

# UW big plays beat Ducks

By Scott Simonson  
Oregon Daily Emerald

With eight minutes remaining in the third quarter, Oregon was in the game. Oregon had every chance to win it, but Washington was a little stronger and a little faster, and Washington made the big plays.

All Oregon made were mistakes.

The Huskies beat the Ducks 21-6 in Seattle on Saturday by being the only team able to execute on offense for an entire drive. Oregon committed seven turnovers as its record fell to 1-3 in the Pacific-10 Conference and 4-3 overall.

With 8:46 left in the third quarter, a win was still within Oregon's reach. Tommy Thompson had just kicked a 44-yard field goal to make the score 7-6 Washington. The Duck defense had forced a turnover and allowed only one first down in Washington's first two possessions of the second half.

But Washington's running game was getting stronger as the game went on. Six Duck defensive starters left the game with injuries, and the Huskies continued to rotate their tandem of talented tailbacks, Napoleon Kaufman and Beno Bryant.

Instead of relying on a passing game to manufacture the game-breaking big play, Washington was content to pound away with Bryant and Kaufman. Bryant had supplied the Huskies' only touchdown in the first half with a 35-yard run, capping an 80-yard drive on seven running plays.

In the third quarter, it was Kaufman's turn. He burned the Ducks on a 58-yard touchdown run down the left side that

made the score 14-6 Washington. The Huskies had 290 yards rushing for the game.

"He looks quick when you watch him on film, but when he's out on the field, he's that much quicker," Oregon strong safety Chad Cota said. "He's a fast guy that's really explosive. He's a great runner."

However, the Ducks looked ready to respond. Quarterback Danny O'Neil moved Oregon 43 yards on four plays. On first-and-10 from the Washington 37, O'Neil threw for the end zone. He threw his fourth completion inside the Washington 10 — all to Washington players.

O'Neil finished with six interceptions. "A few were bad reads, a few were bad luck and a few were stupid," O'Neil said. "I'm sure I could think of a thousand excuses, but I just didn't make the plays."

"He had a lot of pressure and got sacked a lot, but you still have to do a better job of managing the football," head coach Rich Brooks said. "Whatever opportunity we had to win, we didn't hang on to the ball well enough to do anything."

Oregon still wasn't finished. The Ducks had the ball to begin the fourth quarter, but a fumbled exchange between O'Neil and tailback Ricky Whittle gave Washington the ball back.

Looking to put the final nail in the coffin, Husky quarterback Damon Huard dropped back and threw a short pass — into the arms of Oregon cornerback Isaac Walker — but Walker dropped the pass and may have missed a chance to return an interception deep into Washington territory.



JEFF PASLAY/Emerald

Oregon safety Jeff Sherman gets a hold of Washington's Napoleon Kaufman during the Huskies 21-6 victory over the Ducks on Saturday.

"I should have caught it," Walker said. "It's something you dream about. He flat out threw it right to me."

With Oregon's defense wounded and getting weary, Washington went back to its rushing attack. Eight rushing plays and two fourth-down conversions later, Kaufman scored on a one-yard dive to make the score 21-6.

Oregon had 10 minutes to make a

charge, but one never materialized.

"The worst thing you can do to a Washington team at home is get behind," Brooks said. "When they got their third touchdown, we were in real trouble because they could kind of turn it loose on defense and not respect the running game."

"We ran the ball well enough but we weren't throwing it well, and that's the strength of our offense," he said.

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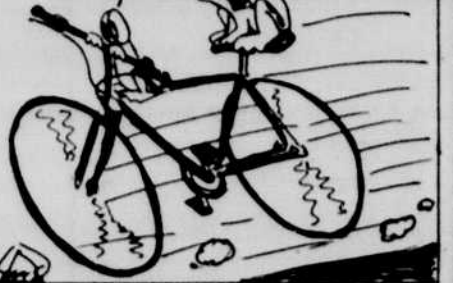
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