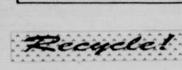
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# **Duck-Cougar rivalry heating up**

By Steve Mims

Oregon's 46-23 win over Washington State last Saturday was just another chapter in the renewed rivalry between the two teams

Although the Ducks have recently mastered the Cougars, winning seven of the last eight contests, the two teams have built a mutual dislike for each other, especially the past two

The rivalry got especially nasty last year when a benchclearing brawl broke out during Oregon's 34-17 win at Pullman. Let Oregon running back Ricky Whittle tell how it started

"They were talking trash and giving us little push-offs," Whittle said. "They pushed off on our offense and our offense pushed back. I guess that's how it started.

The trash-talking for this year's matchup began weeks before the game when Washington State All-American linebacker Anthony McClanahan was quoted as calling the Ducks

However, it was the Cougars' dirty play that ended up hurting them last Saturday, as they committed 11 penalties, including three personal fouls that resulted in 16 Oregon points.

A personal foul on McClanahan on Oregon's first possession gave the Ducks a first down,



rather than a third down without the penalty. Five plays later, Oregon kicker Tommy Thompson kicked a 36-vard field goal to give the Ducks a 3-0 lead.

Late in the second quarter, Washington State's Torey Hunter was called for a non-contact personal foul away from the ball, giving Oregon a first down. Oregon wide receiver Cristin McLemore told reporters afterwards what happened.

"I cut him, rolled him up and blocked him good," McLemore said. "He was on top of me and slammed my face, so I didn't let him get up. He was upset saying, 'He's holding me, ref.' The next thing you know he said. 'I'm gonna break your - neck McLemore.

"I said, 'Ref, are you going to throw a flag?' I was just being funny about it, but they threw the flag on him, and I got him out of his game."

Three plays later O'Neil found McLemore on a beautiful passand-catch play on the side of the end zone. The pass was just above the outstretched hands of

"I exchanged a few words with him after I scored the touchdown," McLemore said. "I usually don't do that, but I did."

Washington State's third personal foul came after a five-yard loss by Whittle on first down. So, instead of giving Oregon a second down and 15 yards at the Washington State 35-yard line, Oregon had first and 10 at the 50-yard line. Three plays later Oregon scored again, on a pass from McLemore to tight end Josh Wilcox, giving the Ducks a 39-23 lead.

"They pushed off on me a couple of times," Whittle said. "But we don't have time for that. As you saw, two times we rushed down in four plays and

It's probably no coincidence that all the trash-talking occurred in a game that marked the return of Oregon fullback Juan Shedrick. Shedrick is wellknown for his ability to talk durhis team or frustrate another.

Shedrick was not expected to play because of an elbow injury, but he did, and he let the Cougars know right away.

"I ran back and said 'I'm out here, I'm back," Shedrick said after the game.

Shedrick irritated a few Cougars with his voice during Oregon's win over the Cougars last year, but he said they did not cooperate with his conversation starters on Saturday.

"They know I like to talk," Shedrick said. "Today they didn't talk to me that much. They said, 'Why do you keep coming at me?' and I said 'Because I like you guys."

Whittle explained just what it is that Shedrick does to irritate the opponent during a game.

"Juan got under McClanahan's skin last game and this game," Whittle said. "For some reason, he can't take the little comments. Juan says one-liners and it really gets McClanahan crazy, gets him out of his game.

"Basically it is just one-liners. When he comes up with them, we look at each other, give a smirk and say, 'He's back.' The thing about it is you never hear him repeat the same one, it's real funny.

McClanahan had nine tackles Saturday, but was not a major factor in the game. He had no quarterback sacks, and O'Neil said the only times McClanahan bothered him was "in the piles."

Oregon's ability to keep its composure and pick up only five penalties, including no personal fouls, was a big reason why the Ducks were able to get a big win over the Cougars.

'We pride ourselves on not retaliating and getting stupid penalties," McLemore said. "We did that very well."

Whittle said the Ducks prefer to just play the game, and do the retaliating afterwards.

"You do your duty," Whittle said. "Then talk trash."

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