

CIVIL WAR

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In between the mistakes, Thompson kicked a 37-yard field goal to cut the Beavers' lead to 7-3.

The next break for the Beavers came when Thompson's 24-yard field goal attempt late in the first half was ruled wide right. However, after the game, Thompson swore the kick was good.

"It was good," Thompson said. "It was unbelievable. I think it was one of those cases where the ball is kicked high and (the referee) didn't have a good view. Oregon State's fans were right behind the field goal yelling, and I think that may have played a part as well."

Oregon got back inside the Oregon State 20-yard line early in the second half but was only able to muster another Thompson field goal to get within 7-6. Oregon's offense was hurt with injuries early in the game when running back Sean Burwell was lost with a separated right shoulder, and wide receiver Cristin McLemore was also limited by an injury to the right shoulder. Burwell had only three carries in the game, and McLemore had one catch.

Despite the injuries, Oregon was able to get the lead for the first time in the game when it drove 74 yards in nine plays, culminating in a one-yard touchdown dive by fullback Dwayne Jones. Oregon went for the two-point conversion after the score but failed, and the lead was 12-7.

That lead looked like it would hold up at the end of the game, until Thompson was unable to get the punt off and Oregon State capitalized with the winning touchdown.

"I'm disappointed to see the game turn on a break," Brooks said. "It was a high snap, and unfortunately we couldn't get a punt off."

Oregon's defense played big throughout the game, stuffing Oregon State's quarterback Muhammad or any other runner almost every time he carried the ball. Oregon State's deepest penetration in the first three quarters was to the Oregon 42-yard

line, and that was at the end of the first half when the Beavers were content to run out the clock.

On a day when Oregon's defense played perhaps its best game of the year, the offense was limited to 192 yards in total offense. Oregon quarterback Danny O'Neil had a tough day, completing 15 of 34 yards for 187 yards. The fault didn't lie solely with O'Neil, as his receivers dropped several passes.

The running game was invisible once again, as Oregon's leading rusher was Burwell with 15 yards. Ricky Whittle gained only 12 yards on seven carries, and the Ducks finished with a net of five yards on 22 carries.

"We hit a few runs early," Brooks said. "But they hit us in the mouth most of the rest of the time, and we didn't do a good job."

On the other side, Oregon State players felt they played their best defensive game this season, if not ever as a unit.

"Our defense played the best game I've ever been on the field for," Oregon State linebacker Tony O'Billovich said. "We were running a lot of coverages, and everyone stepped up today. It was phenomenal."

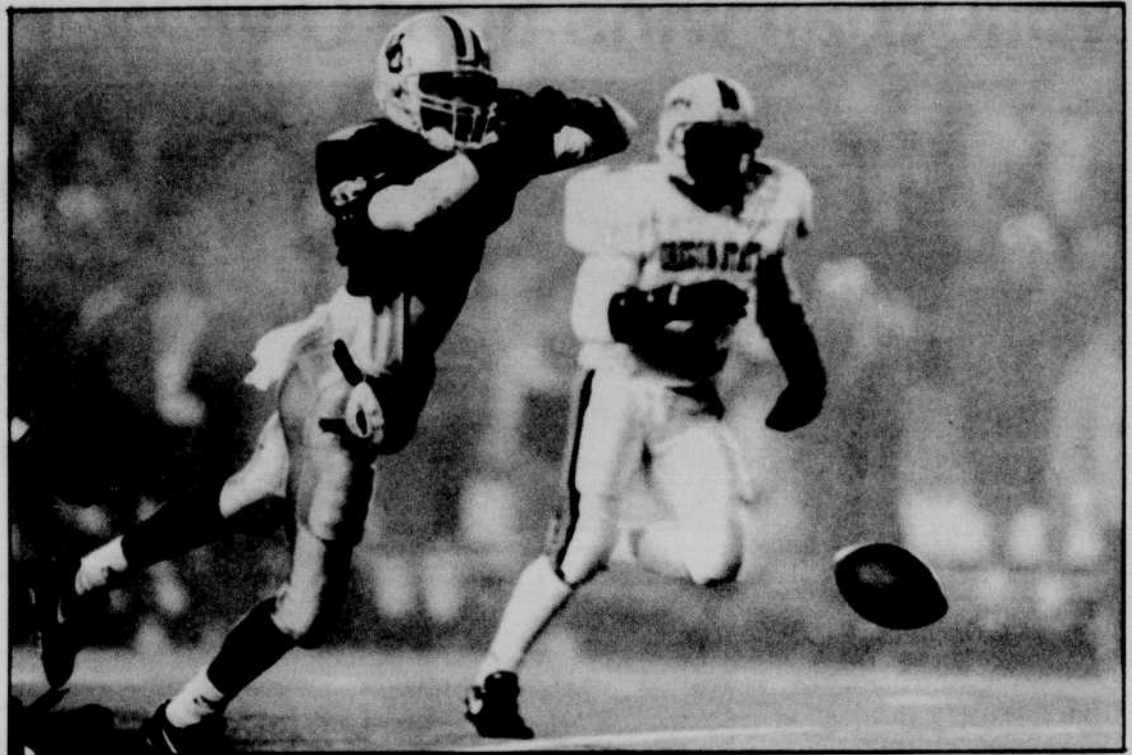
As for the Ducks, the domination they once enjoyed in this series, when they went 13 consecutive games from 1975-87 without losing to the Beavers, is now gone. The two teams have split the last six meetings.

Oregon is left now to think about the disappointment of finishing 5-6 after beginning the season with Rose Bowl aspirations.

"This season's been a major disappointment," Oregon tight end Willy Tate said afterwards. "We came in with high aspirations, we beat a tough Illinois team and thought we had a real shot at being in bowl consideration. We didn't win the games we needed to win, and that sums it up."

O'Neil summed it up even more directly.

"It's just been a disaster, really," O'Neil said. "It's just a big downer."



ANTHONY FORNEY/Emerald

Oregon wide receiver Kory Murphy reaches out for a ball just overthrown by quarterback Danny O'Neil in Oregon's 15-12 loss against Oregon State Saturday.

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cessful note to end on, but as an experience to build on for 1994-95.

"A couple years ago, we got one win down here, and that was all we got (on the season). This year, we had four wins and three tough losses. Next year, we'll be that much stronger. We're on the rise in the Pac-10," Oregon State running back J.J. Young said.

Although the Beavers finished 2-6 in the Pacific-10 Conference, the team met its goal of winning four games, something that happens on the average of about once every decade in Corvallis.

On the other side, Oregon wasn't starting to talk about next season. It was still trying to sort out what happened this year.

The last game, like too many other games this season, didn't go the way Oregon had wanted it to.

"We've got a lot of talent coming back, we've got a lot of talent leaving," Oregon tight end Willy Tate said. "You'd be hard pressed to think of a worse way to go out than this."

After the game, Oregon State coach Jerry Pettibone, like many of his young players, had started talking about next season.

"This is an encouragement for our coaches to go and recruit and for all of the players on our team who are going to be back and dedicate themselves to working hard in the off-season and getting ready to have a great spring practice and the kind of season we'd like to have next year," he said.

Oregon head coach Rich Brooks said that Oregon's season wouldn't have been a success even if the Ducks had won on Saturday.

"To me, it's a very important game to win and we failed to do it and that's extremely disappointing," Brooks said. If

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—Rich Brooks
U of O football coach

Oregon had won, "We'd have been 6-5 3-5 in the league, and I would still be very disappointed about the result of this season."

It wasn't the type of Civil War game Duck fans were accustomed to. Oregon is used to being bigger and faster than the Beavers. It's used to having better athletes and more talent. All these distinctions weren't as clear on Saturday afternoon as they used to be. If Oregon State's program is going the way Beaver coaches and players believe its going, that may be the case for some time.

Oregon Daily Emerald

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