

Washington State dominates Ducks

By
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Sports Writer

PULLMAN, Wash. (AP) — Washington State coach Mike Leach is famous for his Air Raid passing offenses. Turns out the Cougars have a ground game too. Washington State rushed for 280 yards and six touchdowns to beat Oregon 51-33 on Saturday, sending the Ducks to their third consecutive loss. Jamal Morrow, Gerard Wicks and James Williams each ran for two touchdowns for Washington State (2-2, 1-0 Pac-12), which was coming off a bye week. Washington State defeated Oregon in double overtime last year, a game that sparked the Cougars' run to a 9-4 record. "I don't think anybody expected six touchdowns out of us,"

Morrow said. "It's great." "I don't think tonight was our full potential," Wicks said. "You'll see a way better running team." Leach said the passing of Luke Falk, who threw for 371 yards, helped set up the ground attack. "The biggest thing was the passing was real effective," Leach said. "We got them off balance with the pass." Oregon (2-3, 0-2) has lost three straight games and held a team meeting earlier in the week to seek a turnaround. Royce Freeman, who missed the last game with a leg injury, ran for 138 yards and three touchdowns for Oregon. "We didn't have any big plays of any kind tonight," said Oregon coach Mark Helfrich. "Both sides put a ton of pressure on each other at the wrong times; the offense was not answering, the defense was not answering."

"Sticking together is paramount, and we will," Helfrich said. Washington State piled up 651 yards of total offense, to 416 total yards for Oregon. Falk completed 36 of 48 passes with one touchdown. "Almost every play they called was a pass and they checked to a run," Helfrich said. "That balance was very difficult for us to stop." Oregon's Dakota Prukop completed 14 of 22 passes for 132 yards. Washington State came in averaging 121 rushing yards per game. Washington State opened the scoring with Falk hitting Gabe Marks on a 7-yard touchdown pass. Oregon replied with an 11-yard touchdown run by Freeman to tie the score at 7-7. Washington State marched 75 yards on its next drive, with

Wicks running four yards for the touchdown and a 14-7 lead. Freeman bulled over from the 1 to tie the score at 14-14 midway through the second quarter. Washington State went 80 yards in seven plays on its next series, including a 40-yard bomb from Falk to Kyle Sweet. Morrow ran the final 10 yards for a touchdown and a 21-14 lead. Oregon went three-and-out and Washington State got the ball near midfield. Wicks scored again, this time on a 2-yard run, for a 28-14 lead at halftime. Washington State opened the second half by marching to the Oregon 5, but Erik Powell's 22-yard field goal attempt was blocked. He has missed all four of his field goal attempts this season. Oregon immediately gave the ball back, when Dwayne Stanford fumbled after a reception and WSU's Robert Taylor recovered.

He returned the ball to the Oregon 26. But Washington State turned the ball over on downs when Falk's pass to Sweet in the end zone fell incomplete. Prukop was then sacked in the end zone by Hercules Mata'afa for a safety and WSU led 30-14. After a WSU punt, Freeman ran 75 yards for his third touchdown to cut Oregon's deficit to 30-20 late in the third. Oregon's conversion pass failed. The Cougars replied with a 75-yard drive that ended with Morrow's 14-yard touchdown run for a 37-20 lead. Williams added a 38-yard touchdown burst midway through the fourth that gave Washington State a 44-20 lead. Charles Nelson returned the ensuing kickoff 100 yards for a touchdown to cut WSU's lead to 44-26.

Colorado crushes Oregon State 47-6

By
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BOULDER, Colo. (AP) — For a program that bore the brunt of rebuilding for such an excruciatingly long time, the Colorado Buffaloes sure carried the weight of expectations well on a sunny Saturday afternoon at jam-packed Folsom Field.

A rare double-digit favorite in a Pac-12 game, Colorado cruised past Oregon State 47-6 on Saturday behind three long TD throws from freshman Steven Montez to Shay Fields. "We just called some plays that worked," Fields shrugged. You have to go ball the way back to Oct. 24, 1992, when the Buffs beat Kansas State 54-7 in Big 12 play to

find a league laughter quite like this. The last time the Buffaloes (4-1, 2-0 Pac-12) were a double-digit favorite in a league game was Nov. 25, 2005, against Nebraska — and they were walloped 30-3 by the Cornhuskers. This time, they came in as an 18-point darling against the Beavers (1-3, 0-1) and they handled their business a week after a signature win at

Oregon. "It proves we're legitimate, maybe, that we can do it," Colorado coach Mike MacIntyre said. "Everybody kept asking me all week, 'Are they going to have a letdown? Did they play out of their minds?' Like I said since Day 1, we're a good football team." And they're getting better every week. The Buffs, who entered

this season 5-40 in Pac-12 play, failed to score a touchdown on their opening drive for the first time all season. But they scored on their next five possessions to turn the game into a rare October laughter, where a crowd 47,000-strong relished in Colorado's resurgence after nearly a decade of so much disappointment. Montez, a freshman making his second straight start in place of injured senior Sefo

Liufau, hit Fields with scoring strikes of 51, 33 and 63 yards before Phillip Lindsay ran it in from a yard out. Fields had seven receptions for 169 yards and Montez completed 19 of 27 passes for 293 yards without a sack or an interception. When the Buffs finally stalled again, Davis Price trotted in and nailed a line-drive 54-yard field goal, the longest by a freshman in school history, for a 30-6 lead with less than a minute left in the first half.

Ten seconds later, freshman QB Conor Blount's quick throw to running back Artavis Pierce was snared by linebacker Rick Gamboa, whose 20-yard pick-6 gave Colorado a 31-point halftime cushion.

This time, when the crowd streamed out of the stadium in the fourth quarter of another blowout, it was in celebration, not resignation. POLL IMPLICATIONS

Colorado, which held a league opponent out of the end zone for the first time since a 34-0 win at Oklahoma State 11 years ago, continues inching its way toward its first Top 25 ranking since Nov. 6, 2005, when the Buffaloes peaked at No. 22.

"From what I saw? Yeah, why not?" said Beavers coach Gary Andersen. "Put them in the Top 25."

BOLDEN BOTTLED UP: The Buffs neutralized Victor Bolden Jr., who came into the game leading the nation with a 40.2-yard average of kickoff returns. He returned two kickoffs for a 22.5-yard average and fumbled one kickoff but recovered another coughed up by Jaylynn Bailey.

TAKEAWAYS OREGON STATE: Left guard Fred Lauina hurt his left knee and was helped off the field. Outside linebacker Titus Failauga limped off and cornerback Jay Irvine left with an arm or shoulder injury.

COLORADO: The Buffaloes hadn't had more than one conference win since 2011, when they beat Arizona at home and Utah on the road in their first season in the Pac-12.

UP NEXT OREGON STATE: It doesn't get any easier for the banged-up Beavers who host Cal next weekend.

COLORADO: The Buffaloes travel to USC next weekend where they'll go for their first win over the scuffling Trojans, against whom they're 0-10.

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