

# Recap: Ducks take five-game winning streak into Pullman next week

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Leaf got the call and orchestrated Oregon's final scoring drive in six plays, resulting in Finley's first touchdown reception of the season.

"(The coaches) told me that I'd get a series here or there," Leaf said. "I just tried to prepare myself that I am going to play today. It was a rush."

The Oregon defense stayed intact after Finley's touchdown catch, shutting down the Golden Bears in four plays of their overtime possession, three of which were incomplete passes by quarterback Joe Ayoub. Ayoub's last pass of the game on fourth and eight sailed over the head of wide-open David Gray, sending the 58,309 in attendance into a frenzy.

"A win like that validates what you do as a team and our belief in ourselves," Oregon head coach Mike Bellotti said. "Our defense, except for one or two plays, worked their tails off and they did a great job."

Ayoub struggled against Oregon's defense, completing only 10 of 26 passes for 88 yards and no touchdowns. He was sacked three times and threw three interceptions.

California relied on its vaunted running game to keep the game in reach. Sophomore Marshawn Lynch finished with 189 yards on 25 carries and two touchdowns.

Yet the Ducks' defense made the stops when they needed to most, including on the final play of regulation when kicker Tom Schneider missed a 53-yard field as time expired, sending the game into overtime.

Dixon, in his first career start, was 15 of 26 for 139 yards and one touchdown — a 24-yard strike to wideout Demetrius Williams for the game's first score. Dixon was also intercepted once.

Leaf, who made his first appearance in the third quarter, was 9 of 13 for 93 yards and one touchdown.

"Dennis did a great job as well today," Leaf said. "It's a lot more comfortable when you've got two quarterbacks that can go out there and win."

The game was tied after each quarter. Following Williams' touchdown reception, Cal blocked a Matt Dragich punt, which rolled out of bounds at the Ducks' one-yard line.

Lynch scored on the next play. Oregon responded in the second quarter, driving 53 yards in 10 plays to set up Paul Martinez's 29-yard field goal. Dixon was 6 of 7 passing on the drive for 45 yards.

Cal tied the game just seconds before half with a 21-yard field goal by Schneider, which was set up after Brandon Hampton intercepted Dixon in Oregon territory.

Oregon regained the lead midway through the second half with a steady dose of Terrence Whitehead.

The senior back gained 29 of his

team-high 119 yards in Oregon's opening possession, setting up a 49-yard field goal by Martinez.

On Cal's next possession, Ayoub was sacked by linebacker Anthony Trucks who also stripped the ball and recovered it at the Bears' 18-yard line.

One play later, Whitehead rushed 18 yards to give Oregon a 20-10 lead. Whitehead finished with 191 total yards of offense.

Cal responded and, following Schneider's second field goal, Lynch rushed 52 yards for a touchdown run to tie the game late in the

third quarter.

But both defenses held strong in the final quarter before Leaf's touchdown pass to Finley clinched the game in overtime.

The victory gives Oregon its fifth straight win and eighth of the season — the Ducks' best record since 2001.

"It's a great feeling. The team's pretty excited about it, but we've got to get immediately into Washington State and be 9-1," Leaf said.

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## Steinberg: Agent says Williams 'is a nice guy with a big heart'

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movie featuring Cuba Gooding Jr. and Tom Cruise. In 2001, Steinberg filed a lawsuit in federal court against ex-partner David Dunn of Athletes First, claiming he was preparing a blackmail scheme to discredit him and steal 40 of his clients. Dunn and employee Brian Murphy accused Steinberg of incompetence and erratic behavior, according to a 2002 article in ESPN The Magazine.

Then part of Steinberg, Moorad & Dunn, Inc. (SMD), Steinberg received a \$44.6 million verdict in 2002. The jury found Dunn and Murphy guilty of unfair competition.

Steinberg now runs Leigh Steinberg Enterprises.

On Friday, he criticized the NBA's new 19-year-old age limit for players.

The NBA age limit forces individuals to attend school when they don't want to, he said. Those student-athletes then take the fewest classes possible.

The rule has no basis in a free society, said Steinberg, who added that he'd rather focus on helping dedicated student-athletes graduate.

"You ought to have players on a college campus that want to be college athletes," Steinberg said. "That way you can regulate them. You can tell them, 'Don't take money from agents ...' There are enforceable standards. (Students are)

motivated. They want to be there."

Steinberg also discussed Philadelphia Eagles wide receiver Terrell Owens, who played in last season's Super Bowl only 50 days after spraining his right ankle and fracturing a bone in his lower leg. Owens reportedly signed a waiver releasing his team any legal liability.

His mistake came when Owens publicly demanded a new contract from Eagles owner Jeffrey Lurie, Steinberg said.


Owens didn't get a contract, and was recently suspended indefinitely.

"Terrell Owens is entirely within his right to request a new contract — privately, quietly," Steinberg said. "The minute that you stick an owner up against the wall publicly, you are ensuring you won't get a contract offer."

Miami Dolphins running back Ricky Williams — a Steinberg client whose odd behavior combined with brief retirement sparked massive media coverage — is a nice guy with a big heart, Steinberg said.

Williams, like anyone else, doesn't have to play football, Steinberg said. But Steinberg didn't like that the athlete retired right before training camp in 2004, or Williams' statements defending his marijuana use. Williams returned this season after a four-game suspension for a positive drug test.

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### REC FACILITIES

Attention UO Faculty & Staff (and faculty/staff partners): 1/2 price memberships are on sale now! Pay \$30.00 for the remainder of fall term (membership is good through January 6<sup>th</sup>). For more information call 346-4183 or visit our website at <http://pars.uoregon.edu>.

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