

O'Neil dumps ghosts of past with clutch drive in UW upset

Kris Henry
Oregon Daily Emerald

Danny O'Neil waited four years for Saturday to happen. Four long years of being deemed incapable of leading his team to victory when it really mattered.

Against Washington, all the whispers from Oregon fans and the media coverage of this topic fell on deaf ears as he led the Ducks to victory from end zone to end zone in one of the most dramatic series of plays in Oregon football history.

"I finally got it," O'Neil said of his first fourth-quarter comeback scoring drive. "Not coming back from behind was more than just the media harping on me. People say, 'You finally get the media off your back,' but no, it was a personal thing. It was a big achievement for me personally."

"I don't know if the team believed in me or not. I think they did believe that I was their only hope. I'm the quarterback; they either have to believe in me or walk off the field."

Duck followers are aware of the Duck quarterback's tainted past. That knowledge made it that much sweeter for those around

O'Neil to appreciate what he had done.

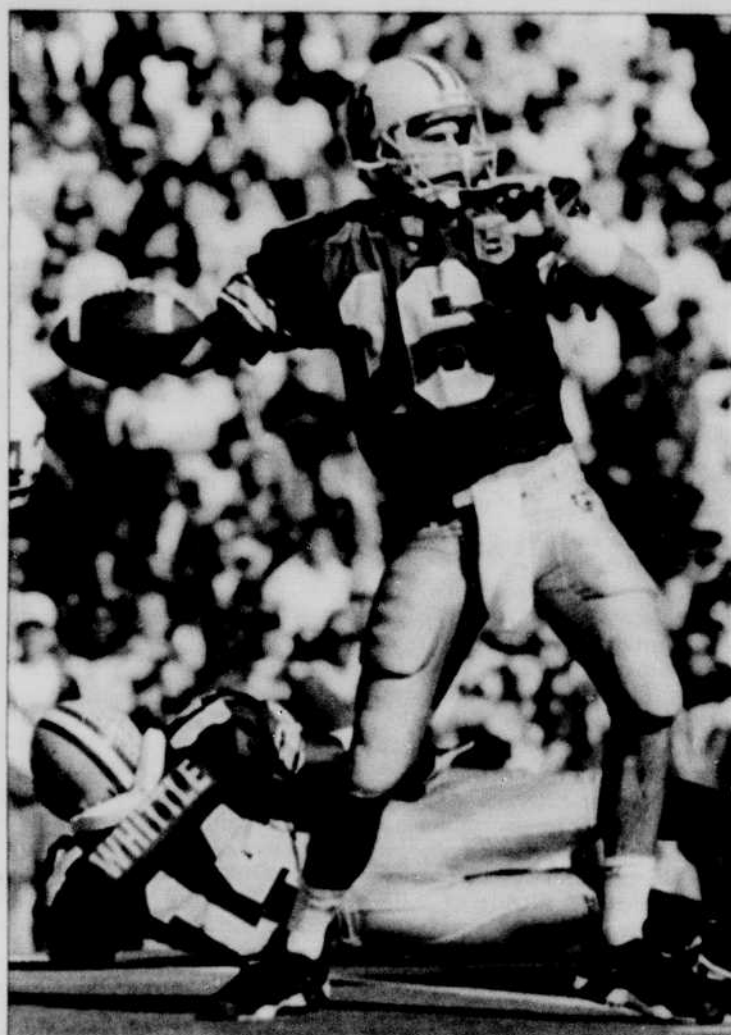
"Danny O'Neil has taken a lot of flack over the years," Oregon head coach Rich Brooks said, "but he brought us back on a 98-yard drive and threw the ball perfectly several times. I think it's a great win for him. He brought this team back from what looked like a heart-breaking loss to an exhilarating win."

"In the past," Oregon offensive coordinator Mike Bellotti said, "one of my concerns is if (O'Neil) hesitates or doesn't have confidence — but he threw the ball with confidence (against Washington). He told me early in the game that he was feeling poised and really good. I trust his judgment. He doesn't tell me that in situations where he's not feeling it."

Will "The Drive" by O'Neil have any carryover effect for the senior quarterback and his teammates?

"I hope so," tight end Josh Wilcox said. "I think that drive is going to be a mainstay in Oregon football history, not just for

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MICHAEL SHINDLER/Emerald

Quarterback Danny O'Neil led the Ducks 98 yards for the winning touchdown in Saturday's upset over Washington. O'Neil has been criticized in the past for his failure to lead the team from behind.

Maddux receives third Cy Young

NEW YORK (AP) — Greg Maddux became the first pitcher to win three straight Cy Young Awards, unanimously sweeping the NL honor Monday with an overpowering year in a season dominated by hitting.

The Atlanta ace was 16-6 with a 1.56 ERA. His ERA, the third lowest in 75 years, was more than 2 runs below the league average, the biggest differential in major league history.

"You always set goals. To win the Cy Young, or win three of them, was never really a goal," Maddux said. "It's always something you try to attain, but you try to make goals that are a little more attainable."

"I felt like this was my best year, without a doubt. I could never imagine having an ERA under 2.00. I always try to keep it under 3.00."

Maddux, 28, won the Cy Young in 1992 with the Chicago

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Heisman hopes lost at Autzen

Trevor Kearney
Oregon Daily Emerald

After beating the ninth-ranked Washington Huskies on Saturday, the Oregon football program has a few things to boast about.

But the most important aspect of the game, however, was not improving the team's Pacific 10 record to 3-1. Nor was it beating a nationally ranked team. It wasn't even the fact that the win puts the Ducks within reach of post season action.

The biggest story to come out of Autzen Stadium on Saturday was the end of Napoleon Kaufman's bid for the Heisman Trophy.

Coming off of a sub-par, 80-yard performance against Arizona State, the Husky star had only one important 37-yard run against the Oregon defense. Touted as the "Gang Green" defense, Oregon ate away at Kaufman all day, allowing him only 101 yards on 23 carries, a fairly large drop from his 167.3 per game average going into Saturday. The 37-yard carry aside, Kaufman only averaged of about 2.9 yards per carry.

And he is in the running for the most coveted award in college football?

Sure, he is a great football player, and has the ability to put up some more great numbers before the end of the year. But no numbers will (or shall I say should) be able to make up for Kaufman's last two performances. Not even doubling the



TREVOR KEARNEY

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enormous amount of PR that Washington gives their star can help him now.

I will give Kaufman this, however. He was quoted as saying that he was tired of all the Heisman hype. The hype is just that. The award does not mean anything in the scheme of things. Many deserving college players have been skipped over for the award, while some of those players who received it have ended up either working the night shift at a convenience store, or playing point guard for the New York Knicks.

But Kaufman, who was not

involved in the Huskies' last drive of the game, proceeded to tarnish any class that he may have had by complaining about not getting the ball, and saying that he was "just disgusted" at the loss.

Come on. I wouldn't want the Ducks to get any credit for the win or anything. I mean, it's not like they sent Kaufman and his team sliding down the polls to No. 15 with a convincing win, did they?

Please. The story was not that the Oregon Ducks got lucky. It wasn't that the Washington Huskies didn't use Napoleon Kaufman enough, either. The plain and simple truth is that the Oregon Ducks, riding on a strong defense, beat the Washington Huskies.

And as far as not giving the ball to Kaufman, neither Washington coach Jim Lambright nor Husky quarterback Damon Huard should second-guess the decision. Kaufman isn't the only offensive weapon that Washington has, as evidenced in the Arizona State game. He wasn't even very effective in Saturday's game.

The win pushes the Ducks into the race for the Rose Bowl, and almost into the AP's top 25. On the other hand, the loss takes away the only thing that a team on probation with the NCAA for recruiting violations could hope for: that shiny trophy and the press that comes with it.

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Scoreboard

NFL STANDINGS

AMERICAN CONFERENCE		NATIONAL CONFERENCE	
EAST		EAST	
Miami	5-2	Dallas	6-1
Buffalo	4-3	Philadelphia	5-2
NY Jets	4-3	NY Giants	3-4
New England	3-4	Arizona	2-5
Indianapolis	3-5	Washington	2-6
CENTRAL		WEST	
Cleveland	6-1	San Francisco	6-2
Pittsburgh	5-2	Atlanta	4-4
Houston	1-6	LA Rams	3-4
Cincinnati	0-7	New Orleans	3-5
WEST		CENTRAL	
San Diego	6-1	Minnesota	5-2
Kansas City	5-2	Chicago	4-3
LA Raiders	3-4	Detroit	3-4
Seattle	3-4	Green Bay	3-4
Denver	2-5	Tampa Bay	2-5

MONDAY'S GAME

Philadelphia	0	7	7	7	—21
Houston	3	3	0	0	—6

NBA STANDINGS

EASTERN CONFERENCE		WESTERN CONFERENCE	
Cleveland	4-1	Seattle	5-0
New York	4-1	Phoenix	4-0
Orlando	4-1	Portland	4-1
Indiana	3-1	Utah	4-1
Miami	3-3	Houston	3-1
Atlanta	2-2	LA Lakers	4-2
Philadelphia	2-2	Dallas	2-2
Detroit	1-3	San Antonio	2-2
Washington	1-2	LA Clippers	2-3
Chicago	1-4	Golden State	1-2
Milwaukee	1-4	Denver	1-3
New Jersey	1-4	Minnesota	1-3
Boston	1-5	Sacramento	0-3
Charlotte	0-2		

PLAYERS OF THE WEEK

WALNUT CREEK, CALIF. — Oregon cornerback Kenny Wheaton, wide receiver Richard Dice of Arizona, linebacker Donnie Edwards of UCLA, and punter Darren Schager also of UCLA have been named Hertz/Pac-10 Players of the Week in football.

Wheaton, a freshman from Phoenix, Ariz., had nine tackles, including six unassisted. He also had two interceptions, including a 97-yard return for a touchdown in the closing minute to seal Oregon's 31-20 upset over Washington.

Wheaton shared the defensive award with Edwards who made a career-high 16 tackles and three quarterback sacks. He currently leads the Pac-10 in tackles for loss and is tied for first in quarterback sacks.

Other Ducks nominated for the weekly awards were Danny O'Neil, Dameron Ricketts and Matt Belden.