

Tim Pyle

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end LaCorey Collins. But then Harrington and the Oregon offense started rolling.

With 45,445 fans howling in the early evening air, Harrington found Collins for 16 yards and then flanker Tony Hartley for 17 more. After an incompleteness intended for wide receiver Marshaun Tucker, Harrington and the Ducks had 26 seconds with which

to work and 43 yards to cover. Harrington found his favorite target Hartley for another 14 yards. And while securing his seventh reception, which totaled 99 yards, Hartley also managed to get out of bounds. Twenty-one seconds. Twenty-nine yards. Harrington dropped back. He threw. Incomplete for Tucker. Fifteen seconds. Still 29 yards. Oregon huddled. Harrington called a play that had been used

"about three or four times" already, but this time it was on the opposite side. Tucker, the junior-college transfer from Chula Vista, Calif., who had come up half a yard short of being a hero as time expired in the Ducks' 34-29 loss at UCLA on Oct. 9, would be Harrington's primary option. Oregon got set with Tucker lined up wide right. Harrington took the snap. He dropped back. And he lofted a beautiful 29-yard spiral to the right corner of the end zone. Meanwhile, Tucker got Arizona

State cornerback Nijrell Eason to bite on a fake to the inside and broke right, toward the corner. He turned. He reached out. And he caught what could very well end up being the biggest pass of the Ducks' season. Seventy-nine yards, eight plays and Oregon only needed 49 of those 58 seconds to secure the epic 20-17 victory. Deke Moen, the anchor of an offensive line that provided Harrington with plenty of time dur-

ing the final drive, was in awe. "To come back like that and in that kind of fashion, it's just... it's something real special," Moen said. Oregon head coach Mike Bellotti called the final drive "the stuff legends are made of" and was overflowing with pride following the dramatic conclusion. "When you put together a drive like that... there's obviously a lot of character involved," Bellotti said. "We have a great group of kids." A group that ultimately never gives up.



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Oregon football

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caught the ball ... Touchdown." Touchdown. Jubilation. And Oregon's Rose Bowl hopes are alive and well, as long as the Ducks keep winning. "This is a great win," tailback Reuben Droughns said. "We needed this. [First-place] Stanford lost to [second-place] Washington, which was great for us. So if we continue to win, things are gonna go right for us." For the second week in a row, Droughns was a major part of what went right. The senior finished with 37 carries for 188 yards, increasing his season total to 733 rushing yards despite having missed a full game and parts of two others with a rib injury. But even with that supreme effort from Droughns, the Ducks weren't able to pump the scoreboard like usual against the Sun Devils (4-4, 3-2). Arizona State's defense, top-ranked in scoring defense among Pac-10 teams, held Oregon to just two field goals until late in the third quarter when Harrington and freshman receiver Keenan Howry hooked up to give the Ducks a temporary 13-10 lead. Fortunately for Oregon, its defense was equally stingy. While the Ducks collected 502 yards of total offense, they held Arizona State to 365. Oregon cornerbacks Justin Wilcox and Brian Johnson both made several big plays. Johnson had a second-quarter interception, and both players came through with timely deflections. Both players also left the game with injuries. Wilcox's dislocated shoulder was the most serious of the Ducks' injuries, which included several minor

concussions, head coach Mike Bellotti said. Senior safety Brandon McLemore led Oregon with 14 tackles, while linebackers Matt Smith and Peter Sirmon contributed typically strong performances with 11 and nine tackles, respectively. "[The defense] did exactly what we hope that they do," said Hartley, whose 99 receiving yards brought him within 33 yards of breaking Cristin McLemore's Oregon career record. "They kept us in there and left the door open for us." Because, it appears, as long as that door isn't bolted shut, the Ducks have a chance to win. "I knew we believed it," Bellotti said. "I'm not sure how many of our fans believed it, but I think they do now. These kids just won't be denied." After the Sun Devils took a 17-13 lead with 1:05 left, Harrington led an unshaken offense out to the 21-yard line, where together the Ducks began to concoct spectacular, yet somewhat familiar, late-game heroics. On the drive, Harrington connected once with Howry, once with Collins, twice with Hartley and once, for the game-winner, with Tucker. "[Harrington] obviously added a spark, and that last drive was probably the stuff that legends are made of," Bellotti said. Harrington finished the second half 12 of 21 for 148 yards. Feeley finished the first half nine of 25 for 134 yards. Harrington also had a distinct advantage on the ground. He scrambled six times for 35 yards. Feeley ran twice and lost three yards. "[Harrington's] a helluva quarterback," Hartley said. "A.J.'s been doing a lot for us. It doesn't matter who's in there. It's just whoever's on."

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