

# SPORTS

## Great Season Ends in Texas

### Ohio State pushes past Ducks in title game

(AP) — Ohio State can add the newest version of the national championship trophy to a case that already has a bunch of the old ones.

The Buckeyes' third-stringer matched Oregon's Heisman winner as Cardale Jones led Ohio State past Marcus Mariota and the Ducks 42-20 in the first College Football Playoff national championship game Monday night at the \$1.2 billion home of the Dallas Cowboys in Arlington, Texas.

Behind their bullish backup quarterback and the relentless running of Ezekiel Elliott, the Buckeyes (14-1) completed a remarkable in-season turnaround with a dominating performance against the Ducks (13-2).

"The chase is complete," Ohio State coach Urban Meyer said. "It's done. It's over. They accepted their final mission, their final assignment and their final directive, and they did it. That was our whole mantra this last couple of weeks. A job well done, and we're very grateful."

Ohio State began the first major college football playoff as the fourth and final seed, and as a team that faced questions about whether it belonged at all. It was a team that never would have had a chance to win a title under the old postseason system.

No question about it now: Ohio State is the truest champion big-time college football has ever crowned, showered by golden confetti as its band played "Hang on Sloopy" when the clock hit 0:00.

Elliott, a sophomore, was the offensive MVP and ran for 246 yards and four touchdowns on 36 carries. In the last three games against Wisconsin, Alabama and Oregon, Elliott had 696 yards rushing.

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Ohio State's Ezekiel Elliott runs during the second half of the NCAA college football playoff championship game against Oregon Monday in Arlington, Texas. The Buckeyes overcame four turnovers to beat the Ducks, 42-20. (AP photo)

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