

# Defense picks up slack in win over New Mexico St.

By Dave Charbonneau  
Emerald Sports Reporter

Oregon may have won Saturday's game over New Mexico State 29-6 at Autzen Stadium. But from what the two teams were saying after the game, it sounded as if it were the other way around.

Oregon coach Rich Brooks: "I'm not real pleased with the way we played."

New Mexico State linebacker Steve Campbell: "This game was the first time all year that we played well as a team."

Oregon cornerback Daryle Smith: "We did not play as well as we are capable of playing."

New Mexico State quarterback Cody Ledbetter: "Today we played the best football we have played all year."

New Mexico State moved the ball well for most of the game against the heavily favored Ducks in a game that was much closer than the score indicated.

Oregon outgained the Aggies by 27 yards in total offense, had only three more first downs and threw for 43 yards less than New Mexico State.

"In us," Brooks said, they outplayed us," Brooks said.

One thing is for sure: Oregon's first victory in three games was nothing to get too

excited about. In fact, the game left the injury-riddled Ducks in pretty bad shape.

Oregon added quarterback Danny O'Neil and defensive end Matt LaBounty to their already lengthy injury list. It is unknown how long either player will be out.

"We're a very badly beat-up football team," said Brooks, "and now we lose our starting quarterback and one of our best defensive linemen."

O'Neil started and played for the entire first half before being taken out with a dislocated thumb and was replaced by Brett Salisbury to start the third quarter. O'Neil said he injured his hand early in the game but kept quiet about it.

"The injury happened on either the first or second series of the game," O'Neil said. "I didn't really say anything except to Doug (Musgrave) until about two minutes before the half when I told the trainers."

The Duck offense was not particularly effective under either of the quarterbacks, and was, at times, downright stagnant.

"Offensively, we sputtered, and sputtered and sputtered," Brooks said.

They sputtered so much that

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Marcus Woods celebrates as James Bautista scores a touchdown on an interception return.

Photo by Jeff Paslay

# Oregon returns to win column but pays a heavy price

By Jake Berg  
Emerald Sports Editor

It was a game of returns and returners, the return of a smile and those who may not return.

Oregon made a return to the win column Saturday, beating New Mexico State 29-6 at Autzen Stadium. The victory was Oregon's first in three games, but it was still no piece of art.

"We gained a 'W,' and that's what we needed the most," Oregon Coach Rich Brooks of his 3-2 team. "I'm not really pleased with our play, I'm pleased with our win. Offensively, we sputtered and sputtered."

And were it not for two big plays on defense, Oregon could have been in trouble.

James Bautista's 13-yard in-

terception return for a touchdown in the first quarter and Daryle Smith's 94-yard marathon of an interception return to the end zone put the Ducks up 21-3 early in the second half.

Bautista's return got the ball rolling by giving Oregon its first score, and Smith's score halted an Aggies' drive that could have brought New Mexico State within 14-10, had it scored a touchdown.

"If they had scored there, we're in for a fight," Oregon defensive coordinator Denny Schuler said. "Interceptions for touchdowns are tremendous momentum swings. There's nothing better."

Bautista lumbered up the near sideline and into the end zone after picking off Paul Rod-

riguez's pass deflection, and Smith, after intercepting the ball on the Oregon 6-yard line from Chad Cota's deflection, sprinted outside to the sideline with a group of Duck blockers along for the ride.

Smith, playing in his first game since being suspended for a week for unspecified disciplinary reasons, felt he wanted to do something positive for the team. But getting 94 yards was no easy chore.

"In the back of my mind, I was saying, 'Cut to the near sideline,'" Smith said. "I fense to score less than the defense," Schuler joked.

No joking matter, though, is the possible loss of two more starters to injury. An epidemic of injuries has already plagued the Duck squad this season, but

Saturday the names of starting bumper into (Oregon linebacker) Ernest Jones, (Oregon running and then there was no one there."

Bautista did not run into any of his teammates, but he did have to hurdle one before being tackled in the end zone.

"Actually, I wish I would have went untouched," Bautista said.

Far from untouched was the Oregon offense, who was even outscored at one point by the Duck defense. Were it not for Bob Brothers' two-point conversion on a bad snap, the defense would have outscored the offense.

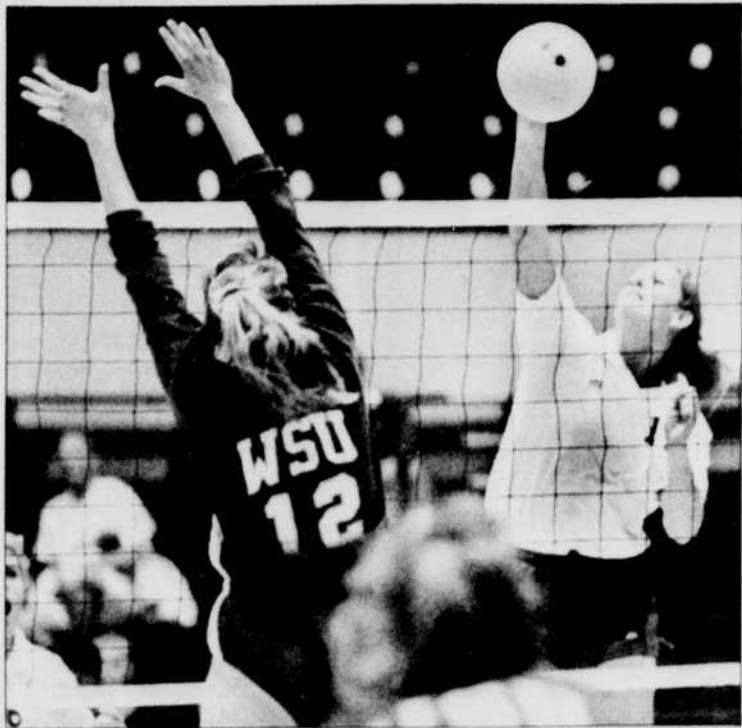
"My theory is the reason that (Oregon offensive coordinator Mike) Bellotti went for two is because he didn't want the of-

quarterback Danny O'Neil and defensive end Matt LaBounty were added to that list.

O'Neil's dislocated thumb may keep him out of action for a month. A sprained right knee may keep LaBounty from returning to face California this weekend. He was to have undergone x-rays Sunday, but the results were not known at press time.

Some rare good news from the injury list was the unexpected return of tailback Sean Burwell, who missed the Ducks' last two games because of a sprained ankle. The sophomore ran 17 times for 74 yards in his return.

"I'm very happy to see Sean Burwell back and running with a smile on his face," Brooks said.



Oregon's Ali Watkins, No. 11, makes a kill Saturday against Washington State.

Photo by Jeff Paslay

# Volleyball injury situation becomes worse

By Jayson Jacoby  
Emerald Sports Reporter

Just when the injury situation for the Oregon volleyball team started to get better, it got worse again.

The Ducks, who have played much of the season without starters Mindee Adams and Marcie Price, were swept over the weekend by 20th-ranked Washington State and Washington, minus the services of senior setter Molly McGrath, who injured her back during practice last week.

McGrath's status for this weekend's games at California and Stanford is uncertain.

Oregon, 1-5 in the Pacific-10 Conference and 11-7 overall, did have the services of Adams, its senior captain, in Friday's loss to Washington, but she was only able to play in the back row. She did not play Saturday against Washington State.

A crowd of 960 at McArthur Court Saturday night saw the Ducks fight out a tough match with the 20th-ranked Cougars. The Ducks, however, failed to sustain enough momentum to win a single game.

Oregon junior Ali Watkins had seven kills in the first game, including three in a row to close a 9-4 Washington State lead to 9-8, but the Cougars scored six of the last seven points to close out the game.

After trailing throughout the second game, the Ducks took a quick 4-1 lead in the third, only to see Washington State race to a 7-6 lead.

The Cougars broke a 10-10 tie by scoring the last five points to close out the sweep, 15-9, 15-9, 15-10.

"We played great volleyball," Gregory said. "We just couldn't stop their middle attack. We need to put up a little better block against that team."

Watkins led the Ducks with 14 kills, and Stephanie Warren added 13.

Oregon's leading hitter, Dawn Charroin, created quite a scare for the Ducks when she came out of the second game with an injured shoulder, but Gregory said the injury isn't serious.

Redshirt freshman Kallie Kerr filled in solidly for McGrath as setter for Oregon, recording 46 assists along with a team-high 14 digs. She also chipped in four kills.

Washington State hit at a .278 clip for the match, despite beating Oregon State in a marathon five-game match the night before.

"I was worried," Cougar Coach Cindy Fredrick said. "We were pretty tired. I was glad to see they (the team) came out pretty fired up."

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