

'Joey Heisman?' UO thinks so

■ Other quarterbacks put up better numbers Saturday, but despite Joey's off day, the Ducks still get a win

By Jeff Smith
Oregon Daily Emerald

With the eyes of the Heisman Trophy voters watching Saturday, three quarterback candidates passed for more than 230 yards.

But Joey Harrington wasn't one of them.

In Florida, Rex Grossman completed 33-of-51 passes for 362 yards and two touchdowns, but the Gators lost 34-32 to Tennessee.

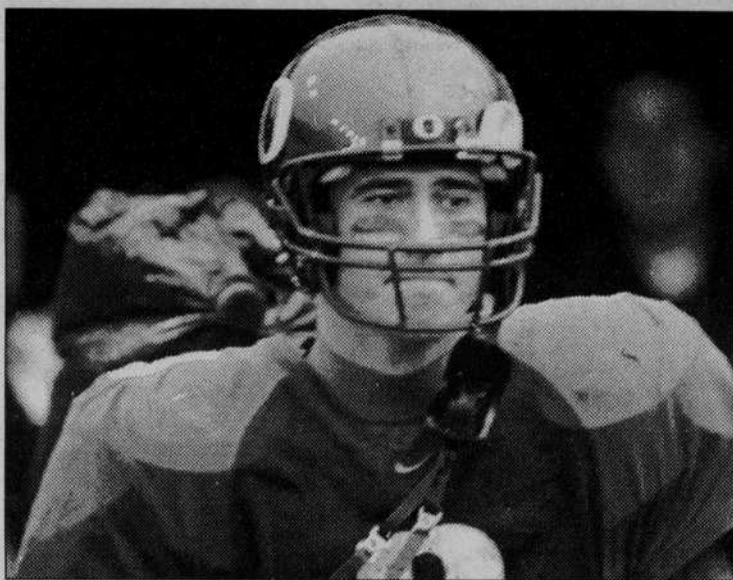
In Virginia, Miami quarterback Ken Dorsey was 21-of-44 passing for 235 yards and one touchdown as the Hurricanes survived, 26-24, at Virginia Tech.

And down in Fresno, Calif., there was senior quarterback David Carr, a Heisman longshot after losing two games this season, throwing for 432 yards and six touchdowns in a 70-21 blowout against Utah State.

Meanwhile, in Eugene, Harrington connected on 11-of-22 passes for a modest 104 yards in Oregon's 17-14 Civil War win. But he might get the benefit of the doubt in some voters' minds, given that the weather wasn't exactly favorable.

Harrington didn't need to worry about impressing his teammates.

"Joey should win the Heisman, why shouldn't he?" Oregon cornerback Rashad Bauman said. "He's the best quarterback by far. If you're going to pick the Heisman off stats, that's B.S. because everybody has a different format. Rex Grossman is at a passing



Adam Amato Emerald

Senior quarterback Joey Harrington shows his emotion before walking onto the field at Autzen Stadium for the last time Saturday.

school. If Joey put the ball up 50 times every game, then he would throw for 800 yards.

"Joey has two 1,000 yard rushers behind him, and he's still up for the Heisman. Nobody's done that. Nobody."

Saturday was an important day for Harrington and other candidates as it was their last chance to impress the voters. The four final candidates for the Heisman Trophy will be announced today during ESPN's "SportsCenter" at 3 p.m.

Should Harrington be included, he would get a free trip to New York to be on hand for the Heisman Trophy presentation, which will take place Saturday at 4 p.m. PST on ESPN.

"I'd love to (go)," Harrington said. "It's an honor. It's a thrill to even be considered at this point. We won the football game, and

that's all you can do. Leave it up to the voters."

If it were up to Oregon head coach Mike Bellotti, there would be no doubt that Harrington would be included. Bellotti hopes the Civil War game won't hurt his quarterback's chances.

"Joey is one of the best football players to play here or anywhere," Bellotti said. "I don't think he's worried about stats. I never have either. There's only one stat that counts and that's winning."

Now it's time to see whether "Joey Heisman's" 24-3 career record as a starter is enough for him to win college football's top individual award.

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Civil War

continued from page 1

sociated Press and coaches' polls — the highest ranking in school history.

So the possibility remains for Oregon to climb to second in the final BCS rankings on Dec. 9 and play Miami in the Rose Bowl. If not, Oregon is set with the Fiesta Bowl and a date with Big 12 champion Colorado.

But it's out of the Ducks' hands now. For Oregon head coach Mike Bellotti, Saturday's victory, close or otherwise, was all that mattered.

"We've come back from our one loss and won the undisputed Pac-10 championship," Bellotti said. "I think we can play with anybody in the nation. A win is a win, whether it's 56-55 or 17-14 or whatever."

For three quarters, the only scoring by either side had come by way of field goals, as Oregon State took a 6-3 lead into the fourth quarter. And then, with 14:36 to play, Beavers punter Carl Tobey kicked it to Oregon punt returner Keenan Howry, and the game was changed.

Howry ran the ball up the middle and was never touched, sprinting 70 yards for the score and the 10-6 lead.

"Keenan's punt return gave us the spark," Harrington said. "I don't know how to describe today. We just couldn't get anything moving. And once Keenan hit that return, then everything picked up from there."

Until that point, Harrington and the Oregon offense struggled. Eight of the Ducks' first 10 offensive drives were five plays or less. The Oregon State defense had held Harrington to just 8-of-19 passing for 66 yards in the first three quarters.

"Defensively, we were all over the place," Oregon State head coach Dennis Erickson said.

But on their first series of the fourth quarter, the Ducks were moving, and most of the time, it was with Maurice Morris leading the way. The senior tailback had his name called on 10 of the 13

plays, including the last one where he ran up the gut and through two Beaver defenders into the end zone. The eight-yard scoring run gave the Ducks the comfortable 17-6 lead with 4:40 to play and gave Morris the last of his 102 yards.

"Maurice was running harder than I've ever seen him run," said senior fullback Josh Line, who got his first carry of the season. "He just would not be denied."

But neither would the Beavers.

Smith led the Oregon State offense down the field and connected on a clutch 24-yard touchdown pass to Josh Hawkins. Then he hit Shawn Kintner for the two-point conversion to cut the margin to 17-14.

But after not completing the onside kick, the game appeared over. Oregon had the ball with less than two minutes to play. Then on a third-and-nine, Harrington rolled left and was hit from behind by Kyle Rosselle, who popped the ball loose.

The Beavers regained possession and had hope of a game-tying field goal. But Smith, on a third-and-17, looked right and fired a pass that ended up in Bauman's hands and ended Oregon State's season with a losing 5-6 record.

Beaver tailback Ken Simonton's career came to a close with an 84-yard performance — falling 29 yards short of his fourth-straight 1,000-yard season. Oregon's Onterio Smith, who suffered a strained knee in the second quarter, picked up 30 yards to push his season total to 1,007; Smith is the ninth Duck to reach that mark.

Smith and the Ducks can now shoot for a first-ever 11-win season in a bowl game in Tempe, Ariz., or Pasadena, Calif.

"I'm sure there's going to be a trivia question about who was the only Pac-10 team to win a championship twice in a row and not go to the Rose Bowl," safety Keith Lewis said. "Nothing is going to add up to the Rose Bowl. But I'll play anywhere to play with this bunch again."

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Horoscope by Linda C. Black

TODAY'S BIRTHDAY (Dec. 3). A separation may be in order. You'll know when the time is right. It would involve something or someone you've simply outgrown. Assess your situation and do the homework. Don't try to skip a grade, but if you've learned the lesson, graduate.

To get the advantage, check the day's rating: 10 is the easiest day, 0 the most challenging.

ARIES (March 21-April 19) - Today is a 7 - Some things are changing so fast, it's hard to keep track. Is it your imagination, or is fantasy now over in the reality column? What's going on here? Hunker down and wait until the dust clears to find out.

TAURUS (April 20-May 20) - Today is a 6 - Others may have laughed at you in the past for being so careful with your money. But with the current conditions, you may do quite well. Your frugal approach could give you the last laugh.

GEMINI (May 21-June 21) - Today is a 7 - You could find an amazing treasure, and it's nearby. If you don't watch where you're going, you could trip over it. It could be a gift, but more likely a trade.

CANCER (June 22-July 22) - Today is a 6 - You can make somebody feel better, and you always enjoy doing that. You might even make yourself feel better in the process. This isn't a job you'll get done overnight. Commit to the long haul.

LEO (July 23-Aug. 22) - Today is a 7 - New information is coming to light all the time, so don't worry if something still doesn't make sense. You may be missing an important piece of the puzzle. Wait, watch and listen.

VIRGO (Aug. 23-Sept. 22) - Today is a 6 - Yours could be the deciding vote, so think things over

carefully before lending your weight to one side or the other. Of course, you won't think of what's best for you. You'll choose what's best for all.

LIBRA (Sept. 23-Oct. 22) - Today is a 7 - Odds are good you won't get through on the first try with something you're sending or something you're trying to say. Travel could be complicated, too, but not blocked completely. Persevere.

SCORPIO (Oct. 23-Nov. 21) - Today is a 7 - Don't count your chickens before they've hatched. Don't spend the check before it clears the bank, either. Although you're good at calculating the odds, all is not as it appears to be.

SAGITTARIUS (Nov. 22-Dec. 21) - Today is a 7 - Somebody's getting downright irritating. You may not be able to put up with this kind of behavior any longer. You want to be fair about this, but go ahead and lay down the law.

CAPRICORN (Dec. 22-Jan. 19) - Today is a 5 - Evaluate the way you're doing your job. There may be something you can fine-tune - something you've been doing for years that doesn't need to be done at all anymore. Your worst enemy or critic could be a big help here.

AQUARIUS (Jan. 20-Feb. 18) - Today is a 7 - You have the technical expertise and a talent for solving problems. Your friends have enthusiasm, wit and humor. Combined, the brainpower is staggering. You'll make short work of a tough job.

PISCES (Feb. 19-March 20) - Today is a 7 - The conflict is between an older person and a younger one, but does it really involve you? Maybe you'd be wise to not take sides. Teach them about love through your example.

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