

Loss of key kick returner hinders Beavers' attack

Beaver kickoff returner Harvey Whiten suffered a concussion after a hard hit in the second quarter

By Mindi Rice
Senior Sports Reporter

Oregon State safety Harvey Whiten lay motionless on the field for 15 minutes in the second quarter Saturday.

After Oregon's second touchdown of the day, Whiten returned the ensuing kickoff for 16 yards before linebacker Jerry Matson stepped in front of Whiten and leveled him.

"Anytime you see a teammate laying on the field like that, it's not a good sight," Oregon State safety Lawrence Turner said. "We already had that happen to us. Just to hear the guy on the PA say he was all right made us feel a lot better."

Whiten was taken off the field on a stretcher and then to Sacred Heart Medical Center. During the third quarter, public address announcer Don Essig told the crowd that "all arms and legs are in motion." Whiten

returned to the field and joined his teammates with two minutes left in the game after it was determined he suffered a concussion.

"We were glad to see him back on the field at the end," head coach Mike Riley said.

Earlier this season, cornerback Jamaal Jackson suffered a spinal bruise during a practice.

Beavers' kicker Kirk Yliniemi suffered a sprained ankle in the third quarter Saturday. He was side-armed by Oregon's Kenny Washington on Washington's 48-yard kickoff return. Yliniemi tumbled to the ground as a few teammates hopped over him while in pursuit of Washington.

Sophomore John Dailey handled kicking duties for the rest of the game. Linebacker Jonathan Pollard also sprained an ankle in the game.

Officiating complaints

After Riley left Oregon State's postgame interview room, the players began the complaints.

After telling reporters what went wrong on the Oregon State side of the football, where the Beavers had averaged 461 offensive yards per game but

had 327 on Saturday, linebacker Richard Seigler and tight end Tim Euhus started taking shots at the game's officiating.

"There's no way Oregon State could put a run together when calls like that are made," Euhus said. "If someone calls it the wrong way and some of those calls are made up."

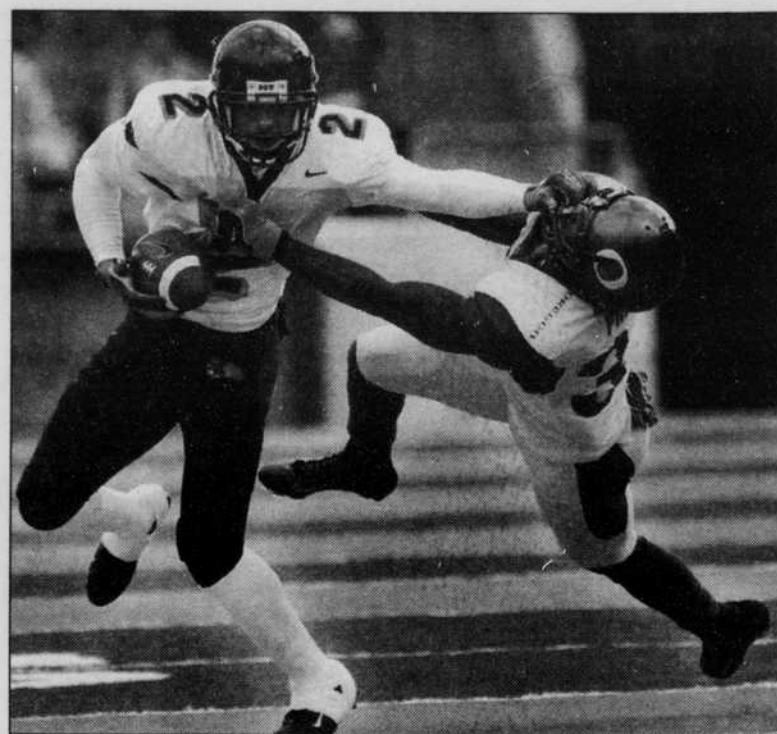
The Beavers finished the game with nine penalties for 86 yards while Oregon was called for two that totaled 30 yards.

"I'm not going to comment on (the officiating) because that's something that I can't change," Seigler said. "But I think everybody could definitely see that the flags were flying in only one direction and that was toward the Beavers."

"You know, they were out there celebrating and taunting and doing whatever they wanted, and the refs seemed to be not calling anything. For some reason, it's been like that my whole career at Oregon State."

Rewriting lists

Quarterback Derek Anderson broke his own single-season total of



Adam Amato Photo Editor

Oregon State's James Newson caught five passes for 86 yards Saturday.

fense and single-season passing yardage records with 271 passing yards and 233 total offensive yards Saturday.

Anderson beat his previous record of 3,082 offensive yards with a new mark of 3,154 yards. He also eclipsed his 2002 record of 3,313 passing yards with 3,250 this season.

Beavers go bowling

A postseason bowl game destination is currently unknown for the bowl-eligible Beavers, but the likely place for Oregon State is the Las Vegas Bowl on Dec. 24.

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

FOOTBALL

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The 14-point win Saturday was a 180-degree turn from a month ago.

Oregon is now 8-4 after the win over Oregon State (7-4 overall, 5-3 Pac-10), keeping the Beavers winless in Eugene since 1993.

Oregon knows it earned the trip because of a convincing, all-around effort against the Beavers, ranked first in total offense and total defense in the Pac-10 entering the game.

"Guys took it upon themselves to be dedicated and turn this season around," Mitchell said. "Guys took it upon themselves to get better."

Oregon made a statement in the win. The Ducks (5-3 Pac-10) stood up to some of the conference's most prolific players; the Pac-10's leading rusher, Jack-

son, and its leading passer, Anderson.

Jackson's longest run of the afternoon was for 22 yards and Anderson threw for 271 yards on 21 of 45 passing. Both were far below their season averages.

"I was very pleased with my team's effort," Oregon head coach Mike Bellotti said. "These kids battled and made it happen."

Defensively, we made a lot of key stops. Igor Olshansky played well the whole game up front, and I think Kellen (Clemens) really came of age today."

Clemens finished the game with just 125 yards passing, but was second on the team in rushing. He finished the afternoon with 64 yards on 12 carries, with most of those yards coming by design.

If Clemens wasn't scrambling because of Oregon State pressure, he was

tucking the ball in and running. And he ran and ran and ran.

"There were more designed QB runs this week than there had been in previous weeks," Clemens said.

Clemens threw three touchdowns, one each to Demetrius Williams, Terrence Whitehead and Dante Rosario.

The first came on a 15-yard loft to Whitehead that evened the score at seven, just four minutes after the Beavers took an early first-quarter lead.

On the first play of the second quarter, Clemens found a wide-open Williams in the back of the end zone for a 19-yard toss.

Ending his scoring contribution, Clemens finished the day with a 15-yarder to Rosario with 3:20 left in the third quarter.

"They made some third down conversions that kept the drives alive," Oregon State head coach Mike Riley

said. "They were very successful on first downs."

Defensively, the Ducks held their own. They got to Anderson for six and a half sacks — three and a half by Olshansky and three by defensive lineman Devan Long.

Steven Moore returned after missing three games due to a bum ankle and picked off two key passes in the fourth quarter.

"If we play our game, we can beat anybody," Moore said.

With the win, the Ducks guaranteed themselves a third-place finish in the Pac-10. USC must play Oregon State on Dec. 6, so nothing will be set in stone until then.

However, it is almost certain Washington State will earn the trip to the Holiday Bowl in San Diego on Dec. 30.

Oregon and California tied for the third spot in the conference, but be-

cause the Ducks beat the Golden Bears, the Sun Bowl is expected to extend an invitation to Oregon.

That leaves Oregon State going to the Las Vegas Bowl on Dec. 24 and for Washington and UCLA to scrap it out for the Silicon Valley Football Classic.

"That's the hardest part, is to find out where you're going," Mitchell said.

For now, Bellotti said the Ducks will take three or four days off. They'll hit the field again after Thanksgiving and get ready for a yet-to-be-named opponent.

They'll focus on improving, getting better on the small things.

A month from now, they'll come back and do it all over again.

They'll do it at a bowl.

For the seventh straight time.

Contact the sports editor at hankhager@dailyemerald.com.

SPORTS BRIEF

Mitchell named top player

Linebacker Kevin Mitchell was named the Ducks' Most Outstanding Player at Oregon's annual football awards banquet on Sunday.

Mitchell gathered 103 tackles this season — his senior year — becoming the first Oregon player since Joe Farwell to gather 100 or more tackles in three straight seasons. Farwell did it from 1990-92.

He is the first defensive player to be named team MVP since Matt Smith shared it with Joey Harrington in 2000.

Mitchell was also awarded the Bob Officer Award, which is given to the player that provided significant contributions despite physical adversity or injuries.

Senior quarterback Jason Fife was named the most inspirational player. Other awards handed out at the banquet include: Junior Siavii

(most improved player), Dante Rosario (top newcomer), Keith Lewis (Ironman Award — most playing time throughout the season — and top special teams player), Igor Olshansky (top defensive lineman), Dan Weaver (top offensive lineman), Samie Parker (player with most significant impact) and Matt Floberg, who received the senior academic/attitude award.

Five wrestlers take top spots

Five Oregon wrestlers took top

three finishes at the SOU Best of the West Open in Medford on Saturday.

Luke Larwin took second in the 165-pound weight class, while Joey Bracamonte finished third in the same weight class.

Shane Webster, who competed unattached, finished second in the 174-pound weight class.

Ending the day, Joey Lucas ended his turn in the tournament third in the 125-pound weight class and Elias Soto

finished third in his class.

"We are a young team and we are making some of the mistakes you make when you are young," Oregon head coach Chuck Kearney said. "Our objective and goal is to improve and not make those mistakes."

Oregon will practice the next two weeks before hosting rival Oregon State on Dec. 13 at McArthur Court. A night later, top-ranked Oklahoma State comes to Eugene. Both meets begin at 7 p.m.

— Hank Hager

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