

Halfback runs and passes Oregon State to first win

By Jake Berg
Emerald Sports Editor

Oregon State's passing attack had been so invisible all season that a halfback was tied for the team lead in touchdown passes before Saturday's Civil War game.

During the Beavers' 14-3 win over Oregon, that halfback, Chad Paulson, took the team lead. The sophomore's fourth-quarter touchdown strike to a wide-open Maurice Wilson sealed the win, Oregon State's first at Autzen Stadium since 1973.

Paulson said he thought leading the team in scoring passes was "hilarious."

"I just saw Mo break out and threw it up to him," Paulson said.

The humor of the Beaver passing game was not lost on coach Jerry Pettibone, either.

"Chad Paulson is the most prolific passer we have on our team," Pettibone laughed after getting his first win as the Oregon State coach. "He's also a great football player."

Not many would disagree following Paulson's performance. Besides his go-ahead touchdown pass, he ran through the Duck defense for 149 net yards, including a 33-yard blast which set up the Beavers' first score.

Paulson's romp and an ensuing face-mask penalty took Oregon State to the Oregon three-yard line, where quarterback Ian Shields turned a botched play two downs later into a 7-3 lead. The freshman's six-yard keeper brought a hail of teammates down upon him after he crossed the goal line.



Chad Paulson

"I knew it was a broken play, so I tried to make something good out of it," Shields said.

Shields and Paulson combined with the rest of the Oregon State offense for its most successful game of the season. The Beavers were last in the nation in total offense per game before Saturday, but it did not show Saturday as the Beavers totaled 307 yards in offense, including 278 yards on the ground.

The win was, in all respects, the Beavers' season. At 0-10 before Saturday, Oregon State sported the nation's longest losing streak at 15 games, and Oregon was a 20-point Civil War favorite Saturday.

"This game is the season in itself," Shields said, "and we're 1-0."

"This is the big game," Beaver defensive tackle Sailusi Poulivaati said. "They could be 10-0 and we could be 0-10, but we beat them today."

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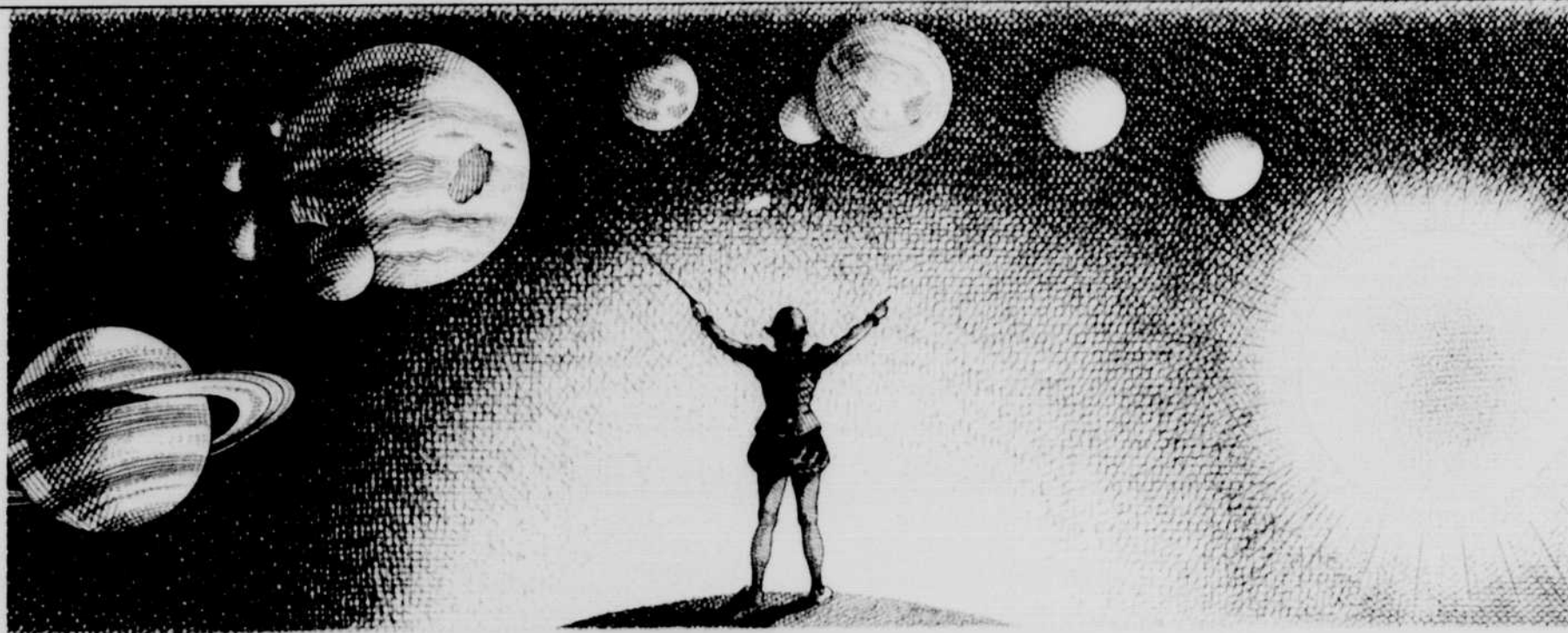
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