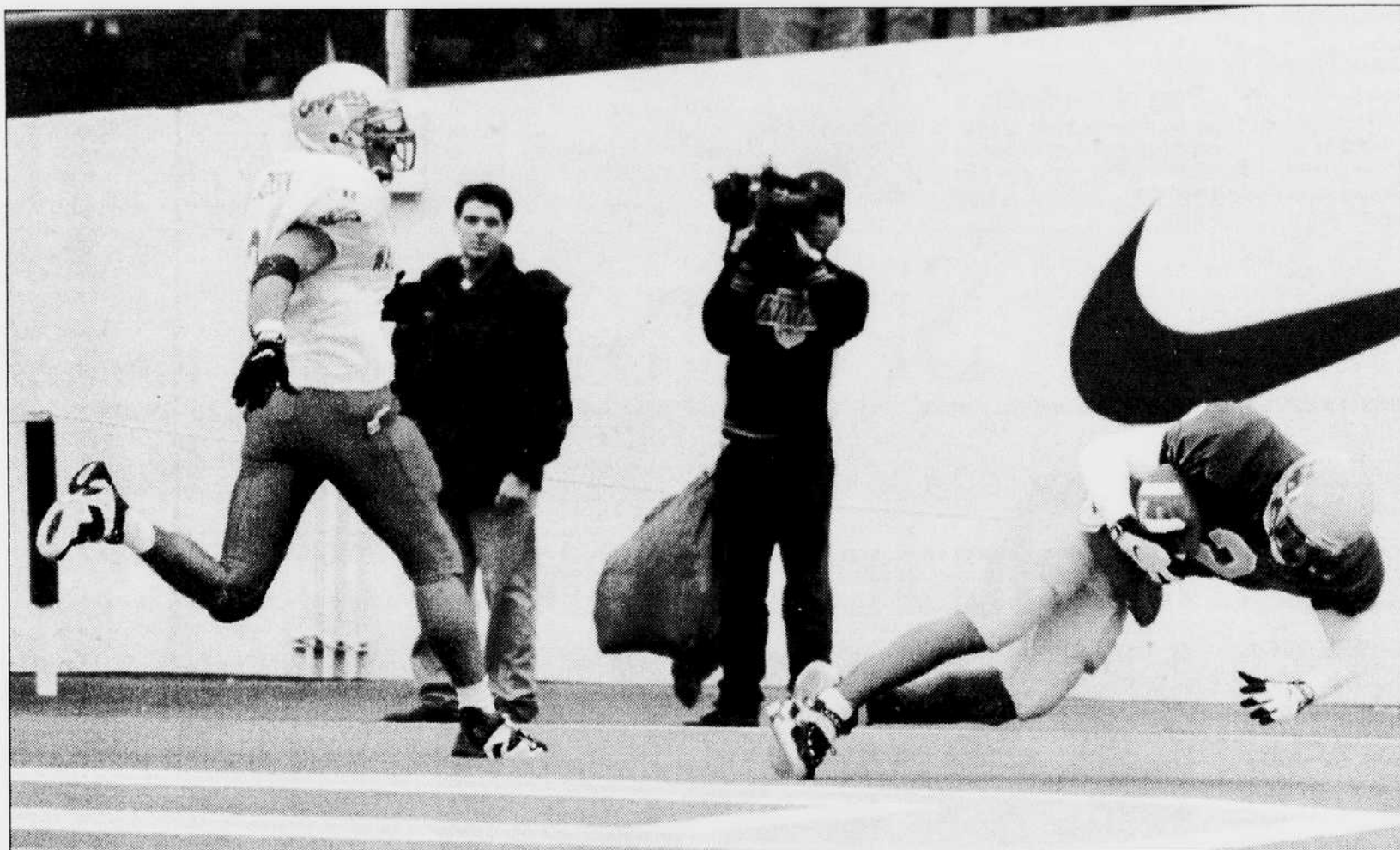




Tony Hartley rolls out of the end zone after making a diving touchdown catch on a fourth and 22 play from the Washington State 31. The fourth quarter score was the Ducks lone touchdown of the day.

MICHAEL CRISP/Emerald

Defense: Leaf held to 225 yards passing

Continued from Page 11A

Oregon moved Michael Fletcher, who had just one tackle at Stanford, and Brandon McLemore from their defensive back positions to outside linebacker. Outside linebacker Peter Sirmon switched to the inside, and Justin Wilcox started at strong safety.

The result was an ultra-quick front seven that blitzed, pressured and disrupted Washington State quarterback Ryan Leaf for much of the game.

"I said all week our defense would surprise some people," Oregon head coach Mike Bellotti said. "I'm very encouraged by our defense. I'm tired of telling people that we're getting better. I'm tremendously proud of the job they did."

Coming one week after a game in which the Ducks gave up 578 yards in total offense, Saturday's performance was a welcomed sight.

After one quarter, it was the defense that was holding Washington State scoreless and keeping Oregon in the game.

The Ducks defense held the Cougars to minus four yards rushing and three completions for 34 yards in the first quarter. In fact, Washington State's high-powered offense, which led the conference in total offense before Saturday, could not manage to push the ball past midfield until the final play of the quarter.

After the first quarter, Washington State's big plays started to hit the Ducks hard.

On the Cougars' first possession of the second quarter, Leaf got loose and scrambled for 21 yards.

The following play, Shawn McWashington made a spectacular diving catch for a 38-yard gain to put the Cougars on the three-yard line. After an Oregon penalty, running back Michael Black scored the game's first touchdown.

Washington State's next touchdown drive, which started with just 1:59 remaining in the half, was more of the same as the first two plays accounted for 63 of the 80-yard drive.

For the most part, the Oregon defense held the Cougars again in the second half.

Washington State scored on its second possession of the half, but was aided by two Oregon penalties for 30 yards.

Oregon linebacker Peter Sirmon intercepted Leaf's pass on the next possession, but on the Cougars' final drive big plays hurt the Ducks again and led to a Washington State field goal.

Despite the loss, the Oregon defense had done its job.

The Ducks held Leaf to 226 yards passing, 102 yards under his average, and the Cougar offense to 351 yards in total offense, 147 yards under their per game average.

Black, however, did his share of damage, rushing for 124 yards on 24 carries.

At their new positions, Fletcher had eight tackles and McLemore six.

Duck offense falters inside Cougar 20

Mistake-riddled offense gets inside the WSU red zone five times only to settle for two field goals

By Ryan Frank
Sports Editor

Funny game, football is.

The Oregon Ducks scored 49 points and racked up 530 yards in total offense, 361 of that through the air, in a nine-point loss to Stanford one week ago. Only one of their seven touchdown drives took longer than 2:21 seconds and one scoring drive took all of seven seconds.

It seemed there was nothing the Ducks couldn't do.

Seven days later, the same Oregon offense was just as effective, but could manage just

one touchdown drive in a game that featured the Pacific-10 Conference's second and third-highest scoring offenses.

The offense was there, but the scoring was not.

"We were able to move the ball; we weren't able to score points," said Oregon offensive coordinator Dirk Koetter.

Against the always-tough Washington State defense, the Ducks racked up 415 yards in total offense, 23 first downs and held the ball for six more minutes than the Cougars.

"The bottom line, we just weren't productive in the red zone," Koetter said.

Five times the Ducks moved the ball inside the Washington State 20-yard line for a grand to-

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