

Recap: Sooner rushing attack found success in second half

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Day in the back of the end zone with 3:30 remaining to close the gap to three points.

The Ducks forced a three and out on the Sooners' ensuing possession and, following a punt, had the ball at their 22-yard line with one time-out and 3:04 left in regulation.

Leaf then guided the Ducks down the field, converting two third downs. With the ball in field goal range and the clock under its control, Oregon went for the victory.

"I didn't want to give them too much time. We didn't want to score too early," Bellotti said. "I knew we could always kick the field goal to tie it up. At that time obviously we were all thinking 'win the football game and win it right now.'"

Excluding its final two drives, the Oregon offense stalled most of the game. The Ducks finished with 327 total yards; 137 came on the final two possessions.

In the third quarter, Oklahoma scored a touchdown on each of its two possessions, amassed 169 yards of offense and held the Ducks to negative nine total yards.

The biggest change was the Oklahoma rushing game. The Ducks held the Sooners to 28 rushing yards in the first half and star tailback Adrian Peterson to eight yards on

eight carries. That changed in the second half when Oklahoma finished with 132 rushing yards, 83 of which came in the third quarter.

"What they did in the second half was run more laterally; that created some gaps," Bellotti said. "When they ran at us we did a great job. Some of the biggest plays came when we stuffed it inside, at the point of attack, and they reversed and we didn't quite stay alive as much as we talked about."

The teams combined for the lowest scoring first half of a Holiday Bowl game with the Ducks leading 7-3 at halftime.

Oklahoma got on the board first with a 34-yard field goal on its first possession of the game. Oregon answered with a 12-play, 79-yard drive. Williams scored on a 5-yard run with 2:58 remaining in the first quarter.

The Ducks failed to record their 11th victory of the season, a school record held by the 2001-02 team. However, the 10 wins has only been accomplished two other times in school history.

Of the 22 players that started the Holiday Bowl, Oregon potentially returns 13 next season, including eight on offense.

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College football

Longhorns' Vince Young declares himself for draft

BY JIM VERTUNO
THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

Vince Young is headed to the NFL. The Texas quarterback, who led the Longhorns to their first national championship in 36 years, announced Sunday he would make himself eligible for the April draft.

Young maintained during the season that he would return for his senior year, but said his Rose Bowl performance put him "over the top."

"Hard work has paid off a whole lot," he said.

Young was nearly unstoppable in Texas' 41-38 Rose Bowl win over top-ranked USC on Wednesday, and he would have been a favorite to win the Heisman Trophy had he decided to return.

The versatile quarterback accounted for 467 yards against USC — 200 running and 267 passing — and ran eight yards for the winning touchdown with 19 seconds left.

Young thanked many people, including his family and coach Mack Brown, who was at the American Football Coaches Association Convention and could not attend Sunday's news conference. He specifically thanked Brown for "helping me become a better man."

In a statement, Brown said he met with Young and his family Sunday morning and fully supports Young's decision.

"We love Vince and appreciate all the great things he's done for the University of Texas on and off the field," Brown said. "We'll miss him, but want him to do as well in the NFL as he did in college."

In his eight seasons at Texas,

Brown never before has had a player leave early for the NFL.

Young ends his career at Texas with a 30-2 record—tops in school history.

His Rose Bowl performance increased speculation that he would leave school early and also started a debate about whether he would be the No. 1 pick in April's draft.

Young's hometown Houston Texans have the first pick. Young said it would be wonderful to play in Houston, but realizes he could wind up somewhere else.

One of those possibilities is Tennessee, which has the third pick. Young counts Titans quarterback Steve McNair as a close friend. He said McNair told him "go with your heart" in making his decision.

Gil Brandt, longtime Cowboys personnel director and current NFL.com draft analyst, called Young a likely top five pick but said he thought Young should have waited another year.

Although Young has been criticized by analysts for his quirky sidearm throwing motion, Brandt said the most important factor is Young's winning record.

"He has a bottom-line of 30-2. Bobby Layne and Sonny Jurgenson didn't have perfect deliveries either, but they're in the Hall of Fame," he said.

Young said he talked over his decision with his family and said some of his advisers told him to stay at Texas to finish his degree. The ultimate decision was his, Young said.

"It took a lot of praying, listening, understanding and knowing that the day was going to come," said Felicia Young, who attended her son's news conference. "Everything is all right.

This is great."

Young is Texas' all-time leader in total offense (9,167 yards), career touchdowns (81) and career rushing touchdowns by a quarterback (37).

This season, Young became the only player in NCAA history to pass for 3,000 yards (3,036) and rush for 1,000 (1,050) in one season. His 4,086 total yards set a school single-season record.

Young won the Davey O'Brien Award for the nation's best quarterback and the Maxwell Award for the top college football player, but came in second behind USC running back Reggie Bush in the Heisman voting.

"I feel like I accomplished everything I wanted to accomplish in college," Young said.

Though he's leaving a year early, Young emphasized his bond with Texas, saying, "I'll forever be a Longhorn."

Young's departure leaves a gaping hole in the offense if Texas is to defend its title.

The only other scholarship quarterback on the roster, freshman Colt McCoy, redshirted last season and didn't take a snap. Texas expects to sign another prep standout, Jevan Snead, who plans to enroll in school this month and participate in spring drills in February.

"We have 15 starters back next year and our expectations today remain the same as before Vince's decision," Brown said. "We are defending champions and will move forward."

AP Sports Writer Jaime Aron in Dallas contributed to this report.

Men: Maarty Leunen exits game at halftime with an ankle injury

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(Stanford)," Kent said. "There would have been a totally different set of pressure."

Oregon played the second half without Maarty Leunen, who scored 11 points in the first half. Leunen landed on a Stanford defender after making a jumper with 44 seconds remaining in the first half. He came up limping, the effect of a sprained ankle that sidelined him for the rest of the game.

"It's unfortunate that we didn't have Maarty in the game because I think that would have made a huge difference," Kent said. "He was on the way to having another great game."

The Ducks also played without the services of 6-foot-8 Ivan Johnson, who was sent home Friday for

disciplinary reasons.

"There are things that he needs to do and when he doesn't do them there are consequences," Kent said. "And in this case he needed to be sent home and not just for one thing, but an accumulation of things maybe from the last six weeks.

"We need Ivan Johnson, but we need Ivan Johnson the right way. The right way he can help this basketball team, the wrong way he can hurt this team."

Ray Schafer scored 10 points with six rebounds off the bench for the Ducks.

Oregon hosts Arizona State (6-6, 0-3) Thursday at 7 p.m.

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