

## O'NEIL

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audibilization."

The one play that typified the maturation of O'Neil was when he hit Ronnie Harris for a 48-yard touchdown pass for Oregon's first score of the game.

O'Neil was flushed out of the pocket by the Sun Devils' rush. O'Neil rolled right and saw a giant hole open up in the Arizona State line. Just when it looked as if O'Neil was ready to tuck the ball away and run for a big gain, he stopped short of the line of scrimmage and fired a pass to a wide-open Harris across the middle.

During his career at Oregon, O'Neil has always had the reputation of not showing enough patience to find the open man. O'Neil admitted that a year ago, he may not have seen Harris on that play.

"The play was supposed to be a quick pass, but it wasn't there," O'Neil said. "I was ready to run it, and then Ronnie broke open. A year ago, I may have run it."

The pass to Harris was the big play of the game for O'Neil,

but he had other passes that demonstrated how confident he was feeling in the pocket.

In the first quarter, O'Neil threw a picture-perfect pass to tight end Willie Tate down the sideline for a 17-yard gain that set up the pass to Harris. He demonstrated his scrambling ability again, rolling right and, instead of running, threw another pass right on the numbers to Tate for a 29-yard gain. He even threw a pretty timing pass to Anthony Jones on first down for 29 yards that set up an Oregon field goal.

Each play, by itself, was not as impressive as the fact that they all came within a 10-minute span. O'Neil ended the first quarter seven of nine passing for 106 yards. He only completed seven passes the rest of the game because Oregon was getting the job done on the ground, which was fine with O'Neil.

"Every game, it gets easier and easier," O'Neil said. "The whole game isn't riding on my shoulders. We can do anything we want, the only thing stopping us is ourselves."



Photo by Michael Shindler  
Danny O'Neil demonstrated his ability to find the open man on the run Saturday in Oregon's 30-20 victory over Arizona State.

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than 10 minutes, but could only manage to score on the Harris reception.

Oregon kicker Tommy Thompson kicked the first of his five field goals early in the second quarter to push the Ducks lead to 10-0, but then the Ducks began to make the kind of mistakes that led to their downfall in the season's first two games.

Oregon quarterback Danny O'Neil fumbled a snap at the Oregon 15-yard line, and three plays later Arizona State running back Jerone Davison scored on a one-yard run to get the Sun Devils on the scoreboard. After another Thompson field goal, the Ducks got the ball back on an interception by Alex Molden. But two plays later, running back Ricky Whittle fumbled and Sun Devil linebacker Brett Wallerstedt returned the ball to the Oregon 29-yard line.

Oregon appeared to have Arizona State stalled at the 28-yard line, but an offsides penalty on the Ducks gave the Sun Devils another chance. Three plays later, Arizona State quarterback Garrick McGee hit a wide open George Montgomery streaking down the right sideline for a touchdown to give the Sun Devils a 14-13 lead with only 54 seconds left in the half.

"The defense messed up," Oregon linebacker Joe Farwell said. "It was a mental mistake on our part."

Oregon got a big lift before halftime when kick returner Donovan Moore took the kick-off at the goal line and returned it to the Oregon 48-yard line. O'Neil completed passes to Harris and Derrick Deadwiler to set up a 36-yard field goal by Thompson. Thompson's kick gave the Ducks a 16-14 halftime lead.

"That field goal was a big play," Brooks said. "After they scored we were a little down, but the kick rescued us. I'm sure it was a downer for Arizona State."

Thompson's five field goals on the day tied an Oregon record, but the junior from Lompoc, Calif., said the team win is more important.

"It is nice to get so many opportunities to help the team," Thompson said. "After I missed my first one, my confidence dropped, but the 51-yarder got my confidence level back up."

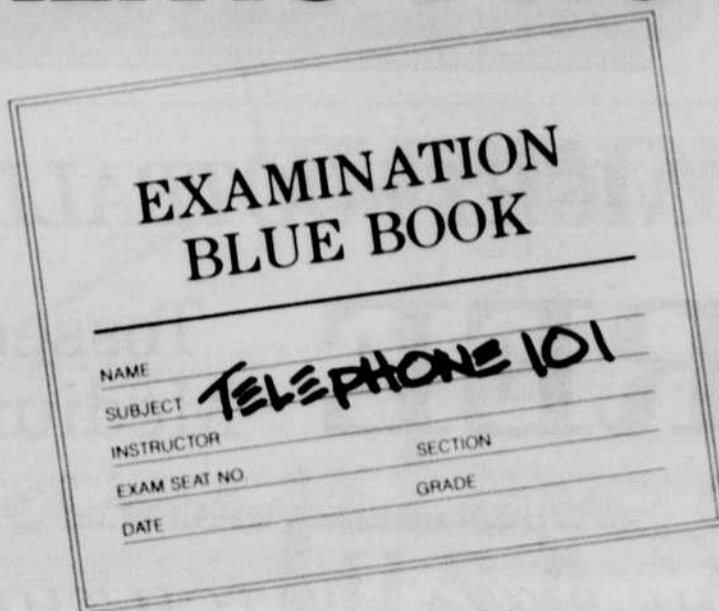
Thompson, who has made nine of 15 field goals this season, has struggled when kicking from the right hash line, but is almost perfect from the center and left side.

"For a right-footed kicker the right hash is the toughest because you have to hook it left," Thompson said. "After last week, I worked on the right hash and my stance, and it paid off today."

"Tommy is the most talented

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