

Oregon Daily Emerald

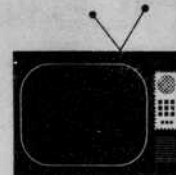
SPORTS

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Best Bet

Monday Night Football.
San Francisco at N.Y., 6 p.m., ABC



Monday, October 1, 2001

OREGON
38

vs.

UTAH STATE
21

A little scare didn't hurt: UO pulls through late

■ Ducks win first nonconference road game in three years, but lose three key players against Utah State

By Adam Jude
Oregon Daily Emerald

It wasn't easy, but for once, the Ducks beat the spread.

An unorthodox — albeit effective — offense kept the Utah State Aggies (0-4 overall) within reach of Oregon (4-0 overall, 1-0 Pacific-10 Conference) on Saturday in Logan, Utah, but only through three quarters as the Ducks won their first non-conference road game in three years, 38-21.

Senior tailback Maurice Morris rushed for a career-high 175 yards, including a 69-yard touchdown run in the fourth quarter, and senior quarterback Joey Harrington kept his Heisman hopes alive with two touchdown passes and a one-yard touchdown run.

The Oregon defense racked up four interceptions — three in the fourth quarter — while holding Utah State's Emmett White, the nation's leader in all-purpose yards, to 83 yards rushing.

The win, however, was not impressive enough for the critics as the Ducks dropped Sunday from No. 6 to No. 8 in the ESPN/USA Today Poll and to No. 7 in the Associate Press poll.

"I'm pleased that we won. Is there any other stat that counts?... No," head coach Mike Bellotti said. "We went on the road for the first time, handled the environment and stayed poised throughout the game."



Adam Amato Emerald

Oregon's 38-21 victory at Utah State on Saturday was costly, as junior wide receiver Jason Willis went down with a head injury. Willis is seen here celebrating a catch against Wisconsin.

With 3:47 to play in the third quarter, Utah State quarterback Jose Fuentes hit receiver Gary Coleman in the end zone to bring the Aggies within a field goal at 24-21.

From there, though, it was all Oregon.

Onterio Smith had a big running play on the Ducks' first play of the

fourth quarter and redshirt freshman Keith Allen — in for injured starters Keenan Howry and Jason Willis — had two key catches to set up Smith's four-yard touchdown with 12:30 to play.

On the Aggies' next drive, junior linebacker Garret Graham picked off a Fuentes pass inside the red

zone, which set up Morris's 69-yard score at the 8:19 mark, putting the Ducks ahead by the eventual 38-21 final score.

Steve Smith's interception late in the fourth quarter was his fourth of the season and 10th of his career. Safety Keith Lewis and linebacker Kevin Mitchell also had in-

terceptions for the Ducks.

"The defense looked a little confused at times, but that's expected against (Utah State's) offense," Bellotti said. "But they refused to give in and made some huge plays down the stretch."

After a lackluster, scoreless first quarter, the Aggies opened the second session with the game's first score on a screen pass from Fuentes to wide receiver Kevin Curtis, putting Utah State up 7-0.

"I've never been as confident for a game as I was tonight," Curtis said. "I thought we were going to be tearing down the goal posts."

Heading into the game, Curtis led the nation with 10.7 per game for an average of 130 yards. Lined up against Oregon defensive back Rashad Bauman, Curtis finished the game with 10 catches for 166 yards.

"They came out with a lot of funky stuff," Bauman told the Associated Press. "That was a good offense."

But it didn't take long for the Ducks to respond, as Harrington found a wide-open Josh Line for a 34-yard score, tying the game at 7.

Freshman placekicker Jared Siegel, the hero of last week's 24-22 victory against Southern California, put the Ducks ahead 17-7 at halftime with a 46-yard field goal, the longest of his four-game career. Siegel was also perfect on five point-after-attempts. "We hung with them and Oregon is a class of a fit," said Utah State coach Mike Denney. "They played relatively error-free and we did not. That was the difference."

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UO volleyball team now 0-4 in Pac-10

■ Despite a tough loss against Washington to open their weekend, Oregon volleyball came back with a strong performance against Washington State

By Hank Hager
Oregon Daily Emerald

After a weekend in the sweltering Arizona sun, the Oregon women were hoping to come back to Eugene and cool down their Washington opponents. However, the Huskies and Cougars beat them to the punch.

After losing to Washington in three games — 30-20, 30-23, and 30-22 — the Ducks (8-5 overall, 0-4 Pac-10 Conference) came back a night later and were again swept, this time to a stronger Cougar team. In another three games, Oregon lost 30-23, 30-21, 30-22.

But it was not an entirely disappointing weekend for the squad. After coming out flat and seemingly uninspired against Washington (8-4, 2-2 Pac-10), head coach Carl Ferreira's team jumped out to a fast start against the Cougars.

A kill by senior Monique Tobbagi gave the Ducks their first lead of the weekend, 5-4, in the first game. While holding Washington State (7-4, 2-2) off for eight more points, the Ducks trailed 9-8 before succumbing to the strong Cougar defense. Oregon would get as close as 19-20 before falling to Washington State in the first game.

Two games later, the Ducks had their fourth loss of the Pac-10 Conference season, but not before putting up a fight.

Tobbagi led the Ducks with 10 kills, but hit just .094 from the floor. Junior Lindsay Closs anchored the Oregon offense, backing up Tobbagi's 10 kills with eight of her own, and hit .286 for the match. Junior Stephanie Martin also looked strong in the Oregon loss while victimizing the

Ducks shock No. 19 ranked San Diego Friday



Adam Amato Emerald

Beth Bowler (24) takes on two San Diego players in the Ducks' 3-0 win Friday afternoon.

■ Oregon takes a step closer to the NCAA Tournament with victories over San Diego and Eastern Washington

By Peter Hockaday
Oregon Daily Emerald

The Oregon soccer team has a "Bi-Mart Rally Clock" promotion at home games, where a fan can win gift certificates if the Ducks score within certain time periods.

On Sunday, the fans cleaned up big-time.

Two days after beating No. 19 San Diego, 3-0 on Friday, Oregon blew out Eastern Washington 5-0 on Sunday. The Ducks shattered many team records over the weekend, and took a step closer toward their goal of a berth in the NCAA Tournament.

"Each game presents a unique challenge, and we were able to respond to those challenges this weekend," Oregon head coach Bill Steffen said. "We were happy that we were able to put out consecutive efforts."

Oregon's biggest win this weekend was Friday's victory over San Diego. The Toreros became the highest-ranked team ever to fall to Oregon, and the Ducks felt they

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