jo Jo Townsell returned the ensuing kickoff to the Oregon 39 yard line, and six plays later freshman kicker John Lee tied the game at three.

Hill came on to run the attack and soon things started to happen. Unfortunately the big things which happened, namely the turnovers, were rolling the Bruins way.

"I think Dana did a lot of good things," Brooks said of his freshman quarterback. But he added the necessary qualifier. "He also made some critical errors. A couple of those turnovers were a result of his inexperience,

I think, at the position."

First, the Bruins took a 6-3 lead on a 38-yard Lee field goal after a short punt gave the Bruins the ball on the Oregon 33. Next the Bruins' Kevin Nelson, the brother of Darrin Nelson of the Minnesota Vikings, scored from three yards out to give the Bruins a 13-3 edge with seven minutes to go in the half. That score came after Eugene Leoni fell on a stray Hill pitch at the Oregon 16.

The Duck defense found its back to the goal-line again early in the final quarter after Larry Thomas carried a pass interception to the Oregon 11. Two plays later Burness Scott ran in from five yards out to close out UCLA's scoring.

"I think we did a pretty good job on them," Brooks said of the defensive effort. "We just can't give a good football team that many chances close to our own goal-line."

Union rejects plan

NEW YORK (AP) — Negotiators for the National Football League formally presented Sunday their four-year, \$1.28 billion plan, but the striking players union renewed its demand for a three-year, \$1.1 billion package.

A union official stressed that the owners' proposal, which does not cover increases in player salaries during this strike-shortened season, was not being rejected out of hand but that "it could serve as a basis for further negotiations," a high union executive said.

"Philosophically, we are agreed on how players should be paid," he added, "but we are still a long way from home."

A union source said both sides were "being pushed together by (mediator Sam) Kagel."

The owners' proposal was to be reviewed later Sunday by the player representatives assembled here. They were summoned Saturday when this round of talks began.

Before that meeting with the player reps, union officials expressed dissatisfaction with major elements of the plan, saying it failed to address three of the union's five essential demands — protection for

veterans, the union's right to collectively bargain for incentive bonuses and a percentage of the league's television revenues.

The essentials of the union's proposed three-year (1982-84) package include:

- \$320 million this year, to include \$93 million in across-the-board wage increases,
- \$380 million in 1983,
- \$400 million in the final year,

— union control over 80 percent of all player costs (salaries, incentive bonuses, pensions, insurance, etc.) with the remaining 20 percent going into an owners' discretionary fund for signing bonuses and other purposes.

Management's proposal, the owners' first new financial offer since the 41-day-old strike began Sept. 21, would cover 1983-86 and would guarantee the union to collectively bargain about 37 percent (\$500 million) of the \$1.28 billion. Seventy five percent of the \$1.28 billion would be guaranteed by the NFL. Management negotiators have refused to guarantee 1982 monies as a result of losses sustained during the strike.

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