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■ Washington notes



COURTESY | WASHINGTON ATHLETIC DEPARTMENT

Husky tailback Kenny James, seen here against San Jose State, is one of the most explosive runners in the Pac-10. The sophomore leads Washington with 522 yards rushing. He looks to improve from his 18-yard performance against USC last week.

The Huskies may be down, but don't count them out

Washington received its first shutout in 23 years by USC last weekend, as the Huskies lost 38-0

BY STEPHEN MILLER
SPORTS REPORTER

With four losses in league play and numerous injuries, Washington views its current situation as one that can be amended, despite sitting at the bottom of the Pacific-10 Conference.

The Huskies' past exudes a sense of hope because of the fact that the team has rebounded from, and eventually prevailed against Oregon. Prior to the Oct. 16 loss against Oregon State, Washington had won the last seven games against its Northwest opponents, and holds a 178-88-15 record against the three schools. In the last two seasons, the Huskies overcame first quarter deficits of 10-0

and 14-0 against Oregon by scoring 42 points and keeping the Ducks scoreless for the remainder of each contest.

Top-ranked USC sent the Huskies (0-4 overall, 1-6 Pac-10) packing with their first shutout in 23 years after they were blanked 38-0 by the Trojans last week. Washington had scored in 271 consecutive games, which was the longest streak of any Division I-A school. That loss guaranteed the Huskies' first losing season in 28 years.

USC produced 453 yards of total offense and capitalized on all four red zone scoring chances. On the other hand, Washington never made it past the Trojans' 29-yard line.

"Certainly I'm not going to take anything away from USC's talent and defense," Washington's first-year head coach Keith Gilbertson said, "but we left some offense out there, and I am frustrated with that."

The Huskies only accumulated 113 yards of total offense and witnessed kicker Michael Braunstein miss two field goal attempts. USC's 28 first downs dramatically outweighed Washington's total of six.

On the wrong foot

Success for Washington will be improbable if another kicking fiasco ensues. The Huskies have not seen a kick fly between the uprights in their last three attempts. Their kickers are 3 for 9 and have not guided a kick through the poles from a distance greater than 29 yards.

Braunstein, a redshirt freshman, WASHINGTON, page 14B

■ In my opinion

Thoughts of 2002 Husky game must still be fresh for Oregon

I know every Oregon coach is saying that Washington celebrating its thorough thumping of the Ducks in the middle of Autzen Stadium two years ago isn't on their minds this weekend.

I call bull ... you know.

Head coach Mike Bellotti says he is only concerned with what goes on between the kickoff to the final snap.

He also says his players might have a different view.

Adam Snyder does.

"The stuff outside of football kind of comes into it," Snyder said. "We try not to look at that too much. That's for the fans to have."

I'm sure the fans Saturday won't let the Huskies forget where they are.

Have you heard how loud they cheer every time the public announcer says the Huskies are losing (which is a frequent occurrence this season) or how they boo when they are winning (not so frequent this season)?

That is a pure hatred for the purple



CLAYTON JONES
SEVENTH INNING STRETCH

and gold.

I can't honestly say that it is worse than the rivalry with Oregon State, but it's getting close.

Remember when Oregon was nice enough to hand Washington its only loss of the season four years ago and probably cost the Huskies a chance at the national title?

That might be the reason for the Huskies' victory dance two years ago.

Snyder says the Ducks won't try to look at that too much, but how do you not take home the fact that a team showed so much disrespect on

your field?

Heck, I remember when a guy tried showing me up in Little League by pumping his fist at me. That was over ten years ago.

How does a player forget one of his hated rivals treating the center of his field like Studio 54?

Bellotti, in his sly way of doing so, eludes to the fact that the fans won't forget.

"The fact that we get that opportunity against the Huskies in our own stadium is probably awesome for our fans because I expect there will be tremendous excitement, energy and enthusiasm, and that is what you want," Bellotti said.

Translation: Our fans remember, and they aren't going to forget it.

Bellotti said that half of his players weren't at the game and "have no knowledge of it whatsoever."

I'm guessing that a few stories have

JONES, page 11B

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