

Memories from Civil Wars past

By Scott Simonson
Oregon Daily Emerald

It's there in all the great rivalries: USC-Notre Dame, Army-Navy, Burt-Loni, the Sandinistas - the Contras.

Tradition.

The Oregon-Oregon State rivalry may not be the stuff of which legends are made, but it does have history and at least a little tradition. It's history the way the Pacific Northwest makes a history: in an understated, idiosyncratic way that those from other parts of the world may dismiss, but that makes plenty sense to those who live around it.

The Civil War isn't the biggest or best rivalry in college football, but it's Oregon's own. The rivalry has its share of memorable games. It may be equally famous for its forgettable ones.

Saturday's game is the 97th meeting between Oregon and Oregon State. Oregon owns a 47-39-10 record in the series. The Ducks are 19-22-4 in games played against Oregon State in Eugene and 7-4-1 against the Beavers in Autzen Stadium. For those betting types, Oregon is undefeated against Oregon State in games played in Albany. (Its record is 1-0-1)

Entire books could be written on the first 96 meetings between the two teams (whether anyone would want to read them is another matter). The following is a primer, highlights of a brief history of the times Oregon played Oregon State.

- 1894. The first meeting between the two teams. Oregon State, then Oregon Agricultural College, wins 16-0. The following season, the Ducks win 44-0.

- 1922. Oregon wins 10-0. It is the fourth straight year that Oregon holds the Beavers scoreless.

This is impressive until you consider that at this time, two touchdowns in a game was considered an offensive explosion. 1922 was also the first time in three years that Oregon managed to score. The previous two meetings had been 0-0 ties.



OSU Coach Tommy Prothro (left) consoles Oregon coach Len Casanova (right) after the Beavers' 7-6 win over the Ducks in the 1964 Civil War. OSU scored its only touchdown with 54 seconds left in the game, enabling them to go to the Rose Bowl instead of Oregon

ARCHIVE PHOTO

- 1958. This was Oregon's last Rose Bowl season. Under Len Casanova, Oregon beats Tommy Prothro's Oregon State team 20-0 before losing 10-7 to Ohio State in Pasadena. The Ducks come into the game leading the nation in scoring defense, but the Beavers are a six-point favorite.

The Register-Guard calls Oregon's upset victory "reminiscent of ... a 20-0 victory registered by Len Isberg's 1940 Oregon 'Mudders.' Ah yes, the famed Mudders of 1940.

The Ducks are led by fullback Dave Powell, a "booming fullback" who "blasted out 80 yards on 21 carries," according newspaper reports. Powell was a master of the dive play, often leaping over his linemen and "making almost as much yardage straight up than ahead."

The game takes place before a record crowd of 27,574 in Parker Stadium.

- 1960. Casanova and Prothro battle to a 14-14 tie. The Ducks fall behind early, then miss two-point conversion in the fourth

quarter that would have given them the lead.

Oregon State's record-setting and eventually Heisman Trophy winning quarterback Terry "The Pirate" Baker is held to 13 yards total offense. Oregon State has a chance to win the game with a field goal, but injured kicker Tim Ankerson misses a field goal from the 13-yard-line with 15 seconds remaining.

- 1972. Oregon ends an eight-year losing streak against the Beavers with a 30-3 win. The front page of the sports section of *The Register-Guard* features Dan Fouts smoking a big cigar (cigars were what everyone in Eugene was smoking in 1972) after the victory.

Oregon coach Dick Enright wins plaudits for the victory, something previous coach Jerry Frei was unable to accomplish in five attempts. The game is played before a Parker Stadium record crowd of 41,544.

Fouts is only 7 of 20 passing in the game but completes a 65-yard touchdown pass to receiver Greg

Lindsey. "There's not too many guys Greg can't get behind," Fouts said "He's so damn fast."

- 1983. The final score: Oregon 0, Oregon State 0. The scoreboard isn't always an indication of how bad a game is, but this game is horrible.

The teams combine to commit 11 turnovers and miss four field goals. The Ducks finish the season 4-6-1; the Beavers finish 2-8-1. "All you can say is both teams had chances to win and neither could," Oregon offensive guard Gary Zimmerman said.

- 1987. Oregon wins 44-0. It's the biggest blowout by the Ducks since 1895. It's also extends Oregon's unbeaten streak to 12 years. The Beavers win 21-10 in 1988 to break the streak.

Oregon quarterback Bill Musgrave has his worst game of the season, completing eight of 19 passes for 128 yards. Oregon State uses three quarterbacks, who combine to complete 10 of 28 passes for 69 yards.

- 1990. In another classic,

Oregon wins 6-3. With Oregon missing what seems like its entire starting offense, two field goals from Gregg McCallum is enough to win. It is the first time Oregon wins a game without an offensive touchdown since 1968.

Oregon State's offense is inept in the truest sense of the word. One of the most memorable plays of the game occurs when backup quarterback Fred Schweer, whose most notable accomplishment for Oregon State was being caught stealing adult magazines from the OSU bookstore, comes into the game and quick kicked from the back of his end zone. The punt travels less than 20 yards.

- 1991. Oregon States comes in winless on the season but stuns the Ducks at Autzen Stadium. The Beavers rush for 278 yards under new coach Jerry Pettibone's option attack, and clinch the game with an option pass. The Beavers finish 1-8, which is enough to allow some to claim its season is a success.

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