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# Ducks look sharp in first half before surviving Grizzly scare

By Steve Mims  
 Oregon Daily Emerald

Oregon burst out of the blocks quickly in its home opener against Montana Sept. 11, but the Ducks had to hold on at the end to beat the Grizzlies 35-30 at Autzen Stadium.

The win raised Oregon's record to 2-0 on the season, but head coach Rich Brooks was not pleased with his team's performance against the Division I-AA Grizzlies.

"It wasn't pretty," Brooks said. "The most disappointing thing today was our lack of improvement from the Colorado State game. There are a lot of things I am not happy about."

The Ducks appeared to be on their way to an easy victory when they scored touchdowns on their first three possessions and led 21-0 early in the second quarter.

Oregon got on the scoreboard first when quarterback Danny O'Neil found Derrick Deadwiler for a 14-yard touchdown, culminating a 13-play, 82-yard drive. O'Neil came right back on Oregon's next possession and found sophomore wide receiver Cristin McLemore on a seven-yard crossing pattern to boost the lead to 14-0.

The Ducks' lead reached 21-0 when junior college transfer Dino Philyaw scored on a seven-yard touchdown run around the left end just 36 seconds into the second quarter.

"I am pleased with what we did

offensively early in the game," Brooks said. "I think our intensity and execution dropped as the game went on; maybe we thought it would be that easy all game."

Oregon got its biggest lead of the game when O'Neil lofted a 25-yard touchdown pass to Kory Murphy for the sophomore receiver's first collegiate score. O'Neil had another steady game for Oregon, completing 21 of 28 passes for 316 yards and three touchdowns.

Just when everyone in the stadium thought Oregon had the game in the bag, Montana head coach Don Read replaced quarterback Bert Wilberger with Dave Dickenson, who made sure the rest of the game was not easy for the Ducks.

Dickenson found receiver Shalon Baker with a five-yard touchdown pass to cut Oregon's lead to 28-9 at halftime.

The second half was a different game than the first half, as Montana outscored Oregon 21-7 and almost pulled off the upset.

The Grizzlies put together an 11-play, 84-yard drive to start the second half that ended with an 11-yard scoring pass from Dickenson to Matt Wells.

Oregon responded with a 13-play drive of its own that resulted in a seven-yard touchdown run by Ricky Whittle to give Oregon a seemingly safe 35-16 lead with 5:56 left in the third quarter.

Dickenson and the Grizzlies did not go away, but instead ran their

wide-open offense and the Ducks' defense all over the field. Montana played as many as five receivers at some points of the game, leaving Dickenson with single coverage once he evaded the Oregon rush.

"They gained way too many yards and scored too many points because we didn't contain the quarterback or tackle well," Brooks said. "If we do those things, I don't think Montana would have scored nearly as many points."

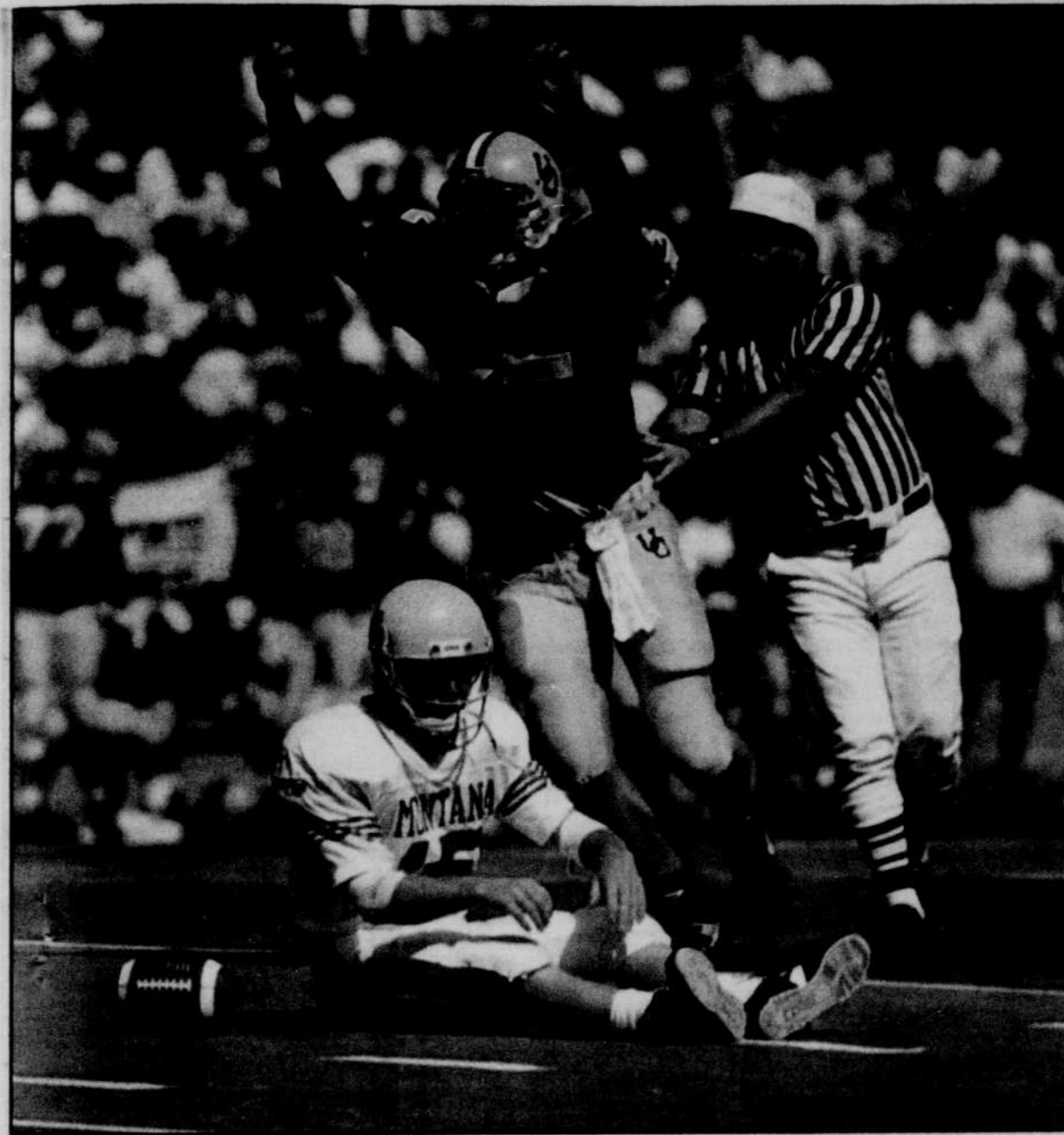
Following the Whittle touchdown run, Dickenson completed five of six passes and gained 15 yards rushing, before running four yards for a touchdown to cut Oregon's lead to 35-23.

Oregon came right back and appeared ready to score again when fullback Pulou Malepeai fumbled the ball on the Montana one-yard line and the Grizzlies recovered in the end zone for a touchback.

Dickenson led the Grizzlies back with an 80-yard drive that took just more than two minutes and culminated with a six-yard scoring pass to Mike Erhardt, cutting Oregon's lead to 35-30 with 1:55 remaining in the game.

The Grizzlies almost recovered the ensuing onside kickoff when Oregon safety Brian Collins tipped the ball, but the Ducks fell on it and ran out the clock.

Oregon will next put its unbeaten record on the line when the Ducks travel to Champagne, Ill., to face Illinois of the Big 10 this Saturday.



Oregon linebacker Bryon Rockwell celebrates his sack of Dave Dickenson, marking one of the few times the Ducks were able to get their hands on the Montana quarterback.

# Montana's magic QB saws Oregon in half

By Dave Charbonneau  
 Oregon Daily Emerald

Oregon head coach Rich Brooks entered Montana's interview room shortly after the game and offered his hand to Grizzly head coach Don Read.

"That's one hell of a quarterback you got there," Brooks said. "He's quite an escape artist. You got him going to school with Houdini, or what?"

Dave Dickenson, a 5-foot-10, 175-pound sophomore, threw over, ran away from, and sometimes bulldozed over the Duck defenders, nearly orchestrating one of the most incredible — and for Oregon, most humiliating — comebacks Autzen Stadium has ever seen.

For the 2,000 or so Montana fans in attendance, Dickenson's performance was

pure magic. For Duck fans, it was a living hell.

Dickenson, playing in only his second game ever for the Grizzlies, completed 28 of 47 passes for 324 yards, and also ran for 89 on 12 carries, leading Division I-AA Montana to 530 yards in total offense.

But Dickenson's big trick was his ability to elude the vicious Oregon rush. After a while, the game started to resemble the *Tom and Jerry Show*, with Oregon playing the stupid cat and Dickenson playing the wily, sneaky mouse.

"Their little quarterback was a nightmare," Brooks said. "We couldn't get a handle on him. He made us look foolish out there. We've got him sacked seven or eight times, and we're grabbing air. I've got to give him credit, he played a great

game."

Dickenson would set up in the pocket, the overmatched Grizzly front line would break down moments later, unleashing a rush of rabid Duck defenders, and Dickenson would simply scramble out of the pocket, leaving a trail of fallen Oregon players in his wake and throwing a perfect strike to one of his receivers, or just tuck the ball away and run for his life.

Even when the Ducks could get ahold of him, the undersized quarterback refused to back down. At least four times after a big gain, Dickenson would be faced with an Oregon defensive back, and rather than simply hit the deck or run out of

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Oregon running back Ricky Whittle stretches out for the winning touchdown in the Ducks' 35-30 win.



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