

Fourth-quarter touchdown all Ducks need in 7-6 victory

By Michael Wagaman
The Associated Press

Justin Herbert did just enough to keep his streak intact for consecutive games with a touchdown pass. Make it an impressive 28 and counting for Oregon's quarterback, the longest active streak in the nation among FBS schools.

That it turned out to be the Ducks' lone score in their 7-6 win over Michigan State in the Redbox Bowl only emphasized why coach Mario Cristobal was smiling after Herbert's recent decision to bypass the NFL draft.



Oregon wide receiver Dillon Mitchell, right, catches a touchdown pass in front of Michigan State defensive back Josiah Scott during Monday's game in Santa Clara, California.

take a victory whether it be one point, two points or 50 points. These guys found a way to get it done.”

Herbert passed for 166 yards and extended his streak on a day when the Ducks' offense mostly sputtered. The running game struggled, and Oregon receivers dropped several passes.

“We kind of just shot ourselves in the foot the first few drives, and guys kind of settled down and started making plays,” Herbert said.

Oregon (9-4) crossed midfield only three times and could not get into the end zone until Herbert found Mitchell in the right front of the end zone for the deciding score. The Ducks' defense held up from there but got some help from Michigan State's special teams.

on top of the ball. I tried to make something happen. That's what happens.”

After Michigan State's defense forced a three-and-out on the following possession, the Spartans took over at their own 42. But Lewerke's long pass on fourth-and-12 was knocked down by Oregon cornerback Thomas Graham.

Lewerke completed 22 of 40 passes for 172 yards with one interception.

It was the third time in four games that Michigan State (7-6) failed to score a touchdown.

Running back L.J. Scott ran for 84 yards on 24 carries, ending his injury-riddled season with the Spartans on a high note after being limited to five games. The senior running back declined to redshirt this year and declared for the NFL draft in early December.

Matt Goghlin kicked a pair of 34-yard field goals, but he also missed one from 50.

“We never got that bust-out play,” Michigan State coach Mark Dantonio said. “You're not going to win many games scoring six points.”

It was Oregon's first bowl victory since beating Florida State in the 2015 Rose Bowl. The Ducks had lost three straight postseason games since then.

LOCAL SCHEDULE

Thursday

PREP WRESTLING

• La Grande at Nampa, Idaho, 4:30 p.m.

PREP GIRLS BASKETBALL

• Joseph vs. St. Paul at Dufur, 3 p.m.

Friday

WOMEN'S COLLEGE BASKETBALL

• Evergreen at Eastern Oregon, 5:30 p.m.

MEN'S COLLEGE BASKETBALL

• Evergreen at Eastern Oregon, 7:30 p.m.

MEN'S COLLEGE WRESTLING

• Eastern Oregon at Menlo Duals, Atherton, California, all day

WOMEN'S COLLEGE WRESTLING

• Eastern Oregon at Menlo Duals, Atherton, California, all day

PREP WRESTLING

• La Grande at Rollie Lane, Nampa, Idaho, 10 a.m.

• Enterprise, Joseph/Wallowa, Imbler, Union/Cove, Elgin at Jo-Hi Invite, 4 p.m.

PREP GIRLS BASKETBALL

• La Grande at Ontario, 7 p.m.

• Elgin at Wallowa, 6 p.m.

• Pine Eagle at Imbler, 6 p.m.

• Pilot Rock at Union, 7:30 p.m.

• Powder Valley at Nixyaawii, 6 p.m.

• Grant Union at Enterprise, 7:30 p.m.

• Joseph at Griswold, 6 p.m.

PREP BOYS BASKETBALL

• La Grande at Ontario, 5:30 p.m.

• Pilot Rock at Union, 6 p.m.

• Grant Union at Enterprise, 6 p.m.

• Elgin at Wallowa, 7:30 p.m.

Joseph at Griswold, 7:30 p.m.

• Powder Valley at Nixyaawii, 7:30 p.m.

• Pine Eagle at Imbler, 7:30 p.m.

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