

The Ducks fall in what may be Mariota’s last game

By
Anne M. Peterson
AP Sports Writer

ARLINGTON, Texas (AP) — Marcus Mariota’s season ended without the honor that mattered to him most. Now Oregon waits to see if he will be back for another try.

Going into Monday night’s game against Ohio State, the standout junior quarterback said he would trade the Heisman Trophy he won this season for a national championship because the team honor was more important to him.

Instead, the Buckeyes bottled up Mariota and overpowered the Ducks for a 42-20 victory in the first College Football Playoff championship.

It may have been Mariota’s final game at Oregon. He has until Thursday to decide if he will skip his senior season and declare for the NFL draft. Mariota, who has already completed his degree, is expected to be a top pick.

Did the devastating loss change his mind about coming back?

“I’m sure it will weigh in a little bit, but there’s a lot of other things that have to play into that decision,” he said. “There’s starting grad school, coming back for another year to improve, there’s a lot of other things that could bring me back. It’s just not specifically this loss.”

Despite the loss, the soft-spoken, lead-by-example team leader had a stellar season.

In addition to the Heisman, Mariota was named AP Player of the Year and the Pac-12’s

offensive player of the year and a slew of other awards.

He set conference records for most touchdowns in a single season with 58. He had 42 via pass, 15 on the run and a touchdown catch. He has also set the conference mark for career touchdowns with 134. He has also thrown at least one touchdown pass in all 41 games he has started in his career, the second-longest streak in NCAA history behind Marshall’s Rakeem Cato (46). And he’s one of four quarterbacks in FBS history to pass for more than 10,000 yards and run for more than 2,000 in his career.

Not that any of that mattered much to Mariota on this night.

“My main focus was to be a great teammate. That’s all I hoped to accomplish,” he said. “I don’t care about legacies.”

All season his bold moves on the field belied his shy demeanor off it. Against Wyoming he flipped into the end zone for a touchdown, and against Arizona he caught a touchdown pass from running back Royce Freeman.

“The impact he’s had on the field is extremely significant,” Oregon coach Mark Helfrich said. “Off the field, probably even bigger.”

Senior center Hroniss Grasu said he’ll miss his good friend. Last season both Grasu and Mariota decided they’d return to the Ducks for another year.

“He’s just an unbelievable leader. Unbelievable guy. Unbelievable person,” Grasu said. “Anyone can learn from that guy because of the way he handles everything

that’s thrown at him, the way he handles the success, the way he handles the attention. Nothing fazes him.”

But Mariota faced challenges against Ohio State.

Oregon’s receiver corps was hit earlier in the week when redshirt freshman Darren Carrington was declared ineligible for the game because of a failed NCAA drug test. Carrington did not travel to Texas for the biggest game of the season. The team had already lost freshman receiver Devon Allen, who also runs on Oregon’s track team, on the opening kickoff of the Ducks’ 59-20 victory over Florida State in the Rose Bowl.

Junior tight end Pharaoh Brown had six touchdown catches for the Ducks this season before he sustained a season-ending knee injury against Utah. And before the season started, junior receiver Bralon Addison tore a ligament in his left knee.

That left Oregon, which regularly uses three- and four-receiver formations, with just Dwayne Stanford, Keanon Lowe, Charles Nelson and converted running back Byron Marshall.

While Mariota found Lowe on Oregon’s opening drive with a 7-yard touchdown pass, both Nelson and Stanford dropped third-down passes in the first half and the Ducks trailed 21-10.

He seemed to find more of a groove with his receivers as the game wore on, hitting Marshall with a 70-yard scoring pass to close the gap to 21-17 in the third quarter. Oregon got closer with Aiden Schneider’s 23-yard field goal.

Ezekiel Elliott answered the threat with a pair of rushing touchdowns to put Ohio State up 35-20 and Oregon couldn’t catch up.

“It’s tough. It happens. It’s a part of football,” Mariota said about the injuries. “But I thought that the guys who played stepped up and made plays.”

Mariota found ways all season to overcome injuries. Oregon’s best offensive lineman, tackle Tyler Johnstone, injured his knee before the season started and was done for the year. Fellow O-linemen Andre Yruretagoyena and Jake Fisher also missed games and running back Thomas Tyner was hampered by shoulder and ankle issues.

With the exception of the lone loss this season to Arizona, the Ducks kept winning thanks to the dual-threat quarterback’s savvy and elusiveness.

But ultimately it wasn’t enough against the bigger and stronger Buckeyes. Mariota finished with 333 yards passing and two touchdowns and his final attempt of the game was an interception when the game was out of reach.

“This is a family. I’m truly grateful for all of them. And everything that we’ve accomplished this season, it says a lot about these guys,” Mariota said. “I feel truly blessed.”

Oregon has never won a national championship. The Ducks’ last appearance in the title game was following the 2010 season, when Mariota was a senior at St. Louis High School in Honolulu. Oregon fell to Auburn 22-19.

Health ... Continued from A-1

SCHC will also offer general dental services to children and adult patients sometime in 2015. Tooth cleaning, root canals, crowns and minor surgery will be available on a sliding scale. The dental clinic will kick off on a part-time basis, utilizing staff from SCHC’s Grants Pass clinic, then as the dental practice builds, the Valley’s clinic will hire its own staff.

SCHC also has its own laboratory facility and is currently interviewing candidates to fill a fulltime phlebotomist position. This lab is basically a “draw station” and for some medical tests, samples are couriered to SCHC’s Grants Pass clinic, to be processed for quick results.

Currently, the clinic has one physician, one physician assistant, one family nurse practitioner and an adult nurse practitioner. All these medical providers are highly experienced, according to Higuera. The staff also includes a social worker who provides family counseling and a psychiatric nurse practitioner, for behavioral health that includes medication management.

“We’re currently recruiting for another provider, and hopefully that person will be a physician, but doctors are hard

to find right now, there’s a nationwide doctor shortage,” Higuera said.

Over 25 medical employees work at the Valley’s medical campus and that number is growing.

“We’re thrilled to be able to offer the Valley state-of-the-art quality of care,” Stewart said. “This is all about the people, trying to give them the best care available.”

SCHC’s medical campus expansion in the Valley also features a new building that now houses community outreach programs including Project Baby Check, Healthy Start and Healthy Families Programs, available to all parents with children, from prenatal through age five. Partnering with the Oregon Extension Center, nutrition classes and eventually, exercise classes will also be offered. Information on applying for the Oregon Health Plan is also available. All these services are free to the entire community.

“The move was a huge deal, going from a two bedroom house to a large upscale facility,” said SCHC Outreach Director Jacque Doney. “We’re not quite functional yet, but expect to be

fully operational within a few weeks. It will be awesome, what we’ll be able to offer families in the Valley now.”

The new facility has a full kitchen to share information and techniques on making healthy meals on a tight budget and programs range from teaching positive parenting techniques to positive play socialization skills for children. An outdoor fenced playground is also available.

Doney said these outreach programs are largely home-based and designed to “work with families to identify their strengths and assist them in achieving parenting goals by building on these family strengths.

“Parents are the first and best teachers to their children, so we endeavor to support and empower them,” said Doney, who has worked with Valley families for 20 years. “Our programs are for any parents who want to absorb all the amazing new information now available. We want to give Valley children the best opportunities in life. We’re all about coaching parents to help them get their children ready to thrive in school and in life - and to improve health outcomes for children and families.”



We’ve Moved!

Siskiyou Community Health Center’s Outreach & Project Baby Check building is now located next to our expanded medical facility in Cave Junction at 25647 Redwood Highway.

Through Project Baby Check and Healthy Families, we work with parents during their children’s early stages of development, from conception to kindergarten. We offer a relationship-based approach and embrace learning experiences that are relevant and customized for the individual needs of each family and child. We provide home visitation, monthly play groups, books and educational materials, nutrition and fitness classes, transportation services, and much more. All services are free and voluntary.



An Affordable Solution for Quality Health Care

Siskiyou Community Health Center

25647 Redwood Hwy. Cave Junction • 541.592.6444 • www.siskiyouhealthcenter.com

This institution is an equal opportunity provider and employer.



SEITZ RESTORATION & COLLISION

RESTORATION - COLLISION - REFURBISHING
WORK WITH ALL INSURANCE OR SELF-PAY
45 YEARS EXPERIENCE

541-592-3990 220 Watkins St. Cave Junction

Take our new website for a spin.
www.srccavejunction.com

WE ARE I-CAR COLLISION CERTIFIED

PROVIDE A LIFE-TIME WARRANTY.

WHERE CUSTOMER SATISFACTION IS PARAMOUNT.

H&R Block Business Services

- Bookkeeping
- Payroll
- Tax Preparation
- Advice

H&R Block Business Services can help your business go further. Contact your local H&R Block office for more information.

H&R Block
210 W. Lister St.
Cave Junction
592-1667
Ted Crocker, LLC
Bob Litak, LLC
Licensed Tax Consultants B14914

 **H&R BLOCK** | business services

Illinois Valley Health & Wellness Fair

January 24th, 2015

10:00 AM – 2:00 PM
IV Senior Center: 520 E. River St., Cave Junction

Local health and wellness providers share their knowledge, demonstrate services, and sell their goods.

Schedule of Speakers & Classes		
10:00	Karin Rohland	Tips from Chinese Medicine on Staying Healthy Through Cold & Flu Season
10:00	Senior Center	Line Dancing Class
10:30	Doranne Long	Better Body Motion with Less Pain
11:00	Kate Dwyer	Library Health Resources Online
11:00	Suzanne’s Dancers	Dance Performance
12:00	Laura Mancuso	Nutrition 101
12:00	Rising Dragon	Martial Arts Demonstration
12:30	Sandy Brierty	Senior Health Talk
1:00	Lauren Champagne	Chronic Pain Talk
1:00	Senior Center	Tai Chi Class
1:30	Lisa Sherier	Zumba Class

Door prizes for the first 20 attendees, lunch, raffle, giveaways, bodywork, acupuncture, blood pressure checks and more!

Presented by: 

for the mind, body and heart
www.healthyucenter.org 541-592-4888