

Oregon Daily
Emerald
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Sports

Best Bet
NFL Football
Atlanta vs. Pittsburgh
6 p.m., ABC



OREGON 44, ARIZONA 41

“ I don't know how healthy he is. But he made it through, and that's awesome. He appeared pretty healthy to me.

Mike Bellotti
UO head coach ”



Dan Cassino Arizona Daily Wildcat

Ducks tailback Reuben Droughns cuts through the Arizona defense on one of his school-record 45 carries in Saturday night's win in Tucson, Ariz. Droughns finished with 202 yards rushing and two touchdowns.

Ducks, Droughns carry away victory

■ Oregon re-establishes itself in the Pac-10 race with an electrifying 44-41 victory at Arizona

By Mirjam Swanson
Oregon Daily Emerald

Another road game, another gut-check. And finally, for the first time in the last eight tries, a win in somebody else's house.

An important win at that. Saturday's wild 44-41 victory against Arizona, secured in the waning seconds on a missed field goal by Wildcat kicker Mark MacDonald, puts the Oregon football team precisely where it hoped to be.

With four games to go, the Ducks (4-3 overall, 2-2 Pacific-10 Conference) are tied for third and find themselves in the thick of this season's bizarre, utterly unpredictable race for the Pac-10 crown.

"I'm so proud of this group," head coach Mike Bellotti said during his postgame radio interview with KUGN. "It's tough to come in and play [the Wildcats.] They were on a roll, and this is their place. Our kids did a great job."

Bellotti saw a handful of his "kids" come through with contributions that enabled Oregon to avenge last season's 38-8 drubbing in Tucson, Ariz.

No performance was greater than that of tailback Reuben Droughns — the player who hadn't even been present at last season's blowout because of the season-ending injuries he'd suffered at UCLA the week before.

On Saturday, Droughns was the healthiest he had been since injuring his ribs against Southern California on Oct. 9. Probably still not 100 percent, Droughns rushed 45 times for 202 yards and two touchdowns. And naturally, the Ducks rode their workhorse to the win.

"I don't know how healthy he is," Bellotti said. "But he made it through, and that's awesome. He appeared pretty healthy to me."

And to Arizona (5-3, 2-2) as well. Even when he didn't find the end zone himself, Droughns helped set up Oregon scores on several other possessions, including the winning field goal by placekicker Josh Frankel on the Ducks' final drive.

But Droughns was far from the only star playing hero in front of the 55,251 in attendance at Arizona Stadium.

Every high-profile player on both teams showed up ready to play — including the Ducks' emerging talents, Frankel and quarterback Joey Harrington.

"Each one of [Arizona's] big four — [Trung] Canidate, [Dennis] Northcutt, [Ortega] Jenkins and [Keith] Smith — had at

Turn to **Football**, Page 9

Oregon declaws Cougars but still prey to Huskies

The Ducks earn their first win against Washington State, but they come up just short trying to do the same at Washington

By Brett Williams
Oregon Daily Emerald

On the road to respectability, there are sure to be some bumps along the way.

And it has been a turbulent ride for the Oregon women's soccer team against the Washington schools. The Ducks entered last weekend a combined 0-6 against their Northwest opponents.

But Friday in Pullman, Wash., the Ducks finally snapped that streak with a 2-1 win over Washington State. Washington, however, continued its dominance of Oregon with a 1-0 victory in Seattle on Sunday.

Oregon (6-9 overall, 2-3 Pacific-10 Conference) played neck and neck with its opponents, forcing both games into overtime.

The Washington State win was monumental because it was the second game in a row that freshman Julie McLellan left her mark. The forward from Vernon, B.C., scored the game-winning

goal in overtime for the Ducks less than a week after one of her goals ignited Oregon in its 4-0 win at Oregon State.

While the goal against the Cougars was credited to McLellan, she got some help in ending the game. Replays of McLellan's final shot showed that after the shot was blocked by Washington

State goalkeeper Lindsay Jorgenson, a Cougar defender inadvertently knocked the ball into the goal for the final margin. Jorgenson, who is second in the Pac-10 in saves, ended the game with nine saves.

Washington State grabbed the early lead on sweeper Beth Childs' goal, but Oregon came right back and tied the game 1-1 on midfielder Sierra Marsh's penalty shot.

Statistically, the Ducks dominated the Cougars in all cate-

gories except goals. Oregon outshot Washington State 22-9, and the Ducks had numerous chances to score on corner kicks, with nine more than the Cougars.

In a season in which they have lost games they have dominated, the Ducks refused to lose this time. Oregon head coach Bill Steffen was able to breathe a sigh of relief after his team left Cougar Field with a win for the first time in team history.

"This was a good win for us," Steffen said in a released statement. "We pounded and pounded them in the first half, and it is good for us to finally nail down a win that we truly deserve."

"We have had other games that we deserved to win but didn't, so it is good for the girls to finally feel like they won a game they dominated."

Oregon suffered a bit of a let-down against the Huskies (6-7-1, 3-1-1), who are still vying for a berth in the NCAA Tournament. The first half was a fairly even

affair, with Oregon outshooting the Huskies 7-6 and the score remaining 0-0.

But something fired up Washington after halftime. The Huskies were determined to keep their undefeated record against the Ducks in tact, and they began putting immense pressure on Oregon's defense and goalkeeper Amanda Fox.

Huskies senior Anna Biddle had Washington's best chance to score, but her shot with just more than 30 minutes left in regulation ricocheted off the crossbar. Washington outshot Oregon 20-6 after halftime, but Fox — who finished with nine saves — held off the Huskies and forced the game into overtime.

Washington and Oregon had almost fought to a standstill when Huskies junior Theresa Wagner scored the game winner. The Huskies' Caroline Putz assisted as Wagner decided the game from about 15 yards out after the rivals battled for more than 118 minutes without a goal.

The Hustle

Friday

Oregon 2,
WSU 1 OT

Sunday

Washington 1,
Oregon 0 OT

Next Up

Oregon vs. USC,
3 p.m. Friday at
Papé Field