

## Ducks hold off ASU

□ Oregon builds another big first-half lead on its way to win

By Steve Mims  
Oregon Daily Emerald

This time Oregon was able to hold a lead. Barely.

The Ducks (4-2 overall, 1-2 in the Pacific-10 conference) built up another big early lead Saturday night at Arizona State and then let the Sun Devils back in the game before holding on to win 45-36.

Oregon quarterback Danny O'Neil had another monster game for the Ducks, completing 25 of 41 passes for a career-high 364 yards and four touchdowns. O'Neil secured the win when he found tight end Willy Tate on a 14-yard touchdown pass with four minutes left in the game.

Oregon's offense exploded early as the Ducks took a 31-7 lead late in the first half. O'Neil got the Ducks on the scoreboard when he threw a 34-yard touchdown pass to Dameron Ricketts on the Ducks' first possession. Oregon kicker Tommy Thompson stretched the lead to 10-0 on Oregon's next possession with a 35-yard field goal.

Arizona State started true freshman Jake Plummer at quarterback, and he looked impressive early when he connected on all four pass attempts on the Sun Devils' second possession. The final completion was a 20-yard touchdown pass to Steve Bush.

Oregon's Sean Burwell gave the Ducks great field position when he took the ensuing kick-off 63 yards to the Arizona State 27 yard line. Four plays later Burwell took the ball over the right tackle from the one yard line to give the Ducks a 17-7 lead.

O'Neil threw touchdown passes to Cristin McLemore and Ricketts in the second quarter to give the Ducks a 31-10 lead at halftime. The lead and pace of the game resembled Oregon's game at California two weeks ago when the Golden Bears

recovered from a 30-0 deficit to beat the Ducks 42-41.

The second half continued the pattern of the Cal game, as Arizona State recovered a fumble deep in Oregon territory and scored three plays later on a five-yard run by Mario Bates.

Oregon was forced to punt on its next possession but Thompson had the attempt blocked and Kendall Rhyne returned it 13 yards to cut Oregon's lead to 31-24 with 10:31 left in the third quarter.

Burwell scored again from one yard out, lifting the Ducks lead back up to 38-24, but Arizona State got another touchdown and a field goal to get within two points at 38-36 in the fourth quarter.

When the Sun Devils got the ball back, they moved it to their own 42-yard line when Oregon linebacker Bryon Rockwell forced Bates to fumble, and the Ducks' Alex Molden recovered it at the Arizona State 48 yard line. Five plays later, Oregon put the game away when O'Neil found Tate for the final points of the game.

Tate, who has overcome nagging injuries that limited him early in the season, finished the game with nine catches for 124 yards and the touchdown. Ricketts, a redshirt freshman, entered the game with only two catches this year, but caught five passes Saturday for 78 yards and two scores.

Oregon needed the passing game Saturday, as the Ducks were able to gain only 73 yards on the ground. Burwell gained 50 of those yards, but needed 20 carries to do so. Arizona State's ground game took some of the pressure off of Plummer, as the Sun Devils gained 142 yards, including 111 by Bates.

The game was a must-win for each team, as the loser had little hope for the year at 0-3 in the conference. The win put the Ducks at 1-2 in the conference and breathed new life into the season, giving the Ducks momentum heading into next weekend's game at Washington.

## Arizona beats Stanford to go 6-0

TUCSON, Ariz. (AP) - Steve McLaughlin knew what it was like to have a game riding on his right foot. Now the Arizona kicker knows what it's like to win it.

His 27-yard field goal as time expired capped the 11th-ranked Wildcats' come-from-behind 27-24 victory Saturday night over Stanford in a turnover-filled game.

But McLaughlin, a junior who missed two last-minute field goals a year ago that cost Arizona victories, may have booted another kick just as important 73 seconds earlier — a rugby-style punt. The ball rolled 55 yards to the Stanford 14-yard line with 1:16 remaining and the score tied 24-24.

Three plays later, with 40 seconds to go, Akil Jackson sacked Stanford's Steve Stenstrom and Spencer Wray recovered the fumbled ball at the Cardinal's 8. After three quarterback keepers, McLaughlin kicked his first game-winner to boost Arizona to its best-ever start at 6-0 (3-0 in the Pac-10).

Stanford fell to 2-4 overall and 0-3 in the Pacific-10 Conference.

"I've been in that situation before, and that

most certainly helped me," said McLaughlin, who also kicked a 50-yard field goal in the third quarter to tie the game 17-17 after Arizona had trailed 17-0 early in the second quarter. The Wildcats went ahead 24-17 late in the third period.

Arizona coach Dick Tomey, who had huddled his entire team around him on the sideline after Stenstrom found Justin Armour for a 16-yard touchdown on the first play of the second quarter, said: "We needed a game like this because you find out what you're made of. There's not much difference between Stanford and us."

Arizona, the nation's leader in total and rushing defense, gave up 342 total yards, but only 98 of those in the second half.

Ellery Roberts had pulled the Cardinal back into a 24-24 tie on a seven-yard touchdown run, ending a 74-yard drive with 12:43 remaining.

Stenstrom completed 30 of 47 passes, but the Cardinal managed only eight rushing yards in 22 carries against the nation's strongest defense against the run.

But Arizona managed only 240 total yards —

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