

Oregon loses, 17-10

Huskies win — barely

By Brent De La Paz
Of the Emerald

SEATTLE —Oregon won the battle, but lost the war.

That was the case as the Ducks outplayed the No. 1 ranked University of Washington in every phase except one — on the scoreboard as the Huskies slipped past Oregon, 17-10 in Pacific-10 football contest Saturday in Husky Stadium.

Oregon's upset bid was by no means a fluke. The Ducks, 4-3, probably should have beaten Washington, but the Huskies' special teams set up Washington's two big scores of the day.

The first was Ron Milus' 42-yard punt return which put the Huskies in front 7-0 late in the opening quarter.

Washington's next big score came in the third quarter. Tim People's blocked a Mike Preacher punt which Husky cornerback Mike Gaffney gathered in the end zone to give Washington a 17-7 advantage. Gaffney's score would be just enough of a cushion for the Huskies to weather a Duck comeback bid in the fourth quarter.

"We had some break downs in the kicking game," said Oregon coach Rich Brooks. "They (Washington) executed very well with a punt return and blocked kick for the touchdown. On today's game

and today's performance that is all they needed."

That was all the Ducks would give them as Oregon's defense stole the show from the top-ranked team in the nation.

The Ducks' defense bottled Washington's offense the entire game. The Huskies sputtered to three first downs and a 109 total yards on offense.

"I thought our defense played maybe one of the better games I have ever seen us play," said Brooks who saw the Ducks drop to 1-3 in the Pac-10.

Oregon moved the ball effectively against the Washington's famed defense despite losing starting quarterback Chris Miller in the first quarter. Miller suffered a concussion when Washington linebacker Reggie Rogers sent him sprawling to the turf with a late hit.

Playing without Miller, the Ducks persevered thanks to a gutsy performance by backup Oregon quarterback Mike Jorgensen. Jorgensen drove the Ducks to a 7-7 tie when Alex Mack plunged in for a 1-yard touchdown run in the second quarter.

Going into the third quarter tied at 7, Washington got a big break when Husky linebacker Tim Meamber intercepted a Jorgensen pass and returned to the Ducks' 31. Oregon's defense didn't budge and the Huskies

had to settle for a Jeff Jaeger 32-yard field goal to put Washington up 10-7.

"Meamber made a great play on the interception," said Brooks when the Husky linebacker stepped in front of Oregon tailback Kevin McCall and gave the Washington offense one of their few scoring opportunities of the day.

After Gaffney's recovery in the end zone, the Ducks came back in the fourth quarter. Oregon cut the margin to 17-10 on a 27-yard Matt MacLeod field goal with 10:19 left.

The Ducks had two scoring opportunities after MacLeod's field goal, but the Huskies thwarted both attempts. On their final drive of the afternoon Oregon drove to the Washington 20 with 46 seconds left. However, Jorgensen's fourth-down pass to tight end Doug Herman was knocked down by Husky safety Jim Rodgers to seal the victory for Washington.

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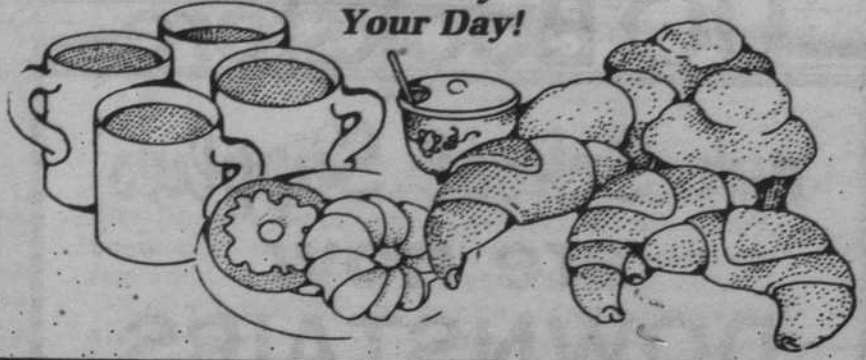
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