

Oregon State buried in 35-10 loss to USC

By **Dan Greenspan**
Associated Press Writer

LOS ANGELES (AP) — Oregon State's defense and special teams did its part to break a 23-game losing streak at the Coliseum that dates to the Eisenhower administration.

The Beavers' offensive failures, however, ensured that at least one more President will be added to the roster of Commanders in Chief during a run of futility that goes back to 1960.

Cody Kessler passed for 261 yards and two touchdowns, and Justin Davis scored twice in No. 18 Southern California's 35-10 victory over Oregon State on Saturday night.

The Beavers (3-1, 0-1 Pac-12) managed a woeful 181 yards and didn't score an offensive touchdown for the first time since a November 2011 loss to California.

"The story of the game was, we never responded offensively to score points or to control the ball, and our defense wore out," Riley said. "I would say we were probably disruptive. That was probably the best way to put our offensive performance."

Darreus Rogers caught a 48-yard Hail Mary touchdown pass at the halftime gun as the Trojans (3-1, 2-0 Pac-12) rebounded smartly from their first loss with solid defense and another stellar game from Kessler, who went 24 for 32 while leading a 461-yard offensive performance.

The Trojans had a bye after their upset loss at Boston College knocked them out of the Top 10. USC started tentatively in its first game back at the Coliseum, but Su'a Cravens' clever interception lit a spark.

"I think it was just sloppy on my part," Mannion said. "I take full responsibility for our offensive performance. I expect a lot more out of myself, and I'm certainly not satisfied with the way I played and the way our offense played as a whole."

Davis caught a 16-yard TD pass and ran for a fourth-quarter score for the Trojans. Javorius Allen added 115 yards rushing and a touchdown as USC roared back from an early deficit, scoring the final 28 points and playing 41 shutout minutes.

"We just had to get back to the basics to get over a loss," said Cravens, who also had a team-leading six tackles and a sack. "We had to

do our job and execute."

Despite 14 penalties for 124 yards, the Trojans moved the ball steadily when their defense wasn't thoroughly stifling Oregon State, which managed only 63 yards and no points after taking a 10-7 lead early in the second quarter.

Ryan Murphy returned a kickoff 97 yards for a TD for Oregon State, which struggled in its first serious test of the season. Mannion went 15 of 32 for 123 yards with two interceptions for the Beavers.

"Even though we weren't doing much offensively, our defense played a lot of good football there for a long time," Riley said. "I think our team had some confidence we could do some stuff."

Oregon State showed little of its usual offensive pop after three straight victories over lower-tier opponents to open the season, and Mannion didn't look sharp in the California native's first appearance at the Coliseum.

After Cravens' first career touchdown in the first quarter, Murphy took the ensuing kickoff straight down the Beavers' sideline for a TD, making the fifth-longest kick return in school history on his first career return. Murphy

has been lobbying Riley for a spot on kick returns.

"I guess he proved his point," Riley said. "He's a good football player. He made a lot of good plays in this game and really played his heart out, too."

But Oregon State was unable to match its early success running the ball — although Storm Woods finished with 61 yards rushing on nine carries and added 17 yards receiving on three catches — with any of the big plays in the passing game that have propelled Mannion to third on the Pac-12's career passing yards list.

"Our defense answered. Our special teams answered. That's a mistake that I've got to clean up and I take responsibility for," Mannion said.

As the first half ended, Kessler ducked away from several tacklers and launched a pass to the goal line. Several Beavers defenders did little to stop Rogers, whose biggest competition for the ball was from a teammate.

Oregon State lost starting defensive tackle Jalen Grimble, the brother of former USC tight end Xavier Grimble, to a knee injury. Riley did not immediately know the extent of the injury.

On a bye, No. 2 Oregon gets back to basics

By **Anne M. Peterson**
AP Sports Writer

There's nothing like a close call to get a team's attention. Washington State did that for the No. 2 Ducks.

The Cougars pulled even with Oregon in the final quarter of last week's game between the two teams, but Marcus Mariota confidently led the Ducks back for a 38-31 victory.

With a bye this week before next Thursday's game against Arizona, Oregon went back to basics.

"We're kind of in improvement mode in every phase," coach Mark Helfrich said about this week.

The Ducks are 4-0, including their statement-making victory over then-No. 7 Michigan State in Week

2 and the victory over the Cougars in the conference opener, but a few issues have cropped up.

Oregon has been hit by injuries on the offensive line, with starters senior Jake Fisher and junior Andre Yruretagoyena both out for the foreseeable future.

The Ducks started freshman Tyrell Crosby at left tackle, and Matt Pierson made his first start at right tackle against the Cougars. But the inexperience on the line showed, and Washington State sacked Mariota seven times.

"It wasn't always the new guys," Helfrich said. "That's just a matter of maybe a little bit of human nature: Sometimes if a guy's missing at a certain position guys try to overcompensate and do too much. And that's the worst thing because now you weaken two positions

instead of just one."

The off-week has allowed the new players to get more reps against the first-team defense. Oregon has moved defensive lineman Stetson Bair to the offense.

There's also some unease about Oregon's defense. Overall, the Ducks are ranked last in the Pac-12 for total defense, allowing an average of 443.5 yards per game.

While Oregon's numbers were no doubt hurt by Washington State's prolific Air Raid offense and quarterback Connor Halliday, the Ducks were also working this week to shore up their defense. The Cougars had 499 yards of total offense in the game.

"We had about 200 yards of — I don't want to say 'given' offense — but missed tackles, lost leverage, lack of communication. And that's

simple stuff," Helfrich said.

Despite the challenge from the Cougars, Mariota said the game proved to the Ducks that they could win the close ones.

"It gives you confidence that when things are going a little tough, that you can battle through those things and fight through those situations," he said.

With a few days of rest and the start of classes this week, the Ducks planned to start focusing on the Wildcats on Saturday.

Last year Oregon was ranked No. 5 when the team traveled to Tucson and fell 42-16 to the Wildcats. The loss, their second of the season, knocked the Ducks out of the national championship picture and cost them a fifth straight BCS bowl appearance.

Ka'Deem Carey terrorized

Oregon, running for 206 yards and four touchdowns. The Ducks had three turnovers and turned the ball over on downs twice.

Mariota was intercepted on the first play from scrimmage. That ended his Pac-12 record string of 343 straight passes without an interception.

As it turned out later, Oregon's quarterback was hampered by a knee injury that he had been nursing for several games.

This week, Mariota played down the idea that the Ducks would be motivated by revenge at Autzen Stadium next Thursday night.

"Some people use it as a motivating factor," he told reporters. "For us it's just another game."

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