

Defense leads Ducks past fourth-ranked BYU



Photo by Sean Poston

Oregon tailback Sean Burwell rushed for 104 yards on 28 carries and caught a pass for a touchdown to help lead the Ducks past fourth-ranked Brigham Young Saturday.

Cougar offense stymied in loss

By Ashley Conklin
Emerald Sports Editor

In a game that was supposed to be dominated by quarterbacks Ty Detmer and Bill Musgrave, it was the Oregon defense that did the dominating.

The Duck defense owned Detmer the entire contest, sacking him five times and intercepting five of his passes.

It wasn't just the pass rush and the secondary coverage that confused Detmer. The Cougar running game never got untracked, rushing for a net total of minus 47 yards and the Autzen Stadium crowd of 45,022 — the third-largest in Autzen history — was a decisive 12th-man throughout the day.

But perhaps the biggest thing Oregon will take from this win is some national respect, something that has been lacking in Coach Rich Brooks' 14-year tenure and something that should come following a win over the fourth-ranked team in the nation.

"We have a good football team," Brooks said. "I don't think anybody can deny that now. They sure wanted to deny it at the start of the year. They wanted to deny it after we lost to Arizona but they cannot deny that we have a good football team."

"It's the biggest win over a highly ranked team I've ever had," he said.

Last year the Cougars and Ducks hooked up in an exciting 45-41 shoot out won by BYU.

Detmer and Musgrave set NCAA records for passing yardage and total offense by two quarterbacks in one game, and with the promise of the same this year, ABC-TV decided to show the game to a split-national audience.

Musgrave certainly did his part, completing 23 of 37 passes for 286 yards, three touchdown passes and one scoring run. Along the way, Musgrave eclipsed Chris Miller's school record for career passing yards as he now has 6,816 yards for his career.

Detmer, however, never got untracked. He faced a variety of defensive packages and although he did complete 33 of 57 passes for 442 yards, the turnovers and sacks were costly.

"The start was tremendous," Brooks said. "The defense came right out and I think BYU was caught off guard a little bit by what we were doing. We got tremendous pressure on him (Detmer) early."

On the first series of the game, Jeff Cummins sacked Detmer for a 15-yard loss back to BYU's own 11-yard line.

The Ducks took over on the Cougar 44 following a punt, and three plays later Musgrave hit Sean Burwell on a 31-yard scoring strike to make it 7-0.

BYU's next possession was even worse. Two plays produced losses of four and five yards and on third down Detmer was sacked in the end

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