

Valadez shines against ASU, Arizona; UO takes split

Oregon defeats Arizona, but loses to Arizona State in weekend games that could be vital for an NCAA bid

By Jesse Thomas
Sports Reporter

The Oregon women's soccer team earned its ninth record-breaking win of the season this weekend, and it was all done on the shoulders of one Duck.

Freshman forward Andrea Valadez scored three goals over the weekend, including both

in Oregon's 3-2 loss to Arizona State on Friday and the lone goal in the 1-0 win over Arizona on Sunday.

"I felt good this weekend," Valadez said. "I knew I needed to come out flying today and put my chances away when I had them. I think we came out strong, and one goal was all we needed to win the game."

Valadez led the Ducks in shots on goal with two and shared the team lead of three shots with sophomore forward Mele French. Valadez's single goal against the Wildcats came in the 50th minute of the second half when she connected from five yards left off a six-yard run from the corner of the box. The assist came from redshirt sophomore Nicole Garbin.

Valadez's third score on Sunday raised her season total to seven, which places her second-best all-time among Oregon freshmen. She sits only two behind Erin Anderson who set the record in 1996.

"It was a great weekend," Valadez said, "and the whole team felt excited and prepared coming in. We knew today would be an important win, so it was nice to be able to help get a win. My parents also made the trip, so it was nice to share it with them."

Sophomore goalkeeper Dominique Lainez also posted an impressive performance, despite dealing with a wrist stress fracture for the third straight week. Lainez posted her third shutout of the season and her second Pacific-10 Conference shutout of her career against the Wildcats.

"Coming into today's game we had so much energy and ambition to finally win on the road knowing that it was crucial to win the game going into next weekend," Lainez said on

Sunday. "We were able to pull it off. It was definitely a difficult win."

Oregon (9-9 overall, 3-4 Pac-10) led the game in shots, holding a 12-9 lead over Arizona and edged the Wildcats in shots on goal, 7-4. Arizona held the advantage in corner kicks (5-3), saves (6-4) and fouls (10-9).

"We went in and we did what we needed to do," Oregon head coach Bill Steffen said. "Our depth and our maturity really carried us against a good team, and beforehand we stressed how important it was for each player to give us everything they had when they were on the field."

The Ducks didn't have such success in their game against Arizona State, where they fell in the final minutes after trading goals with the Sun Devils. Valadez again led Oregon with her two scores; yet it wasn't enough in the loss of Oregon's final road trip.

Oregon struggled early when Arizona State's Elizabeth Bogus scored from 12 yards out just eight minutes

into the game. The Ducks felt that lapses in the defense hurt them early.

"We had some minor mental breakdowns that the other team executed on," Lainez said. "It was a very physical game on Friday. All three goals that were scored on Friday, they were just minor mental breakdowns on our part."

Valadez's first goal came at 37 minutes, 49 seconds — unassisted on a rebound off the goalkeeper — and she scored again from 20 yards out at 56:18 off an assist from sophomore defender Carlie Ashcraft.

With the game tied at two, Arizona State's Many Makoski scored in the 77th minute to give the Sun Devils the game-winning goal.

Oregon returns home this week for their final week of action in the regular season, facing USC on Friday and UCLA on Sunday. Both schools are NCAA veterans.

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HARRIERS

continued from page 9A

"Magdalena and Eri ran great up front. It was a tough course, but a great one

with lots of ups and downs and no flat sections. Our runners went out pretty conservatively because of the course's difficulty — certainly not one that catered to the mentally weak."

Both the men's and women's teams

have a week off before heading to the NCAA Western Regional in Portland on Nov. 15.

Scott Archer is a freelance sports reporter for the Emerald.

BACKUP

continued from page 9A

Three went to James, the fourth went to Shelton Sampson, who ran an 8-yard sweep to the right side of the field for a touchdown.

Paus completed his first three passes for 44 yards. On his seventh pass attempt, he found Charles Frederick for a 10-yard touchdown. Paus' first touchdown pass of his Husky career.

In the fourth quarter, Paus found an open Reggie Williams for a 63-yard touchdown.

"It was a lot of fun (to get my first touchdown)," Paus said. "I like getting excited. I'm a very upbeat player — especially when we're doing things and getting in guys' faces. Just being able to throw that pass and have it caught and run into the end zone makes it easier for me."

Paus didn't seem fazed by playing for an entire half. He went in at the beginning of the third quarter and everything flowed for the Huskies.

On Paus' first three drives, Washington scored two touchdowns and a field goal. In the fourth quarter, he led the Huskies to two additional touchdowns.

"It feels good to get in there again," Paus said. "I was having a lot of fun out there."

Paus finished 5 of 8 for 117 yards and two touchdowns. In the first half, Pickett went 11 for 21 for 97 yards.

Pickett's injury came on a bootleg attempt toward the end of the second quarter when he took a hard hit. In the locker room at halftime, Pickett told the trainers he couldn't remember anything about the first half of the game.

After the game, Washington head coach Keith Gilbertson said Pickett had a headache, was a little nauseous and had a loss of memory of the first

half he played in.

"I thought Cody was still going to play because Cody's a tough, tough guy, he can probably play through most anything," defensive lineman Terry Johnson said. "It was real surprising to see him go out, but it was very encouraging to see Casey Paus to go in there with so much poise. He was leading those guys in the right direction."

Paus is the No. 2 quarterback for the Huskies. No. 3 quarterback Isaiah Stanback has taken more reps as receiver than quarterback.

"Depending on how Cody is doing and how he recovers, (the backup competition) is something we are going to have to go back and re-evaluate," Gilbertson said. "But I thought Casey played an inspired game tonight. I thought he was sensational."

Contact the senior sports reporter at mindirice@dailyemerald.com.

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OREGON

continued from page 9A

Kenny James, Shelton Sampson and Casey Paus proved to be more than adequate replacements for the Washington offense. James — who had only been named the starter a few days before the game, when it was apparent Alexis could not play — became the first running back to rush for more than 100 yards in a single game against the Ducks this season.

James finished with 104 yards on 18 carries, and Sampson scored three touchdowns. Sampson, almost a side-note name before the game started, ran for 131 yards on just six carries.

"The key to our running game was blocking, good blocking," Washington head coach Keith Gilbertson said. "The guys up front blocked very well. (James and Sampson) did a nice job of running the football."

Pickett started the game, but did not come in at the start of the second half because of a head injury he suffered in the first half. Paus came in for Pickett in the second half and delivered 117 yards through the air on 5 of 8 passing, including a 63-yard touchdown strike to wide receiver Reggie Williams with 11:54 left in the fourth quarter.

"When we came in at halftime, the trainers said that Cody couldn't remember anything about the first half of the game he had played," Gilbertson said. "So, we said, 'That's it, we have to make a change.'"

James and Sampson were the catalysts for a Husky offense that broke four plays of 50 yards or more, all in

the second half. James started that string with a 56-yard run on the first Washington drive, which set up Sampson's second touchdown of the game.

Williams then caught the 63-yarder, which helped vault him to 130 receiving yards on the day. He finished with seven catches a year after burning the Ducks (5-4 overall, 2-3 Pacific-10 Conference) for 14 catches and 198 yards.

Oregon quarterback Kellen Clemens fumbled the ball with 10:56 left in the fourth quarter, allowing Greg Carothers to return the ball for a 55-yard touchdown return.

"We were just executing better (in the second half)," Williams said. "In the first half we didn't have the ball that much. In the second half we took advantage of every opportunity we got."

Sampson ended Washington's (5-4, 3-2) offensive day with a 77-yard touchdown run with 6:38 left in the fourth quarter.

"They caught us in a couple of blitzes and took advantage of our defense," Oregon safety Marley Tucker said. "Those exposure plays killed us. Up until the second half we were controlling the game, we were controlling the ball, and we were up. Then it took a turn for the worse."

Mistakes and penalties cost Oregon. Washington didn't receive a penalty until the fourth quarter.

Oregon was charged with 10 penalties for 75 yards, compared to just two for 25 yards for the Huskies.

"Penalties are the most infuriating thing about this game," Bellotti said.

Clemens ended the day with 14 of

24 for 230 yards passing. Jason Fife was 2 of 5 for 16 yards. He did, however, run the ball six times for 42 yards.

Both, though, were pressured throughout the game. Washington recorded seven sacks and picked off one Clemens pass.

"We didn't execute very well in the second half," Clemens said. "Washington did a good job of sustaining momentum."

"I was disappointed that we didn't throw more catchable passes," Bellotti said. "I don't know if that was the elements or just the pressure of Washington. A couple of times we had people open and didn't get them the ball."

Clemens did get the ball to his receivers early, highlighted by an 85-yard touchdown strike to Demetrius Williams. Clemens was pressured from the right and lofted a pass to Demetrius Williams, who had beat Washington's Sam Cunningham. He ran unabated to the end zone for an early Oregon lead.

Sampson ended a 17-play scoring drive for Washington with a one-yard plunge at the 12:09 mark of the second quarter for his first touchdown of the night. The Huskies had started on their own 17-yard line, and had just one play of 20 yards or more.

Oregon linebacker Marcus Miller most likely tore his ACL during the game, Bellotti said, and cornerback Rodney Woods also suffered a stinger.

"Even if you're not the starting guys, you've got to step up and make plays," Oregon linebacker Kevin Mitchell said. "That about sums it up."

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