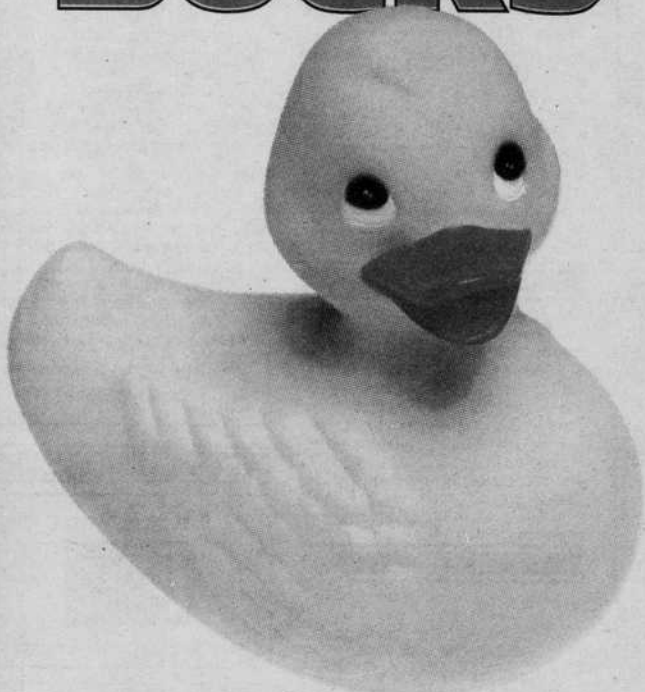


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Oregon Daily Emerald

Seahawks dispose of San Diego

By Ken Peters
The Associated Press

SAN DIEGO, Calif. — Seattle's Jon Kitna threw a 68-yard touchdown pass for one of the game's two touchdowns.

San Diego's Ryan Leaf threw an interception that went 69 yards for the other.

The Seahawks used the two big plays to beat San Diego 20-12 Sunday as the punchless Chargers were limited to four field goals.

Kitna and the Seahawks (2-2), winning their second in a row, didn't exactly put on an offensive show against the Chargers (0-4).

"Please don't use that word ugly," Seattle coach Mike Holmgren said, answering a question to that effect. "We won a close game and that's important to us."

Seattle came into the game ranked 27th in total offense, and the Chargers were last.

"We're not as consistent offensively as I would like us to be at this point. It's always a tight game at San Diego," Holmgren said.

Kitna, aching from being sacked five times, was still smiling.

"One thing I learned from last year is that you're never unhappy if you win. They are a tough defensive team; you can't really stop Junior (Seau)," said Kitna, who completed 11 of 21 for 196 yards and did not have an interception after throwing seven in the first three games.

Holmgren didn't like the sacks. "Sometimes the quarterback holds the ball too long, sometimes it's a bad read," Holmgren said. "Today they got to Jon way too much."

Kitna connected with a wide-

open Darrell Jackson for the long touchdown late in the first quarter, and Willie Williams returned Leaf's seventh interception of the season for a score to give the Seahawks an eight-point lead with 6:50 left in the third quarter.

Leaf sprained his right wrist when he was blocked end-over-end as he chased after Williams. He was replaced by Jim Harbaugh late in the third quarter.

Back as the starter because Moses Moreno was injured last weekend, Leaf has thrown just one touchdown this year. In his 14 NFL games, he has 27 turnovers and three touchdown passes.

He took the blame for the loss.

"One play — I make it and we win. I don't, we lose. A lot of the onus is on me and I came up short," said Leaf, who was 16-of-26 for 153 yards, with the one costly interception.

While many in the relatively sparse crowd of 47,233 booed Leaf, Holmgren had kind words for him.

"He's a talented guy. I root for him to succeed when he's not playing against my team," the Seattle coach said.

Kris Heppner's field goals of 25 and 26 yards accounted for the other Seattle scoring.

John Carney provided all San Diego's points with field goals of 41, 28, 24 and 45 yards.

The Chargers' offense has scored just three touchdowns this season.

"We cannot win games with four field goals," said Seau, the Chargers' All-Pro linebacker.

After replacing Leaf, Harbaugh also was largely ineffective, going

8-of-14 for 67 yards, with one interception.

Harbaugh did drive the Chargers to the Seattle 16 in the closing moments of the game, but threw incomplete on fourth-and-4 from 3.

William's interception probably was the key to the game.

Leaf, under pressure, side-armed a pass that was not near any receiver — but was right in Williams' arms in the right flat. Williams had clear sailing to the end zone.

The Seahawks led 13-12 at half-time, with seven of Seattle's points and six of San Diego's following mistakes by the other team.

The Seahawks scored their first touchdown with the help of a lapse by San Diego safeties Rodney Harrison and Michael Dumas.

The Chargers' Darren Mickell jumped offside, officials dropped flags, and, when the ball was snapped, Seattle's Jackson headed downfield on a post pattern.

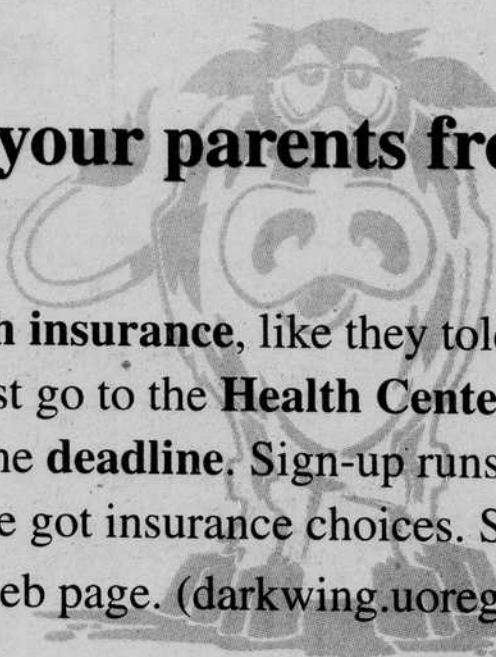
Harrison and Dumas both seemed to freeze after the penalty flags were thrown, and Jackson sprinted past them, took Kitna's throw in stride and was off to the end zone for a 10-6 lead.

"It was weird. It seemed like Darrell was the only one moving," Kitna said.

Dumas, however, said: "It was busted coverage. We were in a zone and he was able to slice through the zone. I didn't see the flag until after he scored."

The Chargers turned two fumbles by Seattle return specialist Charlie Rogers into a pair of field goals in the first half.

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