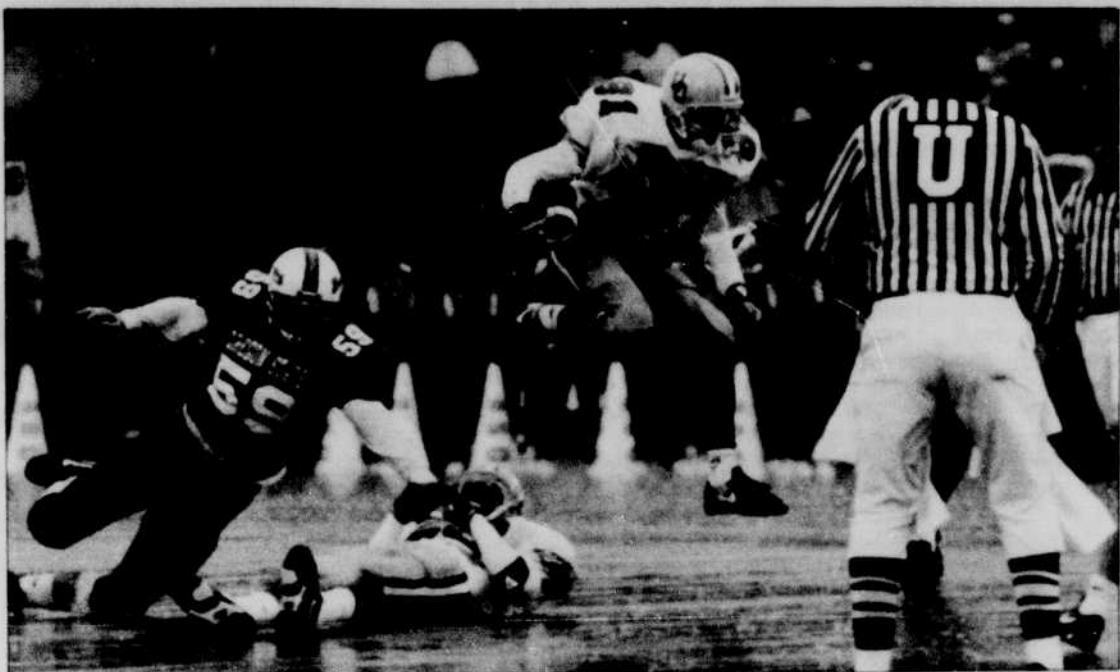


CIVIL WAR



Oregon receiver Ronnie Harris took advantage of the wet weather as a defender loses his footing.

Photo by Jeff Paslay

UnCivil weather dampens game

By Steve Mims
Emerald Sports Reporter

It was apparent that the 1992 edition of the Civil War would be a little weird when Oregon State won the opening coin toss and elected to defend the south goal rather than take the ball.

Winds of 20-30 miles per hour howled to the south, forcing head coaches Rich Brooks and Jerry Pettibone to consider the weather before making any decisions.

How severe were the winds? Oregon kicker Tommy Thompson, who was averaging 42.9 yards per punt entering the game, punted three times in the first quarter for an average of 26.7 yards per kick.

Thompson also missed a 37-yard field goal in the quarter, only his third miss of the season from less than 40 yards.

"That was by far the toughest conditions I have faced,"

Thompson said. "The wind was swirling everywhere. I thought the one I missed was hit well, and then it took off."

Oregon State had to fight against the wind in the second quarter and was unable to do much against the combination of Oregon's defense and the weather.

When the Beavers' first drive of the quarter stalled at the Oregon 29-yard line, Pettibone sent out kicker Jamie Burke to line up for a 46-yard field goal against the wind. The wind forced the Beavers to try a fake instead of going for the game's first points. The fake never had a chance, and instead of the Beavers possibly going ahead 3-0, the game remained tied.

Oregon State punter Tim Kollas averaged more than 47 yards per punt in the first quarter, but his only punt of the second quarter went 30 yards.

"There was nothing I could

do," Kollas said. "I just wanted to catch the ball and kick it, I tried to place some kicks, but it was impossible."

The second half was just like the first half, with both teams punting the ball in search of field position, but this time it was Brooks who decided to defend the south goal rather than get the ball to start the half.

"We took the wind in the third quarter because we thought we could come out with some points," Brooks said. "Those were bad conditions to try and move the ball, particularly with our offense where we try to throw the ball."

Pettibone said his team lost because of two factors: opportunities and the kicking game.

"In a game like this, the severe weather affects the throwing and kicking, and the team that does those things best has the opportunity to win," he said.

Bowl bid still option for Ducks

Oregon's 7-0 victory over Oregon State on Saturday not only boosted the Ducks' pride, but it has given new life to its postseason hopes.

Independence Bowl officials Bob Brown and Orvis Sigler attended the Civil War and said afterwards Oregon is still a possibility for their game on Dec. 31. Brown and Sigler are looking for someone to face Wake Forest at the game in Shreveport, La.

"The good news today is that Oregon got their sixth win, and they qualify for post season," Brown said. "We will meet at noon on Monday and go over what happened this weekend."

The Independence Bowl is said to also be considering Rutgers, Southern Mississippi, Rice, Washington State and Kansas.

"Some teams moved up and others down this weekend," Sigler said. "Kansas and Wisconsin both lost while Washington State and Rice moved up. We can either make a decision on Monday or wait until after next week's games to make a decision."

Oregon finished the season 6-5, 4-4 in the Pacific-10 Conference, and is tied for sixth place in the conference.

Oregon is tied with Arizona State, but the Ducks beat the Sun Devils 30-20 earlier in the year.

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