

Football

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"We didn't try to change much this week," said Simonton, who ran for a game-high 157 yards on 28 carries. "We came out and had a script, and we just wanted to execute."

No one's script could have predicted the wild extra sessions.

Oregon (8-3 overall, 5-3 Pacific-10 Conference) won the toss to begin the first overtime and deferred possession. Simonton carried on each of Oregon State's (5-6, 2-6) four plays, the last a one-yard scoring run.

The Beavers then appeared to stop the Ducks on a fourth-and-12 from the 27-yard line, as Akili Smith's pass to Tony Hartley was broken up by Andrae Holland. Students poured onto the field, with a few attempting to tear down the goal post after what they thought was the Beavers' best season in 27 years.

But the celebration would have to wait, as officials had flagged Holland for pass interference before the mayhem ensued. It took at least 10 minutes for play to resume, with Oregon having a first down on the Beavers' 13-yard line.

"That was perfect," Smith said of the premature celebration. "I knew we were going to win the game."

Smith completed a 12-yard pass to tight end Jed Weaver that put the Ducks at the Oregon State one-yard line, and three plays later Smith connected with Weaver again to knot the score at 38-38.

Smith completed 35-of-55 passes for 430 yards and four touchdowns despite being sacked six times and threw for 1,269 yards and 11 touchdowns in his last three regular-season games at Oregon. Weaver and Damon Griffin each caught 10 passes, one shy of the Oregon record, with seven of Weaver's receptions coming on overtime.

The Beavers won the toss to begin the second overtime and also deferred, and Oregon chose to move the action to the opposite endzone.

The Ducks' second drive began

as a debacle: a completion to Weaver for seven yards, a three-yard loss on a sack, another seven yard pass to Weaver then two penalties, for tripping and holding, that had Oregon facing first and 43 from the 47-yard line.

But just like the first overtime, a timely pass interference call gave Oregon new life and a first down, and Smith completed five straight to move the Ducks to the eight yard line. The drive stalled there, and a 26-yard Nathan Villegas field goal gave Oregon a 41-38 lead.

Two plays later, the Oregon State students were again celebrating at midfield after a Simonton touchdown.

"It was an exciting game," Oregon head coach Mike Bellotti said. "Great for fans, great for TV. I just wish we could have come out on top."

The Ducks appeared to have the game in hand with six minutes, four seconds remaining in regulation, when Oregon State went three-and-out following Villegas' first field goal of the game to give Oregon a 24-17 lead.

Mike Fessler punted to Michael Fletcher, who has dazzled Oregon fans all season with his near-refusal to call fair catches. That attitude worked for 10 games, but Fessler's punt bounced in front of Fletcher, then hit him in the leg when he leapt to avoid it. Oregon State's Darnell Robinson recovered the fumble on the Oregon 33-yard line, and Simonton rushed on all four plays, the last a five-yard touchdown.

"It was probably my worst play of the year," said Fletcher, who has returned two punts for touchdowns this season. "My worst judgment play of the year so far. It had to come down to a turnover, and I was the one to make the turnover."

Oregon got the ball back with the score tied 24-24 and 5:07 left. Smith connected with Hartley from 28-yards out for a touchdown to end the drive, which also included a 36-yard Hartley reception.



Akili Smith scores Oregon's third touchdown on a 3-yard run bringing the score to 21-17.

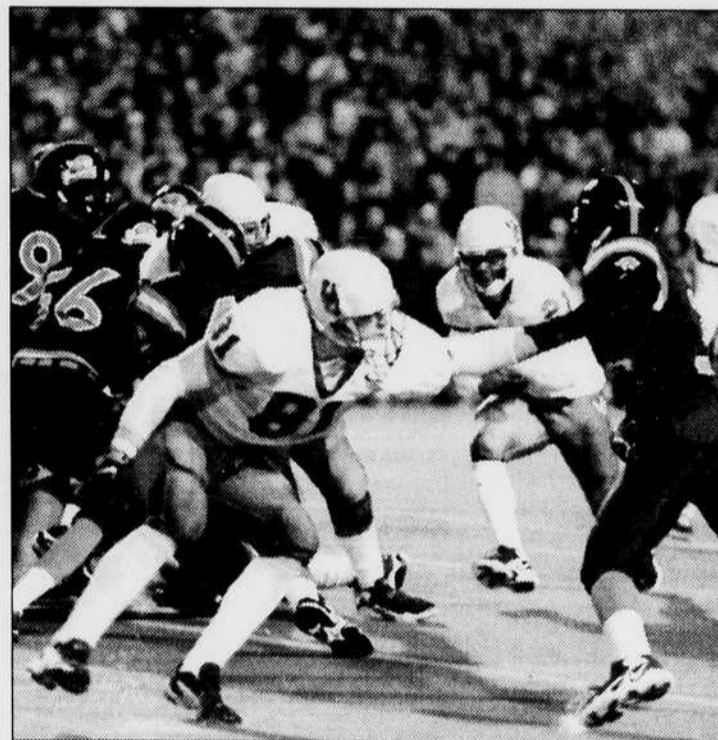
But the Oregon State offense again responded, this time on four straight completions by freshman Jonathan Smith. The last was a short toss to Tim Alexander, who shed Oregon's Rashad Bauman and Aaron Chevront on his way to a 30-yard touchdown.

Smith completed 17-of-28 passes for 303 yards and two touchdowns on the day.

Oregon had one more chance with 1:22 remaining in regulation, but suffered a holding penalty and a sack after reaching the 50 and was forced to punt.

The Ducks ran just once on that drive, possibly admitting their game-long shortcomings on the ground. Jerry Brown led Oregon with 29 yards on 13 carries, and starting tailback Herman Ho-Ching had 12 carries for four yards.

"We didn't quite have the running game today, but I don't know if that's on the running backs," Bellotti said, who said before the game that Oregon's biggest matchup problems would be with defensive ends Inoke Breckterfield and Jamil Braithwaite.



Tailback Jerry Brown led the Ducks with just 29 rushing yards against the Beavers at Saturday's Civil War game.



Ken Simonton scored four touchdowns, two of which in overtime, helping lead the Beavers to victory on Saturday.

Hood

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determine what had happened. With Oregon State defenders crashing around him, as they had the entire game, Akili Smith stepped up in the pocket and delivered a hurried throw at the feet of Hartley. While Hartley appeared to have inside position on Holland, Smith's fourth-down toss harmlessly fell to the turf and, in an instant, seemingly Oregon State's entire student body charged the field.

The celebration, as it turned out, was a bit premature.

Line judge Cappy Anderson thought Holland had knocked Hartley down before the Oregon receiver had a chance to catch the football, so a penalty flag was tossed. Two seconds later Anderson himself was tossed from the sideline in the ensuing riot. As many as 10,000 fans stormed the field, they accented the goal posts, they ripped the pylons from the end zones and hugged half a dozen Beaver players who were hurrying to the locker room.

Needless to say, this was a big mess. Oregon State's Public Address announcer first tried to call everyone back to their seats. Then, Oregon State security guards tried dragging students off the playing field

one by one. Even Oregon State Athletic director Mitch Barnhardt, who was on the Beaver sideline when the first tidal wave of students erupted, helped to move fans off the field.

Glass from broken bottles had to be picked up from the 50-yard line. Order had to be restored somehow. Beaver head coach Mike Riley said after the game he was worried what might happen to his team after the delay. He was concerned his player's would lose focus and that that would be enough to cost them the game.

But it didn't much matter in the end. Less than an hour later, Oregon State tailback Ken Simonton broke free of Oregon's secondary for the game-winning touchdown and Beaver fans were at it again.

And in the end, there weren't too many fans — Beaver or Duck — who didn't join in the celebration. Because while Oregon may have lost the game, and a chance at a 10-win season, the Ducks found a rivalry they didn't even know they were missing.

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