

Who will start at quarterback for the Ducks?

By ANNE M. PETERSON
Associated Press

Twelfth-ranked Oregon wouldn't reveal its starting quarterback for Saturday against Georgia State. Coach Mark Helfrich wouldn't even say if it was a game-time decision.

"Maybe, maybe not," Helfrich said after practice this week in advance of the game between the Ducks (1-1) and Panthers (1-1) at Autzen Stadium.

Earlier this week, starter Vernon Adams Jr. revealed he had a broken index finger on his throwing hand, sustained in the season opener against his former team Eastern Washington.

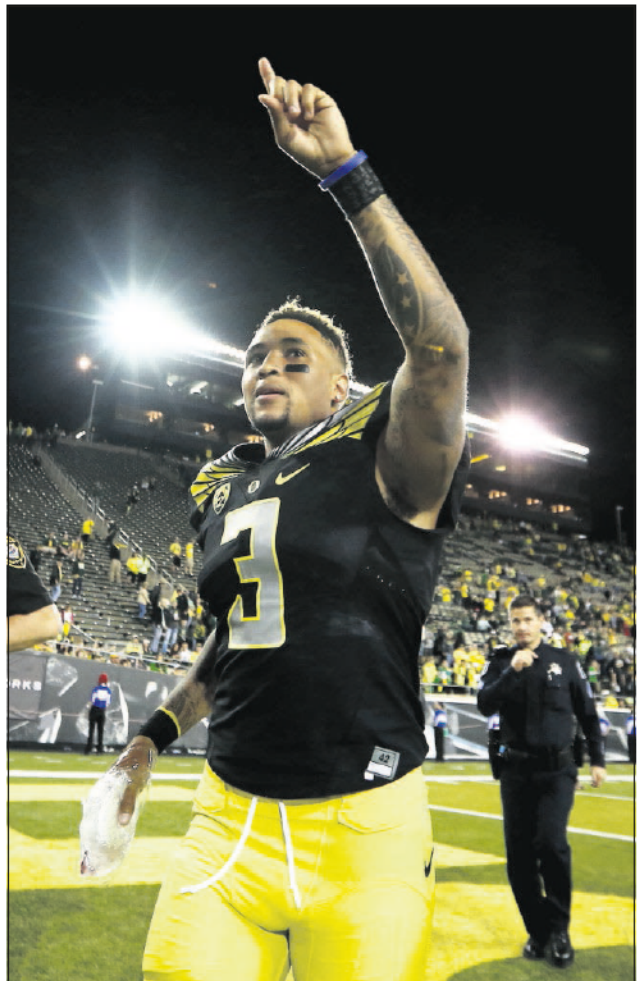
Adams even went so far as to say it bothered him late in Oregon's 31-28 loss to now-No. 4 Michigan State. Oregon cut the Spartans' margin with Adams' touchdown pass to Byron Marshall about three minutes to go, but on the Ducks' last drive he overthrew a wide-open Marshall.

Adams shared reps in practice this week with Jeff Lockie, who was Marcus Mariota's backup last season. Adams, who transferred to Oregon from Eastern Washington for his final season of eligibility, won the starting job over Lockie in fall camp.

Adams was confident: "We'll see. Game-time decision. But it's feeling good, and I feel like I'm going to play."

In the first two games this season, Adams has thrown for 555 yards and three touchdowns.

He has been intercepted twice. Should he play on Saturday, he needs just seven yards passing to reach



In this Sept. 5 file photo, quarterback Vernon Adams Jr. points to the crowd as he walks off the field with his hand wrapped after an NCAA college football game against Eastern Washington in Eugene.

the 11,000-yard mark for his career.

Here are some other things to know when the Ducks play the Panthers:

STILL YOUNG: Georgia State launched its football program in 2010 and in 2013 jumped to FBS-level competition in the Sun Belt Conference. It's been a rocky start. The Panthers went 0-12 overall the first year, then 1-11 last year. The 34-32 victory over New Mexico State last weekend was the program's first in the conference since

rejoining it — Georgia State was one of the founding member of the Sun Belt in 1976 but left in 1981.

ADDISON CLOSE: Receiver Bralon Addison scored on a punt return during the loss to Michigan State, giving him three such TDs at Oregon, one short of the school record shared by Cliff Harris and Keenan Howry.

Addison, who sat out last season after knee surgery, finished with a career-high 236 all-purpose yards against the Spartans,

including seven catches for 138 yards, and four punt returns for 98 yards.

HURTING RECIEVERS: Georgia State's receiving corps is hurting. Donovan Harden, who led the Panthers last season with 60 catches for 885 yards and seven touchdowns, broke his foot in fall camp and won't be back until next month. Then senior Avery Sweeting broke his collarbone in the opener against Charlotte.

But the Panthers have seen the emergence of freshman Penny Hart, who has 12 catches for 203 yards and three touchdowns in the first two games.

QUOTABLE: "The guys are all right. They're (ticked) off, which is good. But people are just ready to come back out here and work. No one's blaming anyone. We're just frustrated as a whole that we didn't get the win, we just want to come out and play better this week," said Byron Marshall, reflecting on the loss to Michigan State.

REALLY, THE KIDS ARE ALL RIGHT: Oregon proved last season that one loss doesn't make a season. The Ducks fell at home to unranked Arizona, which dropped them from No. 2 to No. 12 in the rankings. But the team regrouped and reeled of nine straight victories and a spot in the championship game of college football's first playoffs.

"There's a bunch of guys that were in the same locker room and we just talked about how that galvanized us last year, and there's absolutely zero reason why that can't happen again," Helfrich said.

Young Beavers look to rebound against San Jose State

By ANNE M. PETERSON
AP Sports Writer

CORVALLIS (AP) — San Jose State has it tough this season with games against Auburn, Boise State and BYU.

The trip to Oregon State (1-1) on Saturday doesn't seem as daunting for the Spartans (1-1).

The Beavers, in their first season under coach Gary Andersen, are young, are learning new systems and start a true freshman at quarterback.

It could be the perfect opportunity for San Jose State to shake off a 37-16 loss at Air Force last weekend.

"I don't think there are major fixes — don't throw the baby out with the bathwater," third-year coach Ron Caragher said. "I think the guys have played pretty good."

The Spartans, however, are just 4-10 on the road under Caragher. The team's last nonconference road victory over an FBS-level opponent came in 2012, when the Spartans won 12-0 at Navy.

Oregon State, a one-touchdown favorite, is also coming off a 35-7 drubbing by Michigan at the Big House. Like San Jose State, the Beavers are looking to learn from the loss and move on. The sooner the better.

"It's a process, and we knew we would run into some adversity along the way. We've run into some adversity and we'll keep doing what we do and we'll get prepared to play again," Andersen said.

Here are some things to know for San Jose State's visit to Oregon State on Saturday:

ALMOST A SPARTAN: Oregon State true freshman quarterback Set Collins was very nearly a Spartan, but suddenly changed his mind and headed to Corvallis.

Caragher praised Collins and essentially said there were no hard feelings: "If players chose to go somewhere else, that's their prerogative."

Collins, who played at Granite Hills High School in Southern California, has thrown for 171 yards and three touchdowns with no interceptions through two games this season. He's also run for 180 yards.

"He's a good player," Car-

agher said. "And good players rise to the surface."

OTHER CONNECTIONS: Current Oregon State offensive coordinator Dave Baldwin was head coach of the Spartans from 1997-2000. He led San Jose State to a 40-27 victory at Stanford in 2000, which was the last time the team beat a Pac-12 opponent on the road.

The Spartans' last victory against a Pac-12 opponent came in 2006, when they defeated the Cardinal 35-34 at Spartan Stadium.

DUAL QBs: San Jose State uses two quarterbacks, senior Joe Gray and junior transfer Kenny Potter. But the idea is to get to a place where there's a clear starter, Caragher said this week.

Oregon State's situation was similar going into the opener against Weber State, when Andersen said he would play both Collins and redshirt Marcus McMaryion. Collins separated himself in that first game, but the Beavers continue to rotate McMaryion in at times to give him experience.

TAGO UPDATE: San Jose State junior linebacker Christian Tago took a scary helmet-to-helmet hit in the fourth quarter against Air Force and left the game. Tyler Wilson was ejected from the game for targeting. Tago's status for Oregon State was uncertain.

But the Spartans could see the return of tackle Keenan Sykes (knee) and defensive end Cedric Lousi (foot).

MORE BARRS-WOODS: Andersen says he expects to see running back Storm Barrs-Woods play for the entire game against San Jose State. Barrs-Woods did not play the first half against Michigan because of a knee injury that had bothered him just before the game.

Andersen told reporters on Thursday that Barrs-Woods managed himself well over the course of the week in practice.

"We put him in the game (at Michigan) and we gave him some opportunities, but Storm is still getting himself back," Andersen said. "To say that he's 100 percent back today and ready to go? Storm's probably gonna say that. But I want him to feel comfortable."

Wyoming ground game squares off against WSU passing attack

Associated Press

SPOKANE, Wash. — Which Washington State football team will show up against Wyoming on Saturday: The plodding squad that lost to Portland State of the FCS in the season opener or the one that rallied to beat Rutgers on the road last weekend?

Coach Mike Leach might be concerned, given the Cougars have won more games on the road than at home during his four seasons in Pullman.

"It's a big question because we keep the routine pretty close," Leach said of the home record. "It's a good

question. If you figure it out, tell me."

It wasn't hard to figure out why Washington State beat Rutgers 37-34 last weekend.

The Cougars (1-1) played crisper and faster and didn't panic when they fell behind late in the game. Against Portland State, they slogged to a 24-17 loss in heavy rain.

"We might have been sloppy at times, but we weren't hesitant," Leach said of the Rutgers game. "Week 1 we were hesitant, just constantly pressing and our tempo was slow as can be. Week 2 we played fast, weren't hesitant."

That was especially true of

quarterback Luke Falk, who was chosen Pac-12 player of the week after throwing for 478 yards and four touchdowns.

Falk drove the Cougars 90 yards for a game-winning touchdown in the closing seconds.

"I thought the biggest thing is he was calm and composed and held the huddle together with his presence and expected to move the ball and win," Leach said.

Leach said Wyoming (0-2) plays hard, despite opening the season with losses at home to North Dakota and Eastern Michigan.

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