



Sean Burwell, the Ducks' redshirt freshman running back, tries unsuccessfully to run through UCLA defender in Saturday's game.

Photo by Sean Poston

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DUCKS

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screen pass with good success all day with Burwell catching four passes for 90 yards. One of the passes went 49 yards to set up the touchdown that pulled Oregon within 24-21 and on the game-winning drive, Burwell caught another screen pass, this one for 28 yards, to set up the winning touchdown.

"We felt (if the Ducks could) get them to bite on that (the fake to Burwell) we could get the tight end, who normally goes out and blocks on the screen, out into the flat and get him the ball quick," Brooks said.

Musgrave struggled all day until the fourth quarter, and it seemed only fitting that the senior quarterback who has done so much for the Oregon program made his last pass at Autzen a touchdown.

"I was glad to finally throw a good pass because it wasn't the best day throwing out there," Musgrave said. "I didn't feel that great all day, even in warm-ups."

Neither did the 45,901 in attendance — the third-largest crowd in Autzen history — when UCLA quarterback Tommy Maddox hit Scott Miller for a 62-yard touchdown pass and

"I asked the official who made the call, because he was on our side of the field," Donahue said. "He told me that we had a hold of his (Jones') jersey with both hands. Sometimes those calls go your way and sometimes they don't."

On the next play, Shedrick bulled into the end zone for the touchdown, and Ngalu Kelemeni added a two-point conversion to pull the Ducks within 24-21 with 6:10 remaining.

Then it was up to the Oregon defense to hold the Bruins, something that didn't happen much all day, particularly in the first half when UCLA jumped out to a 17-7 lead and had 253 yards of total offense.

In the second half the Ducks got interceptions from Eric Castle and Daryle Smith to stop Bruin drives, and when the Ducks needed a big stand defensively, they got it.

"The defense struggled (with) one of our poorest efforts of the year," Brooks said. "When we had to have the defense we had the defense."

Oregon got the ball back with four minutes remaining on a UCLA punt and Brian Brown's 24-yard return set the Ducks up at the Bruin 45-yard line.

On second-and-10, Musgrave hit Burwell with another screen

'It's the biggest catch in my whole life. Bill just threw a perfect pass, right on the money.'

— Vince Ferry

a 24-13 Bruin lead with 9:32 remaining.

Things didn't look good for the Ducks to end their home season at 7-0 — the first time Oregon has ever finished unbeaten at Autzen — but the Ducks didn't panic.

"We talked on the sideline and said we had enough time to just go do it and we did," Brooks said. "We had some luck."

The big play on Oregon's first drive after the UCLA touchdown came when Burwell took Musgrave's screen pass and went 49 yards on a third down-and-eight play. Burwell was almost brought down after he caught the ball, but a key block from guard Jon Tattersall helped the play go all the way to the UCLA 21-yard line.

Musgrave then hit Juan Shedrick to the 12, but two more plays went for a loss of a yard and the Ducks were faced with fourth-and-two on the 13.

Musgrave, under heavy pressure, threw for Anthony Jones at the end zone, but the pass fell incomplete. UCLA, however, was called for pass interference and the Ducks had the ball on the two-yard line.

UCLA Coach Terry Donahue called the penalty "a huge call," and was extremely upset by it.

pass, this one for 28 yards to the Bruin 17 as guard Andy Sunia threw a big block to spring Burwell.

Burwell, who finished with 97 yards rushing, 90 receiving and 42 on kick returns for 229 all-purpose yards — eighth-best in school history for a single game — then carried once for no gain and Shedrick gained one yard to set up the game-winning pass to Ferry.

The pass to Ferry seemed to be a fitting example of the Ducks' season.

With 21 seniors playing their final home game, Oregon has relied on younger players such as Ferry, Devon Hosey and Anthony Jones all season to step in for Thomason, wide receivers Tony Hargain and Michael McClellan, cornerback Muhammad Oliver and fullback Brandon Jumper, who have all gone down with season-ending injuries.

But through it all, the one constant has been Musgrave, the quiet leader who left Autzen Stadium the same way he entered it three years ago as a redshirt freshman: a winner.

"I think in Bill's case, not enough credit can be given to him for keeping our team together despite all the different personnel," offensive coordinator Mike Bellotti said.

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