

Stanford pulls off miracle feat

■ Down 42-28 in the fourth quarter, backup quarterback Chris Lewis leads the Stanford Cardinal to victory

By Adam Jude
Oregon Daily Emerald

Stanford quarterback Randy Fasani, the eighth-rated passer in the country prior to Saturday's game at Autzen Stadium, was 7-of-11 for 141 yards in the first quarter against the Ducks, leading the Cardinal on two touchdown drives.

Then Fasani injured his right knee and backup quarterback Chris Lewis injured Oregon's hopes of a national championship.

Lewis was just 3-of-10 in the second quarter, but threw two touchdown passes in the second half to dissolve Oregon's 23-game home-winning streak. Similarly, Lewis led the Cardinal to an upset win over then-No. 6 Texas last season.

"It's just like Texas," Lewis said. "We gotta do it whenever we're on the field and count on everyone out there, even if they're new."

As much as Lewis' upstart secured the 49-42 win, the Stanford special teams play proved critical.

On consecutive drives early in the fourth quarter, Stanford (4-1 overall, 3-1 Pacific-10 Conference) blocked punt attempts by Oregon's Jose Arroyo. After the second block, by Amon Gordon, Lewis hit receiver Luke Powell for a 24-yard touchdown, bringing the Cardinal within seven of the Ducks, 42-35.

From there, the game belonged to Kerry Carter.

The Stanford running back scored four touchdowns in the game, including the final two, the last coming at the 1:10 mark of the fourth.

"The Oregon streak had to end sometime; today was just our day," Carter said.

Stanford benefited from four straight

fourth-quarter drives that began in Oregon territory, two inside the Oregon 20. Carter's last score, the game winner, was set up by a critical third-and-one failure by the Ducks.

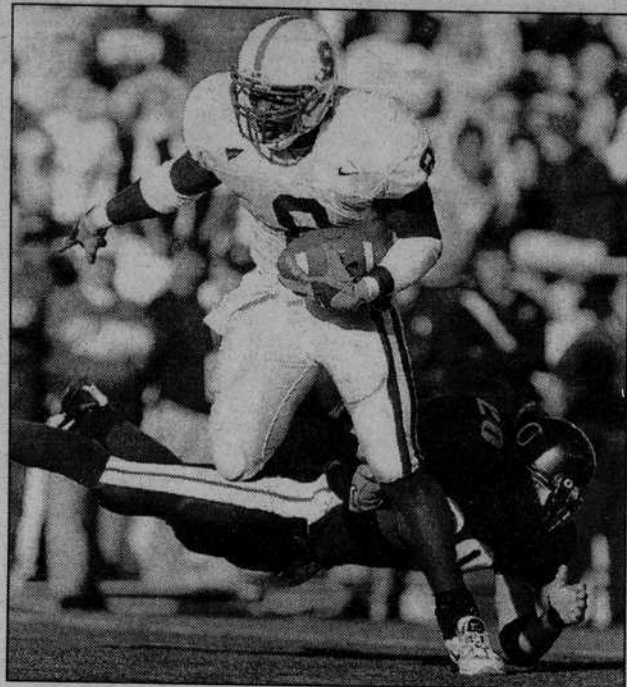
Ahead 42-41 after Seth McEwen blocked an extra point attempt, all Oregon needed to do was run out the clock with four minutes remaining. On the Oregon 31, Harrington went back to pass and was hit by Stanford's Tank Williams as he began to throw. The ball fell into the arms of a diving Marcus Hoover at the Oregon 33-yard line.

The rest is history.

"We didn't steal this win, we took it," Stanford wide receiver Teyo Johnson said. "We looked them straight in the eye and took it."

Stanford was ranked 22nd in the nation prior to a 45-39 loss to Washington State. After the win over Oregon, the Cardinal are again ranked 22nd in the coaches' poll.

Stanford faces its second straight fifth-ranked opponent this week at UCLA.



Adam Amato Emerald

Running back Kerry Carter scored four touchdowns in Stanford's 49-42 win over Oregon on Saturday at Autzen Stadium.

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found receiver Teyo Johnson in the end zone for a 24-yard touchdown.

"It was unfortunate because we thought we had fixed the problem from the first blocked punt," Oregon head coach Mike Bellotti said.

Stanford didn't stop there. On the ensuing kickoff, trailing 42-35, Stanford's Mike Biselli stunned the Ducks by kicking a picture-perfect onside kick that floated in the air long enough for teammate Colin Branch to haul it in.

"We knew coming into the game that our special teams were going to be a force, and they didn't disappoint," Stanford head coach Tyrone Willingham said.

From there, the Cardinal drove

40 yards on eight plays, capped by a Kerry Carter fourth-and-goal, one-yard touchdown run. The extra point kick was blocked, though, leaving Oregon ahead 42-41.

With the clock ticking down with less than five minutes to play, the Ducks appeared to be in control. But on a critical third-and-one, the Ducks chose to pass rather than try to run for the first down.

Harrington dropped back to pass. He spotted a receiver. He attempted to throw, but as he did, Stanford's Tank Williams drilled him from behind, causing the ball to flutter into the hands of Stanford's Marcus Hoover for the interception.

"Not my call," said Harrington, who completed 22-of-41 passes for 270 yards, three touchdowns and two interceptions. "You can second

guess all you want. We tried hard."

The interception proved costly, as Stanford took over on the Oregon 33-yard line and burned the game clock down to 1:15. The Cardinal finally did give the ball back to the Ducks, but only after Carter picked up the last three of his 64 yards and the last of his four touchdowns to give Stanford the 49-42 edge.

With the crowd chanting his name, Harrington strolled onto the field with the game on the line, as he has so often, but connected on only three of the nine passes during the last-minute drive, proving he was mortal and ending the game.

"We tried for some home runs, but didn't get them," Bellotti said.

Really, though, the game shouldn't have come down to the final moments.

Oregon scored on its first three drives of the game and had its offense clicking. Harrington's four-yard touchdown pass to Howry, 15-yard scoring dart to tight end Justin Peelle and 39-yard bomb to a sprawled-out Howry in the end zone gave the Ducks the early 21-14 edge.

Then, out went Stanford senior starting quarterback Randy Fasani with a sprained right knee, and the odds were piled against the Cardinal even more to pull off the road win.

To top that off, the Ducks were also benefited by Howry's 69-yard punt return for a touchdown and Onterio Smith's blazing 96-yard kickoff return for a score.

But Oregon never put Stanford away, as Lewis, the Cardinal's backup quarterback, improved as the game went on and led his team to the win.

"I don't think it was what they did, rather than what we did not do," Bellotti said. "The biggest thing is we can't let Stanford beat us twice. We have to come back from this."

Oregon still has a lot to play for, as the Pac-10 race for the Fiesta Bowl is wide open. The Ducks face the two undefeated teams, Washington State and UCLA, in the coming weeks, and do so on the road.

"We can't let this one game get us down," said Howry, who matched the Oregon record for single-game all-purpose yards with 338. "Our team goal was to go undefeated, and this puts a damper on everything."

"All we can do now is win out and hope things fall into place."

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