

He drove the Ducks into the end zone twice, the first times Oregon hit paydirt since the first half of the loss to Stanford on Oct. 24. Afterwards, head coach Rich Brooks praised Nelson's play and immediately installed him as this week's starter. He will be the third quarterback to start for the

Ducks in as many weeks. "That was the first time I was able to concentrate fully on the defense and execution. I just blocked out all the extremities," Nelson said.

The game plan Saturday calls for Oregon to try to control the line of scrimmage and get the

running game going, according to Toledo and Nelson. If that strategy sounds familiar, it should. It's the same one the Ducks have been trying since the USC game.

"We probably went too heavily to the pass after USC, and we can't get away with that. We thought we could, but we were

wrong. We need balance, and we need to run. Whether we try to establish the run first or the pass remains to be seen," Toledo said.

Nelson believes WSU is a better team than its record suggests. "They're a lot like us in that I don't think their record

indicates how good they are," he said. The same applies to Nelson himself: the record just doesn't do him justice, although he hopes to do something about that beginning Saturday.

For Pete Nelson, the future is now.