

College Football



Baylor quarterback Bryce Petty (14) fumbles the ball as Michigan State defensive lineman Joel Heath, left, and defensive end Shilique Calhoun (89) make the sack during the second half of the Cotton Bowl NCAA college football game Thursday in Arlington, Texas. Michigan State won 42-41.

AP Photo/Brandon Wade

Spartans storm back in Cotton Bowl

The Associated Press

ARLINGTON, Texas — Connor Cook threw a 10-yard touchdown pass to Keith Mumphery with 17 seconds left to cap a three-touchdown, fourth-quarter comeback in No. 7 Michigan State’s 42-41 victory over playoff-snubbed Baylor on Thursday in the Cotton Bowl.

The Spartans (11-2) got the winning touchdown after Marcus Rush blocked Chris Callahan’s 43-yard field goal attempt with 1:05 left.

When Baylor (11-2) got the ball back for one last try, Bryce Petty was sacked on consecutive plays before Riley Bullough’s clinching interception.

Petty completed 36 of 51 passes for a Cotton Bowl-record 550 yards and three touchdowns, two to speedy freshman KD Cannon and the other to 390-pount back-up guard LaQuan McGowan that put Baylor up 41-21 late in the third quarter.

Jeremy Langford ran for 162 yards and three touchdowns for the Spartans, whose losses were to Pac-12 winner Oregon and the Big Ten champion Ohio State.

Langford’s 1-yard plunge with just under 5 minutes left got the Spartans to 41-35. That came the play after Cook’s 11-yard scramble was initially called a touchdown but ruled short after a replay review.

Callahan had a 46-yard field goal attempt that ricocheted off the right upright to start the fourth quarter. Michigan State then got Cook’s 8-yard TD pass to tight end Josiah Price and recovered an onside kick. Cook threw a 39-yard pass on the first play after the recovery, but was scrambling to avoid pressure on the next when threw an awkward pass right to linebacker Taylor Young, who ran 84 yards to the end zone.

Young’s apparent touchdown was wiped out by an illegal block, pushing Baylor back to its 43. After Petty’s fourth-down incomple-tion, Michigan State went 60 yards in nine plays for Langford’s final score.

Michigan State won its fourth consecutive bowl game, this one the highest-scoring Cotton Bowl game ever. The Spartans were only the second Big

Ten team in the game that was played for the 79th time.

OUTBACK BOWL NO. 17 WISCONSIN 34, NO. 19 AUBURN 31, OT — At Tampa, Fla., Melvin Gordon ran for an Outback Bowl-record 251 yards and three touchdowns and Rafael Gaglianone kicked a 25-yard field goal in overtime to lift Wisconsin past Auburn.

Gaglianone tied it with a 29-yarder with 7 seconds left in regulation. Athletic director Barry Alvarez coached the Badgers (11-3) following Gary Andersen’s move to Oregon State.

Gordon scored on runs of 25, 53 and 6 yards, bouncing back from a subpar performance against Ohio State in the Big Ten championship game to threaten Barry Sanders’ FBS single-season rushing record.

Gordon finished with 2,587 yards in 14 games — second most in FBS history. Sanders had 2,628 for Oklahoma State in 11 games in 1988, when the NCAA did not include bowl results in a player’s statistics.

Nick Marshall threw two touchdown passes for

Auburn, which also got a pair of TDs on the ground from Cameron Artis-Payne. The Tigers were unable to move the ball in overtime, though, and lost when Daniel Carlson’s 45-yard field goal hit the right upright and bounced away.

CITRUS BOWL NO. 16 MISSOURI 33, MINNESOTA 17 — At Orlando, Fla., Marcus Murphy ran for 159 yards, Russell Hansbrough added 114 yards and a touchdown and Missouri beat Minnesota in the Citrus Bowl.

Missouri (11-3) won its third straight bowl game to reach 11 victories for the fourth time in school history. Minnesota (8-5) trailed 19-17 entering the fourth quarter, but Missouri pulled away on Hansbrough’s 78-yard touchdown run and Maty Mauk’s 7-yard scoring pass to Bud Sasser.

Mauk settled down to throw two TD passes after interceptions on the Tigers’ first two possessions.

Minnesota quarterback Mitch Leidner was 21 of 31 for 258 yards and a touchdown.

ROSE: Ducks take control when Seminoles fumble

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winning streak ends at 29. In Winston’s first loss as a college starter, maybe his last game in college, he threw for 348 yards and turned the ball over twice.

No Heisman jinx for Mariota. He was mostly brilliant again. The junior passed for 338 yards and two touchdowns and sprinted in for a 23 yard-touchdown with 13:56 left in the fourth quarter that made it 52-20 and made the Ducks the first team to reach 50 points in Rose Bowl history. This was No. 101.

“59-20, I did not expect that,” Oregon defensive end Arik Armstead said.

The Ducks fans spent much of the final quarter mockingly doing the Seminoles’ warchant and tomahawk chop. Next stop: The Lone Star state to try to win the program’s first national title.

The Ducks sported T-shirts after the game that read “WON NOT DONE.”

The first playoff game at college football’s highest level, the type of postseason game fans have longed for forever, looked like it would be a classic for a little more than two quarters.

Under a cloudless sky, on a chilly day in Pasadena, the Rose Bowl featured the third matchup of Heisman Trophy winners and a couple of quarterbacks who could be

vying to be the first overall pick in April’s NFL draft.

Mariota and Winston were both OK in the first half, missing some throws and making some spectacular ones. It was Mariota who threw the only interception, just his third of the season. The late pick didn’t hurt the Ducks much because Florida State’s Roberto Aguayo missed a 54-yard field goal on the final play of the half.

For the sixth time this season, Florida State was trailing at the half.

And then the hole got deeper.

The Seminoles’ first turnover was a huge swing. Freshman Dalvin Cook was stripped by Derrick Malone Jr. with Florida State in Oregon territory. The Ducks quickly flipped the field and Freeman scored his second touchdown of the day from 3 yards out to make it 25-13.

Oregon coach Mark Helfrich had called the Seminoles “unflappable” during the week leading up to the Rose Bowl — and they showed it on the next drive.

Winston threw an 18-yard touchdown pass to freshman Travis Rudolph. Midway through the third quarter it was 25-20 Oregon and then it was Mariota’s turn.

He zipped a pass to Darren Carrington near the sideline and the receiver made one cut and was gone for a 56-yard touchdown that

made it 32-20.

Instead of an answer from Florida State, this time another fumble by Cook and the wave of big plays and points that the Ducks do better than any team in the country started rumbling.

Two plays after the turnover, Mariota hit Carrington for a 30-yard touchdown and it was 39-20 and the Rose Bowl, filled mostly with green and yellow, was rumbling, too.

To win the national championship last season, Florida State erased an 18-point lead against Auburn at the Rose Bowl, but that was in the first half.

Coach Jimbo Fisher’s crew were comeback kings this season — they came from 17 down against North Carolina State and 21 back against Louisville — but this was the steepest hill to climb yet.

With the sun just about set behind the San Gabriel mountains, Florida State faced a fourth-and-five in Oregon territory. Field goals weren’t going to get it done. The ‘Noles had to go.

Winston had lots of time but couldn’t find a receiver. He was flushed from the pocket and as he loaded to throw the ball slipped out of his hands. The fumble bounced into Tony Washington’s arms and the defensive end went 58 yards for a score.

“It was just a crazy play,”

Winston said.

The wave had washed over Florida State. And it just kept coming.

Winston threw a pick on the next possession on a tipped ball and was so frustrated when he got to the sideline Fisher appeared to threaten to bench him if he didn’t calm down.

By the time Mariota raced into the end zone, day had turned to night in Pasadena and the Seminoles were done.

Florida State had not lost since Nov. 24, 2012, to Florida. Winston had never lost a college start in 26 tries.

The next Florida State turnover, a fumble by Jesus Wilson, made it five second-half turnover by the Seminoles. It was a problem all year for the ‘Noles, who came into the game 84th in the nation in turnover margin (minus-3), and in the playoff it was ultimately what doomed them.

“We beat ourselves,” Winston said. “We were never stopped at all.”

Winston, whose two years at Florida State have been filled with spectacular play on the field and controversy off, still has two years of eligibility left, but he has nothing left to prove.

Mariota and the Ducks are moving on, with a chance to add the biggest prize of all — the only significant one missing — to their trophy case.

SUGAR BOWL: Ohio State to face Ducks for title

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Jan. 12 national championship game at Arlington, Texas. The Ducks routed defending national champion Florida State 59-20 in the other semifinal at the Rose Bowl.

Jones threw for 243 yards, including a 47-yard touchdown to Devin Smith that put the Buckeyes ahead for good early in the third quarter. He also ran for 43 yards and converted a cru-

cial third-down play with a spinning, 1-yard dive and Ohio State clinging to a 34-28 lead.

On the next play, Elliott took a handoff, broke one feeble attempt at a tackle, and was gone for an 85-yard touchdown that essentially clinched the victory with 3:24 remaining.

Alabama (12-2) was denied a shot at its fourth national title in six years, though the Tide didn’t go

down quietly.

Blake Sims threw a 6-yard touchdown pass to Amari Cooper with 1:59 remaining. The Buckeyes recovered the onside kick, but Alabama got it back one more time after some questionable clock management by Ohio State.

The Tide’s final shot ended when Sims’ desperation heave into the end zone was intercepted as time ran out.

Meyer, who led Florida

to a pair of national titles, left coaching for a year before taking over at Ohio State in 2012. He said his goal was to build the sort of Southeastern Conference powerhouse he had with the Gators, and he knew a faster, more athletic style would be needed to bring the Big Ten school up to par.

Now, after just three years on the job, he’s one victory away from fulfilling his ultimate goal.

PREPS: Golden Eagles eke out victory

Continued from 1B

press and glided to an easy victory on Thursday.

The Valiants outscored Nixyaawii (7-2) 18-4 in the first quarter and their lead blossomed to as many as 24 before the break.

Nixyaawii dropped their second consecutive game at the Salem Academy Tournament. The Golden Eagles won their first seven games before heading to Salem on Wednesday.

Golden Eagle coach Jeremy Maddern was pleased with his team’s resolve in the second half. They outscored the Valiantes 32-30.

“I’m just really proud of how we played in the second half,” he said. “We shot the ball a lot better. We pretty much kept pace with them for the entire second half.”

Charlotte Barkley led the team with 12 points. Barkley and Alyssa Farrow each made four threes in the second half after the Golden Eagles failed to connect from deep in the opening 16 minutes.

VALLEY CATHOLIC 62, NIXYAAWII 42
VCHS (7-3) 18 14 15 15 — 62
Nix (7-2) 4 6 17 15 — 42
VALLEY CATHOLIC — McCleod 5, Thurman 13, Mannur 7, Bush 10, Vinson 4, Finner 5, Danielson 13, Braun 2, McDermott 14.
NIXYAAWII — C. Barkley 12, T. Oatman 4, S. Fitzpatrick 4, S. Fuentes 6, K. Melton 0, S. Norton 0, K. Jackson 2, A. Farrow 6, R. Sampson 2, D. Maddern 6.
3-point field goals — VCHS 3, Nix 4.
Free throws — VCHS 14-25, Nix 8-9. **Fouls** — VCHS 11, Nix 17.

Boys Basketball

BLACK HILLS (WA) 66, UMATILLA 51 — At Salem, senior guard Eric Garcia poured in a season-high 28 points, but it wasn’t enough for the Vikings to best the Wolves in the first round of the Salem Academy Tournament on Thursday.

Garcia had 17 of the Umatilla (6-6) 24 first half points — including three makes from long range, as the Vikings trailed Black Hills (WA) by 26-24 at the intermission.

The Wolves (4-4) extended the lead to seven in the third quarter before blowing open the game with a 26-point fourth quarter.

“We played well,” Umatilla coach Derrek Lette said. “The team we played was tough.”

Four Wolves players reached double figures, while Garcia was the only to do so for Umatilla.

Outside of Garcia’s hot shooting night, the Vikings struggled from the field, making just 8 of 31 shots.

BLACK HILLS (WA) 66, UMATILLA 51
BHS (4-4) 12 14 14 26 — 66
UHS (6-6) 15 9 11 16 — 51
BLACK HILLS — I. Hackney 11, J. Underhill 2, N. Kindell 0, J. Michelson 20, J. Troy 0, C. Buff 13, J. Bay 4, C. Yount 17, J. Crumley 0, C. Olson 0, J. Cunningham 0.
UMATILLA — D. Ayala 1, J. Ramirez 3, Eric Garcia 28, J. Coria 3, K. Webb 0, D. Garcia 1, A. Jaime 2, T. Sanguino 5, A. Simmons 4, E. Morales 4.
3-point field goals — BHS 1, UHS 8.
Free throws — BHS 13-19, UHS 11-15.
Fouls — BHS 12, UHS 17.

NIXYAAWII 63, EAST LINN CHRISTIAN 57 — At Salem, the Golden Eagles (5-5) survived a furious Eagle (6-4) rally to open up play at the Salem Academy Tournament with a victory.

Solid fundamental defense paved the way for a 12-point second half lead, but East Linn was able to slice the lead to two in the closing minutes of regulation. Hunter Melton and Ira Ashley each sank clutch fourth quarter

free throws to keep the team on top.

Nixyaawii was 9-for-10 at the charity stripe in the fourth quarter.

Four Nixyaawii players reached double digits in points, led by Fredy Campos’ 15. Melton added 10 points and nine assists.

Austin Linvalle sparked the comeback effort with 27 points for East Linn Christian.

NIXYAAWII 63, EAST LINN CHRISTIAN 57
ELC — Farrow 10, I. Ashley 9, H. Melton 10, D. Kipp 6, Fredy Campos 15, E. Bevis 13.
EAST LINN CHRISTIAN — C. Bradley 8, J. Citanich 15, N. Speckley 2, Austin Linvalle 27, A. Sanders 5.
3-point field goals — Nix 4, ELC 6. **Free throws** — Nix 11-17, ELC 3-5. **Fouls** — Nix 8, ELC 11. **Fouled out** — A. Sanders (ELC).

FROM WEDNESDAY Boys Basketball

WILSONVILLE 45, PENDLETON 44 — At Wilsonville, Wilsonville guard Tyler Hieb split a pair of free throws with five seconds remaining in regulation at the Holiday Inn Wilsonville Tournament to snap the Buckaroos five-game win streak.

Hieb’s free throw broke a 44-44 tie, and Pendleton (6-3) rimmed out a last second heave as the game expired.

Kai Quinn led the Bucks with 15 points. Caden Smith chipped in with 13.

IMBLER 49, PILOT ROCK 35 — At La Grande, the Panthers (2-1) were able to slow down the Rockets (4-5) to claim the championship at the La Grande Optimist Tournament on Wednesday at Eastern Oregon University.

Pilot Rock, which had gone to an up-tempo attack at the three-day tournament, was only able to manage 29 shots total in the loss.

CONDON/WHEELER 37, PORTLAND LUTHERAN 24 — At Portland, the Knights (3-6) scored 20 points in the third quarter to push Portland Lutheran’s losing streak to double digits on Wednesday at the 1A Hoops Classic. Condon/Wheeler finished 1-2 at the three-day tournament. It was the 10th-straight loss for Portland Lutheran (1-10).

Girls Basketball

UNION 51, PILOT ROCK 30 — At La Grande, Keesha Sarman scored 18 points to lead the Bobcats (10-0) to the championship the La Grande Optimist Tournament on Wednesday evening at Eastern Oregon University.

Junior post Madison Dave was named to the all-Tournament team for the Rockets. Dave led the Rockets with 12 points on Wednesday.

HARRISBURG 39, HEPPNER 35 — At Halsey, the Mustangs (5-6) were edged by the Class 3A Eagles (4-6) in their final game at the Cobra Holiday Tournament on Wednesday.

Kelly Wilson led the way with 14 points, six rebounds and four assists. She was named a member of the all-Tournament team for her performance at the three-day event.

CONDON/WHEELER 46, DUFUR 42 — At Portland, the Knights (9-1) won the 1A Hoops Classic on Wednesday by edging league foe Dufur (4-4).

SCOREBOARD

Local slate	Thursday
PREP BOYS BASKETBALL	Outback Bowl Wisconsin 34, Auburn 31, OT
Today Nixyaawii vs. TBD (at Salem Academy), TBD Umatilla vs. TBD (at Salem Academy), 1:30 p.m. Irrigon at Dayton, 6 p.m. Helix at Arlington, 7:30 p.m.	Cotton Bowl Michigan State 42, Baylor 41
PREP GIRLS BASKETBALL	Citrus Bowl Missouri 33, Minnesota 17
Today Umatilla vs. Nixyaawii (at Salem Academy), TBD Helix at Arlington, 4:30 p.m.	Rose Bowl Playoff semifinal: Oregon 59, Florida State 20
PREP WRESTLING	Sugar Bowl Playoff semifinal: Ohio State 42, Alabama 35
Today Hermiston, Mac-Hi at Rollie Lane Tournament (Nampa, ID), 11 a.m. Hagener, Irrigon, Echo, Mac-Hi at Joseph Tournament, 2 p.m.	Today Armed Forces Bowl Pittsburgh (6-6) vs. Houston (7-5), 9 a.m. (ESPN)
COLLEGE MEN’S BASKETBALL	TaxSlayer Bowl Iowa (7-5) vs. Tennessee (6-6), 12:20 p.m. (ESPN)
Today Concordia at Eastern Oregon, 7:30 p.m.	Alamo Bowl UCLA (9-3) vs. Kansas State (9-3), 3:45 p.m. (ESPN)
COLLEGE WOMEN’S BASKETBALL	Cactus Bowl Oklahoma State (6-6) vs. Washington (8-5), 7:15 p.m. (ESPN)
Today Concordia at Eastern Oregon, 5:30 p.m.	
Football	NBA
NFL	Thursday’s Games Chicago 106, Denver 101 Sacramento 110, Minnesota 107
Wild-card Playoffs	Today’s Games Brooklyn at Orlando, 4 p.m. Cleveland at Charlotte, 4 p.m. Dallas at Boston, 4:30 p.m. Detroit at New York, 4:30 p.m. Houston at New Orleans, 5 p.m. Washington at Oklahoma City, 5 p.m. Indiana at Milwaukee, 5:30 p.m. Philadelphia at Phoenix, 6 p.m. Atlanta at Utah, 6 p.m. Toronto at Golden State, 7:30 p.m. Memphis at L.A. Lakers, 7:30 p.m.
Saturday, Jan. 3 Arizona at Carolina, 1:35 p.m. (ESPN) Baltimore at Pittsburgh, 5:15 p.m. (NBC)	
Sunday, Jan. 4 Cincinnati at Indianapolis, 10:05 a.m. (CBS) Detroit at Dallas, 1:40 p.m. (FOX)	
NCAA	