

Oregon loses game, quarterback

By Dave Charbonneau
Emerald Sports Reporter

SEATTLE — Oregon unleashed a well-balanced offensive attack against Washington on Saturday. Unfortunately, the Ducks only produced 65 yards rushing and 64 yards passing.

Oregon's offense was nowhere to be found as the Ducks lost their fourth game of the season, 29-7, against the third-ranked Huskies.

In a game in which the Duck defense held its own against a potent Husky ground attack, the offense missed opportunities, turned the ball over and looked downright stagnant.

Washington defenders were all over tailback Sean Burwell. They held him to 58 yards on 19 carries, including a 25-yard touchdown run late in the fourth quarter.

"It was a little frustrating today, but a lot of it was my own fault," Burwell said. "I had the holes. I just didn't execute."

"We had an inability to move the football," Oregon Coach Rich Brooks said. "We couldn't get our running game going."

A lack of a consistent ground game has plagued the Ducks all season. In their last three losses, Oregon has averaged only 65 yards rushing a game.

The passing game did not look much better. In fact, the ever-present quarterback situation became even worse when Doug Musgrave — the third quarterback to start for the Ducks this season — broke his ring finger on the final play of the first half. He will probably be out for the season.

Freshman quarterback Kyle Crowston replaced Musgrave and will start for the Ducks next weekend against Stanford.

Musgrave, who completed six of 13 pass attempts for 57 yards in the first half, said he felt good up until the time of his injury.

"I was fired-up because I thought we could do some good things in the second half," he said. "It could have been a good day for me, but it turned out to be a terrible day."

Crowston played the entire second half and had no luck helping the Ducks move the

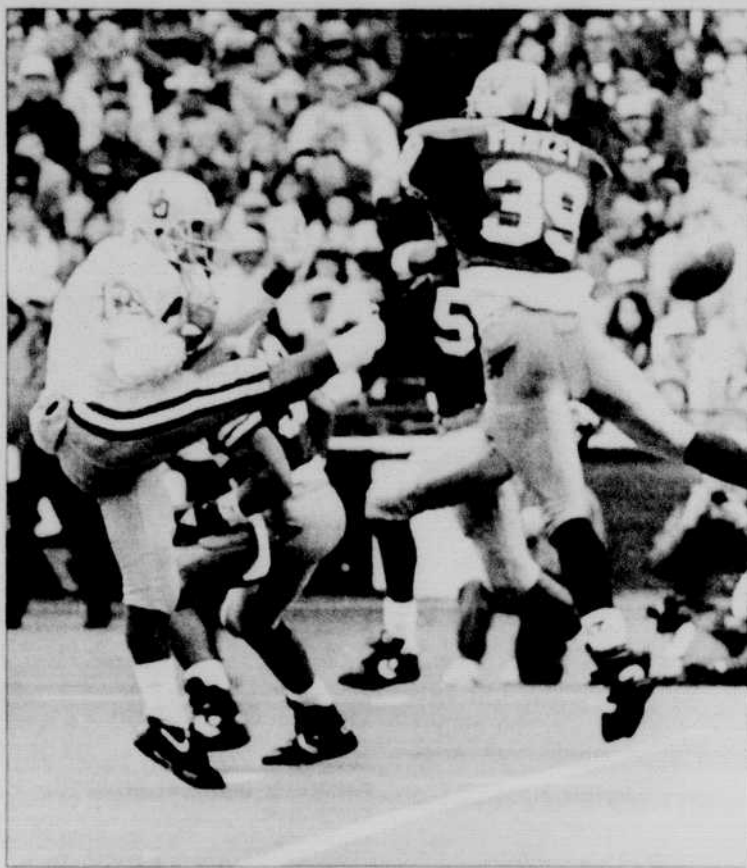


Photo by Jake Berg
Husky linebacker Chico Fraley blocks one of two punts by Oregon punter Tommy Thompson in the first half that set up Washington scores.

ball. He finished the day a dismal two of eight for seven yards and had two passes intercepted.

"I have the capabilities," Crowston said. "I just need to show it on the field."

If Crowston and company expect to have a chance next weekend, they will need to re-establish their running game, hope Crowston plays at least amply and — most importantly — avoid mistakes.

In all of the Duck losses, they have been victims of stupid mistakes. For instance, Oregon has had 13 turnovers to no takeaways in their three previous losses to Utah, USC and California.

Against Washington, had it not been for mistakes, the game could have been a lot closer.

The first mistake came near the end of the first quarter when the Huskies broke through the line to block a Tommy Thompson punt.

Washington took over at the Duck 45-yard line and took only six plays to score, as quarterback Billy Joe Hobert hit Mario Bailey for a 29-yard touchdown to start the second quarter.

Oregon's next series stalled and again the Huskies blocked the punt and ended up with the ball on the Oregon 34-yard line. The Ducks were able to hold Washington to a field goal but trailed 16-0.

On the first play of the next Duck position, Musgrave threw an interception to Walter Bailey that set up yet another Husky field goal.

Trailing 19-0, the Ducks looked to be on the verge of getting some points on the board before halftime as they drove the ball to the Washington 37-yard line, but Burwell fumbled a pitchout on the same play that Musgrave injured his finger.

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