

Braves overwhelm Cardinals, set NLCS record

BASEBALL:

Atlanta beat St. Louis 14-0 Monday, closing their NL championship deficit to 3-2

By Ben Walker

The Associated Press

ST. LOUIS — Back from the brink, the Atlanta Braves aren't about to go quietly.

Spraying hits with a vengeance from the start, the defending World Series champions equaled the biggest rout in postseason history, overwhelming the St. Louis Cardinals 14-0 Monday night to close their deficit in the National League championship series to 3-2.

The Braves silenced the Busch Stadium record crowd of 56,782 that came to see a clincher with a five-run first inning, then kept attacking in a frightening display that set the LCS records for hits and most lopsided victory.

"Our flares fell in; our line drives fell in," Atlanta manager Bobby Cox said. "Everything fell in."

By the time Javy Lopez singled in the fourth, every Braves batter had gotten a hit. When he homered to dead center the next inning, Atlanta led 11-0 and already had set an NLCS record with 17 hits.

The Braves, a team that began the game batting only .213 in this year's postseason, finished with 22 hits, four each by Mark Lemke and Lopez.

"We got out early and took their crowd out of it," Lemke said. "I think you have to credit the whole offense. The team really came through."

John Smoltz added two hits and also pitched seven shutout innings for his second win in a week, sending the best-of-7 series back to Atlanta.

Atlanta's runaway victory, following two one-run defeats, ended St. Louis' nine-game home winning streak in postseason play. And it gave the Braves all the more reason to think these playoffs would still turn out OK.

Four-time Cy Young Award winner Greg Maddux will pitch Game 6 on Wednesday night against St. Louis' Donovan Osborne. If the Braves win,

they'll start Tom Glavine, MVP of last year's World Series, in Game 7.

"We think we can do it," Cox said. "We talked about it all day with the team."

The Cardinals, meanwhile, will certainly continue to hear more about some of their past failures. Of the 47 teams to take 3-1 leads in postseason series, 40 have gone on to win — St. Louis is the only club ever to twice blow such an edge, in the 1968 and 1985 World Series.

"Before we could escape, they had put up a couple of crooked numbers," Cardinals manager Tony La Russa said. "It just wasn't any fun. That game got away from us."

The Braves' 22 hits broke the LCS record of 19 set by the New York Yankees against Oakland in 1981. The Braves also surpassed the Chicago Cubs' 13-0 win over San Diego in 1984 for the largest margin of victory.

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Heartbreaking, mind-boggling; what happened?

Heartbreaking. Is there a better word to describe the overtime loss to Stanford on Saturday afternoon? Well, maybe devastating, as in its effect on Oregon's bowl game hopes.

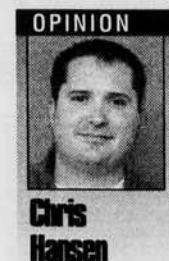
But I think heartbreaking sums it up best because that is what was seen on the field

after Cardinal kicker Kevin Miller booted the game-winning field goal in overtime. As the Stanford players rushed the field to celebrate their come-from-behind victory, Oregon linebackers Reggie Jordan and Derrick Barnes slumped to their knees in disbelief; cornerback Lamont

Woods took his helmet off and just stared motionless at nothing and on the Oregon bench; defensive lineman Bryant Jackson sat with his head in his hands.

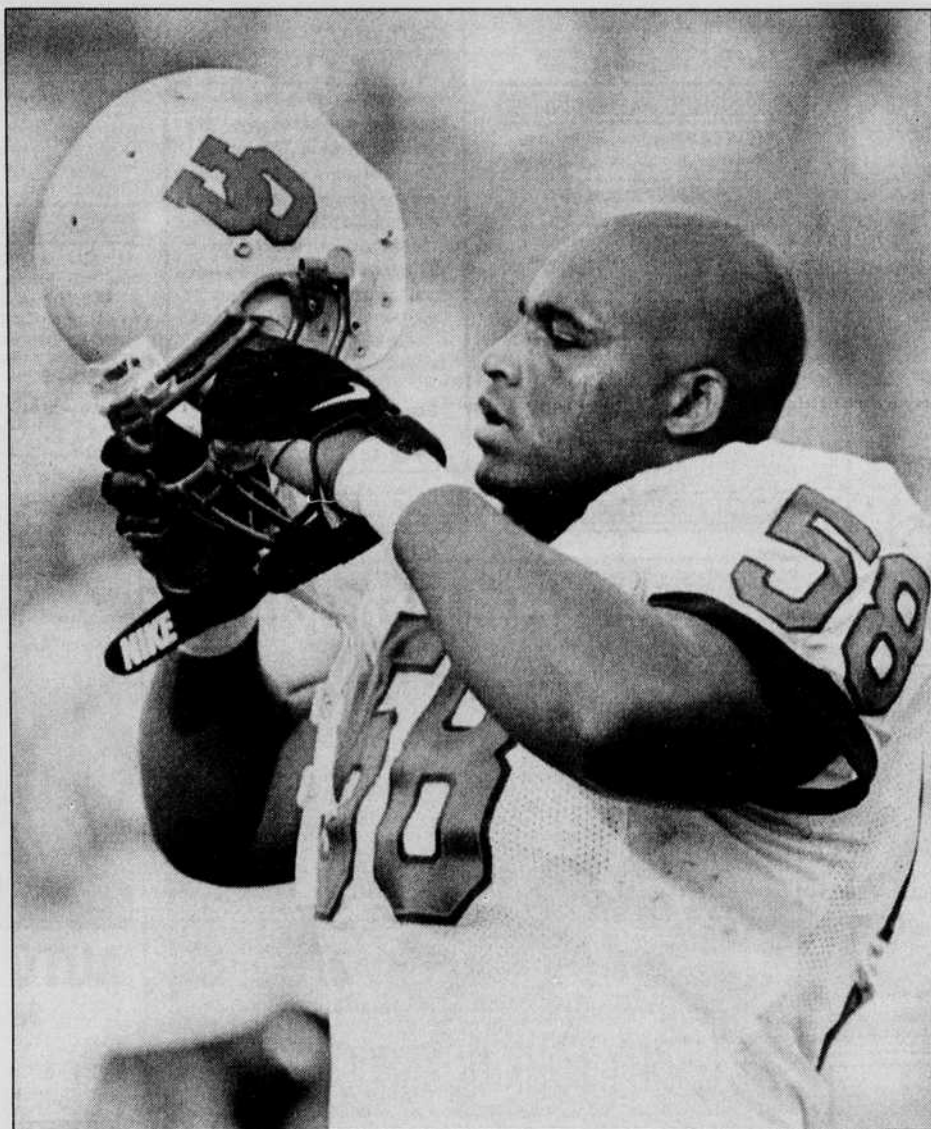
Without saying a word, all four players must have been asking themselves the same question: What the hell happened?

Not just what happened in that particular game, but what happened to a season that started off 3-0. What happened to a team that came into this season with not just hopes, but a realistic chance of winning the Pacific-10 Conference and going to a third-consecutive New Year's Day bowl game, or at the very least, just playing in



Chris Hansen

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Senior linebacker Derrick Barnes is one of many Ducks who have fought through pain all season long on Oregon's young and injury-depleted defense.

Record kick lifts Packers to victory

■ **NFL:** Chris Jacke kicked a 53-yard field goal to give Green Bay a 23-20 victory over San Francisco

By Dave Goldberg
The Associated Press

GREEN BAY, Wis. — With Robert Brooks gone early and Edgar Bennett gone late, the Green Bay Packers turned to Plan B — Don Beebe.

While it was Chris Jacke's 53-yard field goal, the longest overtime kick in NFL history, that gave the Packers a 23-20 victory over San Francisco on Monday night in the most dramatic game of the season, it was Beebe who was the real hero.

The 32-year-old veteran, who spent most of his career with Buffalo, had 11 catches for 220 yards, the third-most yardage in Packers' history, including a controversial 59-yard catch from Brett Favre for Green Bay's only touchdown.

That gave him at least a share of the hero's mantle with Jacke, who had four other field goals, including a 31-yarder with eight seconds left in regulation that sent the game into overtime.

He also was a reluctant hero when he was sent on to kick from 53 yards.

"A kicker never hopes for those situations," Jacke said. "I'd much rather be kicking for extra points."

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Oregon offers opportunities for snowboarders of varying skill levels

OUTDOORS:

Willamette Pass, Mt. Hood and Mt. Bachelor each have a unique twist for snowboarders

By Rob Moseley

Freelance Sports Reporter

Few sports evoke a sense of spirituality like snowboarding does.

The founder of the sport, Craig Kelly, quit competing because he felt it went against the principles of snowboarding.

Accomplished riders like Eugene's own future Olympian, Lael Gregory, have been known to say, "If you compete, you are lame." Local rider Daizo Kinoshita likens snowboarding to spiritual harmony: "If you are riding a hill with fresh powder, and no one else is around you, it is the ultimate freedom."

That freedom can be found in numerous ways, but the main disciplines involved in snowboarding are alpine and freestyle. Alpine, the discipline favored by World Cup riders Mike Jacoby and Jeff Greenwood, is a quest for speed and a race against the clock straight downhill at speeds of over 60

mph. The average rider can only hope to approach forty miles per hour.

Along with attaining high speeds, the favorite activity of any boarder is "getting air." Freestyle competition involves accumulating points by doing aerial stunts and tricks. Practitioners of freestyle snowboarding include the aforementioned Gregory, along with others such as Ross Powers.

Snowboarding is not an inexpensive sport to try. The most imperative piece of equipment is, of course, the board itself. Expect to spend \$300 to \$400 on a quality stick, such as those made by Burton, Sims, and Salem-based Morrow.

Also essential are bindings, the equipment that straps you to your board. These can average \$100 to \$150 in price, and boots, which fit in the bindings, run \$100 to \$200.

The smart rider will also wear waterproof pants and jacket because, as Kinoshita puts it, snowboarders become "much more familiar with the

snow" than skiers. Also recommended by Kinoshita are goggles and a good knit cap.

The best places to snowboard in the area are Willamette Pass, Mt. Hood and Mt. Bachelor. Willamette Pass is recommended for beginners, and costs less than \$30 for an all-day lift ticket.

Mt. Hood, which runs a summer camp featuring many professional freestyle and alpine riders, will run over \$30, but is recommended for all snowboarders.

The pinnacle in the area is Mt. Bachelor, which features World Cup snowboarding each March. The lift ticket approaches \$40 a day, but "it is well worth it, especially if there is fresh powder," said Kinoshita.

Snowboarding is notoriously difficult to learn, and the newcomer can expect to spend most of the first day riding on his or her behind. However, for those with the dedication to stick with it, a lifetime of enjoyment lies ahead.