



1905 (left): Oregon 6, Oregon Agricultural College 0

1984 (below): Oregon 31, Oregon State 6

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# Civil War Tradition

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The annual Oregon/Oregon State Civil War football game is not something that is taken lightly by avid fans. Rich in history, the games have given each year's victor Oregon football bragging rights, and therefore fans and players alike go into the game with an intense desire to win.

Last year's high snap to kicker Tommy Thompson, resulting in a sack deep in Oregon territory, had to be spoon-fed to the city of Eugene, and will forever be a recurring nightmare for the serious Duck fan. And in the bigger picture, losing two of the last three Civil War games has been tough for any Duck supporter to swallow.

It wouldn't, however, have come as a shock to the 1894 Oregon Agricultural College football team. You see, the team, which has since been renamed the Oregon State Beavers, started things off by spanking the Oregon Ducks 16-0, thus starting the most talked about annual sporting event in the state.

In 1895, the Ducks came back from the previous year's blanking to do a little shutting out of their own to the tune of a 44-0 victory. That set the tone for the Ducks to take and keep hold of the series lead for the next 72 years, in which time the Ducks would dominate the Beavers, shutting them out 21 times, and go to six bowl games, including three Rose Bowls.

But then, in 1968, the Ducks ran into disaster — a natural disaster, to be exact. Fullback Bill "Earthquake" Enyart led the Beavers into Eugene in the hunt for the series lead. On the first play, Claxton Welch fumbled the kickoff, and the Ducks never recovered. Enyart racked up 168 yards as Oregon State handed



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the Ducks a 41-19 thrashing to take the series lead. The win came amidst an eight-year win streak for the Beavers and an 11-year span in which the Beavers didn't relinquish the series lead.

In 1977, the "Dawning of a

new day" came to Oregon football, or so said several billboards around town. The slogan, which, along with a clean-cut picture of a young Rich Brooks, was put up on several locations around town and

**Oregon State students (above) ride through campus waving comstalks on Monday after Oregon State won the 1937 Civil War. Students rioted on 13th Avenue (left) in a battle known as 'Seymour Siege.'**

served as the team's new motto, marking — at least in terms of Oregon football — the coming of a new, unorthodox and risqué style of play. Brooks, who had not lost a Civil War game while playing and serving as an assistant coach at Oregon State, got off to a rough start, winning only one of his first 10 games.

But Brooks, labeled a "let it all hang out coach" and "less conservative than any of us" by offensive coordinator John Becker in the Nov. 19, 1977 edition of the *Emerald*, rode the success of several trick plays to a 28-16 win over the Beavers.

The trick plays, including an option pass by freshman halfback Gary Beck, two fake punts and a fake field goal, helped the Ducks extend their two-year Civil War winning streak. It also set up a 13-year stint in which the Ducks did not drop a game to their intrastate rivals.

In 1980, the Ducks, coming off of a five-game winning streak against Oregon State, took back the lead with a convincing 40-21 win at Parker Stadium in Corvallis. Eugene Young chalked up 121 yards on five kick returns and quarterback Reggie Ogburn rushed for 173 yards as the Ducks compiled 415 total yards, only 76 of which were a result of passing.

The Ducks then went on to win six of their next seven games against Oregon State, one of which was a hard-fought 7-6 win in 1982 when, with 2:32 left at Parker Stadium, Mike Jorgensen hit Osborne Thomas with the game-winning touchdown. The low scoring theme carried over to the next year, when the two teams played to a sloppy, lackluster 0-0 tie, committing 11 turnovers, missing four field goals and forcing 16 punts.

Then in 1988, with a 6-1 start to the season, the Ducks looked to be bowl-bound for the first time since 1963, but lost their last three games before the Civil War and didn't stop there. The Ducks lost, and lost big, as quarterbacks Pete Nelson and Bob Brothers threw only seven completions in 26 tries, picking up just 79 yards. The Beavers took the game by a final score of 21-10, handing Brooks his first Civil War loss ever and making his lifetime record in the rivalry 18-1-2.

After going to the Independence Bowl in 1989 and the

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