

# Crowston wins starting job as injuries take toll

O'Neil, Salisbury, Musgrave — will the list grow?

By Jake Berg  
Emerald Sports Editor

Next?

Oregon football coach Rich Brooks has been forced to play doctor with his quarterbacks during the last four weeks when the last three went to the sidelines with debilitating injuries.

First, there was Danny O'Neil — the redshirt freshman began the season for the Ducks and was the starter in all three Oregon wins. A rare thumb injury sidelined him for the season.

Second in line was Brett Salisbury — a former junior college player of the year expected to pick up where O'Neil left off. The week after his first starting assignment he suffered a freak shoulder injury in practice while throwing the ball.

Third was Doug Musgrave — the sophomore looked good at California and earned his first collegiate start at Washington last week. He did not return in the second half at Seattle because of a finger on his throwing hand that he broke while making a tackle, of all things, and Musgrave is out for the year.

Next?

Meet Musgrave's second-half replacement at Washington, Kyle Crowston. The redshirt freshman hardly flattered the Husky Stadium crowd with his performance, completing 2 of 8

passes for seven yards, including a pair of interceptions.

"I'm pretty optimistic right now — I'm just trying to do the best I can," said Crowston, who will become Oregon's fourth starting quarterback in as many games when the Ducks meet Stanford at Autzen Stadium

**'We're not playing with Danny O'Neil, Brett Salisbury or Doug Musgrave. We're playing with Kyle Crowston.'**

— Mike Bellotti,  
offensive coordinator

Saturday. "I'm just trying to make something happen. There's a fine line between that and making a stupid play."

"I didn't prepare myself enough for the game."

Crowston was far from being the only problem with Oregon at Seattle as the Husky defense, which is No. 1 in the nation, can bear a good amount of the blame. Musgrave, although unspectacular at Washington, held his own and probably would have finished the game except for the injury.

In the event that Crowston should go down against Stanford, senior Bob Brothers

would become Oregon's fifth quarterback this season. And in the even more unlikely event that both Crowston and Brothers are sidelined, the Ducks will go to true freshman walk-on Clayton Millis.

Brothers has played most of the season at flanker, where he caught two passes in the Ducks' loss at California. Last season's 6-3 victory at Oregon State was the last time Brothers took a snap in a game, completing 8 of 22 passes for 26 yards.

"The problem is the inconsistency that Bob had at the position the last three years," Brooks said. "Right now, Kyle has a better understanding of what we're doing. It's the decision-process of who he throws it to and when he throws it."

"You know, we don't have a lot of choices," Oregon offensive coordinator Mike Bellotti said. "(Crowston) has a long way to go. He just needs a lot more repetitions."

Crowston, like Brothers, saw action at a different position this fall. When the top three quarterbacks were healthy, Crowston, because of his athletic ability, moved to the defensive backfield and even saw some playing time in the Ducks' last win against New Mexico State.

What was a quarterback con-

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photo by Jeff Paslay

Danny O'Neil was the first of Oregon's quarterbacks to go down with an injury.



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