

Receiver Donald Haynes (10) celebrates his first career touchdown for Oregon with offensive lineman Scott Fergus in the second quarter of the Ducks' win.

Football

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Hartley's second touchdown, with 12 minutes, seven seconds remaining in the fourth quarter, gave Oregon a 24-15 lead. Nathan Villegas bolstered that lead with a 42-yard field goal to make it a 12-point game with 7:44 left before Herman Ho-Ching's fumble with two minutes left gave the Huskies a glimmer of hope.

Backup quarterback Marques Tuiasosopo scored on a keeper from two yards out to close the lead to five, but Brandon McLemore recovered the ensuing onside kick. Two Ho-Ching runs were enough for a first down, and Smith was able to twice take a knee and run out the clock, as well as Washington's chances.

Ho-Ching ran for 47 yards on 17 carries but, more importantly, made it through the game without reinjuring the knee strain he suffered Sept. 19 against San Jose State.

"It was going through my mind on the sideline, but when I would go into the game, I just had to forget about my knee and worry about the game," the 5-foot-11, 200-pound freshman said.

Oregon rushed for just 61 yards in the battle between two pass-oriented teams. Washington (5-4, 3-3) managed just 89 yards on 34 carries.

"They haven't been a real good rushing team this year," Oregon linebacker Dietrich Moore said. "We were more concerned about the pass, but we had to stay honest with the run. If we could force them into third and long situations and take care of the crossing routes, we thought we could be successful."

Husky quarterback Brock Huard used those crossing routes, mostly run by former high school teammate Dane Looker, to end the first half by completing nine straight passes, the last a 10-yard touchdown to Looker. That made the score 17-12 at halftime, and Joe Jarzynka's 40-yard field goal pulled the Huskies to within two points at 17-15 after three quarters.

Oregon jumped out to a 10-0 lead on a 27-yard Villegas field goal and Hartley's 30-yard score. Huard connected with Gerald Harris from 34 yards to get Washington on the scoreboard, but after Jarzynka missed the extra point, Smith led the Ducks on a four-play, 61-yard drive that ended with a 27-yard scoring pass to former junior-college teammate Donald Haynes.

Villegas' successful attempts couldn't overshadow two misses in the third quarter. With the Ducks ahead 17-12 and 7:56 remaining, Villegas missed a 29-

yard attempt after what he thought was an errant snap.

"The snap was to the right of [holder Josh] Bidwell, and he barely had time to bring it back over, and when he brought it down, the laces were facing toward me," Villegas said. "So he spun it, and as I was kicking it, he was still spinning it."

Villegas later missed a 34-yard attempt after anticipating the snap and beginning his approach too early. He had made an attempt from 29 yards, but was forced to kick again after a false start penalty moved the Ducks back five yards.

The first miss ended Villegas' consecutive successful attempts streak at 14, including one in the first quarter Saturday.

"I guess it was bound to happen," Villegas said. "It's too bad it had to happen here, but we still got a win out of it."

Bidwell had a big kicking day of his own that began with a 51-yard punt after the Ducks' opening drive, the first in four games that didn't end on a turnover. He then unleashed a 69-yard boot in the third quarter that flew past returner Jarzynka by at least 15 yards, then pinned the Huskies at their own one-yard line with a 48-yard kick with 5:00 left in the game.

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be lost for the entire season just a few weeks ago — returned, and with him returned Oregon's big-play capabilities on offense. Now, who's ready for the stretch run?

With Ho-Ching back at tailback for the Ducks' final two games, Oregon finally has some teeth on offense. That puts the Ducks back into consideration for a New Year's Day Bowl berth, or something equivalent.

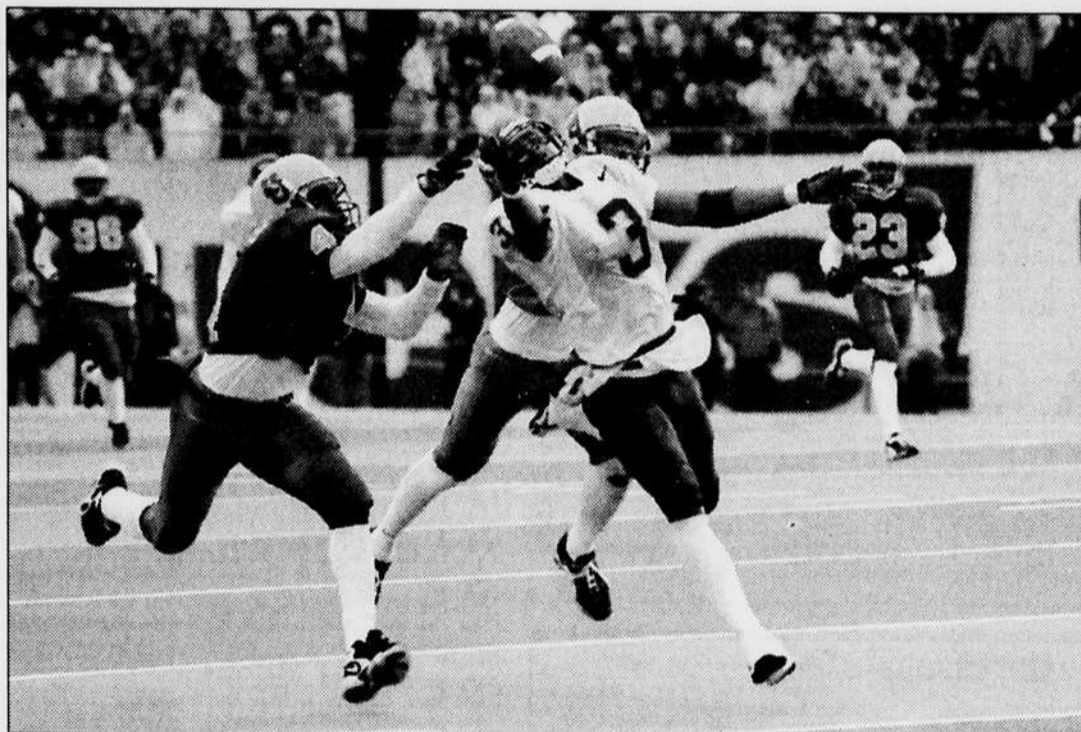
Options for the Ducks: If Oregon can win its next two games against Arizona State and Oregon State it stands a very good chance of getting an invitation from either the Holiday Bowl or Cotton Bowl, which both can select the No. 2 Pac-10 team, or the Sun Bowl, which selects the No. 3 Pac-10 team.

Of course, all of this is contingent on what UCLA and Arizona do down the stretch. The No. 3

Bruins got a break from Michigan State on Saturday when the Spartan knocked off No. 1 Ohio State. That loss puts the Bruins back into the run for the national title game on Jan. 4, in Tempe, Ariz. No. 2 Kansas State is a lock if it beats Nebraska on Nov. 12.

Tennessee, which took over the No. 1 spot in the Associated Press Top 25 after the Buckeyes' loss, have a great chance at an undefeated season because its remaining schedule is weak. But UCLA has a chance to leapfrog Tennessee if it wins big in its last two games against Washington and Southern California.

The Sun Bowl in El Paso, Texas, on Dec. 31 seems to be the best bet for the Ducks if they win out. The hottest team in the Pac-10 right now is Arizona, which has the distinction of being the only team to crush Oregon this season.



Washington's Andre DeSaussure can't come up with this reception after encountering double-coverage by Oregon's Eric Edwards (4) and Brandon McLemore.

Hartley sets new school record with performance Saturday

Tony Hartley's 242 yards on Saturday earn him a spot in the record books

By Joel Hood
Oregon Daily Emerald

He doesn't blow past cornerbacks the way Pat Johnson used to.

He doesn't make the juggling, one-handed grabs like Damon Griffin.

He doesn't strong-arm his opponents like Jed Weaver.

But there is something to Tony Hartley's game that makes him arguably the best clutch receiver in the Pacific-10 Conference — and Arizona State and Oregon State had better account for it in the next two weeks.

With Griffin blanketed by Washington's secondary the entire game, Hartley burned the Huskies' zone coverage for a school-record 242 yards and two touchdowns in Oregon's decisive

27-22 victory Saturday at Autzen Stadium.

"It was unbelievable," Hartley said. "I haven't had a game like this for a long, long time and never at this level."

Actually, no Oregon receiver had ever had a day like this one.

Hartley's first catch went for nine yards. His second catch went for 23 yards and a first down. His third catch was a 30-yard, fingertip touchdown that gave the Ducks a 10-0 early in the second quarter.

"I felt like I was in a groove," Hartley said.

For the third game in a row, Oregon's ground attack was nonexistent. The Ducks rushed for a season-low 67 yards on 32 carries.

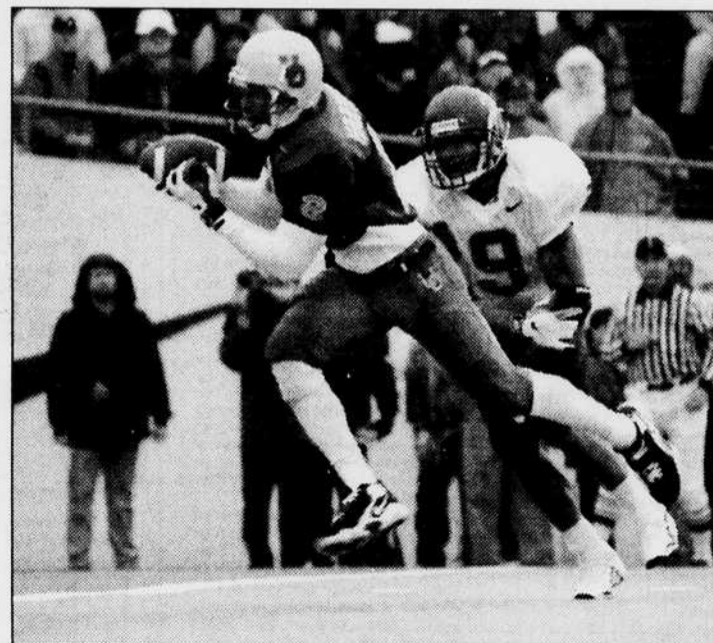
But all that really meant was that Akili Smith could continue to throw... and throw... and throw. Smith completed 19 of 32 passes for 442 yards and three scores.

"We were just in a zone together," said Hartley about Smith. "In the huddle we didn't have to say anything, we could just look at each other because we knew there was something there."

So he continued to be Smith's go-to receiver.

Hartley's fourth catch went for 35 yards. His fifth was between three defenders and good for 46 yards. His sixth catch, a 40-yard deep curl to the Husky 23 yard line, extended a critical Oregon drive late in the second half. Hartley's seventh catch, a 23-yard touchdown pass from Smith, was the Ducks' final score in their most emotional victory of the season.

"Everybody's been hyping [the game] all week," linebacker Dietrich Moore said. "We knew it was going to be a big game. We felt like we needed to go out, as we do every weekend, and earn respect. I think it was especially apparent this weekend."



Oregon's Tony Hartley runs away from defender Hakim Akbar on his way to setting a new school record with 242 receiving yards against the Huskies on Saturday.