

College Football

Oregon outlasts Arizona State in wild 3OT game

By JOHN MARSHALL
Associated Press

TEMPE, Ariz. — Bralon Addison got his foot down just in time, barely missing the back line of the end zone. Arrion Springs timed his move just right, snagging an interception in the same end zone.

Two big plays on a night filled with them may have saved Oregon's season.

Addison scored on a 20-yard pass in the third overtime on a play upheld by review and Springs intercepted Mike Bercovici's pass in the end zone, lifting Oregon to a wild 61-55 win over Arizona State Thursday night.

"We knew this we going to be a back and forth type of thing," Oregon coach Mark Helfrich said. "We didn't know it was going to be 61-55 back and forth."

Two teams clinging to hopes in their respective divisions, the Sun Devils and Ducks traded explosive plays in a game that featured 1,243 total yards and 177 combined plays.

It came down to a pair of plays in the third overtime.

Addison appeared to touch the back line on his TD catch, but one view of the play was blocked by a camera and the officials upheld the original call upon review.

After Oregon (5-3, 3-2 Pac-12) failed on the mandatory 2-point conversion, Springs sealed it with an inter-



Oregon's Arrion Springs (1) starts to celebrate after intercepting a pass intended for Arizona State's Tim White (12) during the third overtime of an NCAA college football game Thursday, Oct. 29, 2015, in Tempe, Ariz. Oregon defeated Arizona State 61-55.

ception, sending the Ducks racing onto the field.

"I knew it was coming the whole way — the whole way," Springs said.

Oregon had 501 total yards and needed another big play just to get into overtime. Dwayne Stanford pulled it off, grabbing Vernon Adams' fourth-down, desperation pass for an 8-yard touchdown despite being run into by teammate Johnny Mundt.

Charles Nelson had a 100-yard kick return

touchdown, and Adams threw for 315 yards and four touchdowns. Royce Freeman added 112 yards rushing and two touchdowns — one in the second overtime — in Oregon's ninth straight win over Arizona State.

Despite their struggles — No. 7 in the preseason poll to unranked — the Ducks still have a shot at the Pac-12 North title should they keep winning and No. 8 Stanford falters.

The Sun Devils (4-4, 2-3) had 742 total yards — one

short of the school record — and scored touchdowns in the first two overtimes, yet still couldn't stop the Ducks when they needed to.

Bercovici threw for 398 yards and five touchdowns, and added an 18-yard scoring run in the second overtime. Demario Richard ran for 136 yards and scored two touchdowns.

The difference for the Sun Devils was the mistakes: numerous defensive breakdowns, three missed field

From Thursday

Oregon
61

Arizona St.
55

goals, key penalties and Bercovici's two interceptions.

"That one hurt about as bad as any one since I've been here," Sun Devils coach Todd Graham said.

Using white sheets to protect their offensive signals — after Utah accused the Sun Devils of stealing signs on Oct. 17 — the Ducks hit big plays right out of the gate.

Adams hit Darren Carrington for a 46-yard completion on the game's second play, setting up Aidan Schneider's 24-yard field goal. Later in the quarter, Freeman raced for a 64-yard touchdown. Carrington later broke free after a defensive breakdown, scoring easily on a 39-yard touchdown pass to put the Ducks up 17-7.

Arizona State wasn't bad, either.

Bercovici drilled a 3-yard touchdown pass to Devin Lucien against tight coverage, and then found Gary Chambers down the sideline for a 39-yard score before halftime.

It turned into a game of "can you top this?" in the second half.

Zane Gonzalez hit a 28-yard field goal and Richard

scored on a 22-yard run after an interception by Kareem Orr. Bercovici followed with a 1-yard TD pass from Richard, but the Ducks snatched momentum right back.

Nelson raced for his 100-yard kick return TD and Kani Benoit scored on a 62-yard touchdown to put Oregon up 34-31.

Arizona State's turn.

Gonzalez hit a 33-yard field goal after an interception in the end zone by Reggie Daniels was overturned on replay. A misdirection play set up a 5-yard touchdown pass from Bercovici to Kody Kohl to make it 41-34 Sun Devils.

An interception on an ill-advised pass by Bercovici gave the Ducks a chance in the fourth quarter and they capitalized with Stanford's improbable touchdown catch. Bercovici's second interception, on an attempted slant pattern, ended the game — and probably Arizona State's chances at the Pac-12 South title.

"As a quarterback, it's on myself to make sure it's complete or throw it away," Bercovici said. "That's on me at the end of the game to put it in jeopardy like that."

Thursday's scores

North Carolina 26, Pittsburgh 19
Buffalo 29, Miami (Ohio) 24
W. Michigan 58, E. Michigan 28
TCU 40, West Virginia 10

Friday's scores

Harvard 14, Dartmouth 13
UConn 31, East Carolina 13
Louisville 20, Wake Forest 19
Louisiana Tech 42, Rice 17
Utah State 58, Wyoming 27

No. 13 Utah hosts familiar faces

By KAREEM COPELAND
Associated Press

SALT LAKE CITY — There may be no two coaching staffs more familiar with each other than those at No. 13 Utah and Oregon State.

First-year Beavers coach Gary Andersen played center at Utah and was defensive line coach at Idaho State while Utah coach Kyle Whittingham was defensive coordinator there. The two were on the same staff twice at Utah with Andersen serving as defensive tackles coach and defensive coordinator while Whittingham went from defensive coordinator to head coach.

When Oregon State (2-5, 0-4 Pac-12) visits Utah (6-1, 3-1) on Saturday night with the Utes aiming to bounce back from their only loss of the season, it will mark the second time Andersen has faced Whittingham in his first year at a program. The first time was in 2003 when Andersen was the head coach at Southern Utah.

Whittingham said Andersen has always been organized, detailed, intelligent and has a great rapport with players. There's a lot of similarities in the way

Pac-12

Oregon St. Beavers
(2-5, 0-4)

#13 Utah Utes
(6-1, 3-1)

- Saturday, 4 p.m.
- at Salt Lake City, Utah
- TV: PACN

the programs run.

"We hung on to a lot of stuff that Urban (Meyer) did, who probably copied it from Lou Holtz who probably copied it from somewhere else," said Whittingham. Both were on Meyer's staff in 2004. "I'm sure Gary took a lot of that with him. Stuff that has been good over the years, so why not use it."

There are seven other coaches on the Oregon State staff with Utah ties. Defensive backs coach Derrick Odum, defensive line coach Chad Kauha'aha'a and graduate assistant Kameron Yancy all played and coached at Utah. Defensive coordinator Kalani Sitake was the Utes' defensive coordinator from 2012-14.

Utah co-offensive coordinator Aaron Roderick was Andersen's offensive coordinator for Southern Utah in 2003.

"I'm very, very happy for Kyle, because it's been a grind to get where they are today," Andersen said. "We won't speak this week, not because of me, because he doesn't like that stuff. I'll still throw him a couple joking texts and different things. You talk to him, and he's excited for the success his team is having."

There isn't much concern that either side will benefit from the relationships. Whittingham said things are tweaked every year even if principles and philosophies haven't been.

"It's all about players," Whittingham said. "Players are 90 percent of it. Coaches are not dumb. They're going to change signals, make modifications and do whatever they can, but they know what we know and we know what they know. I don't think that's as big of a factor as people make it out to be."

Top 25 Schedule Saturday

No. 3 Clemson at N.C. State, 12:30 p.m.
No. 8 Stanford at Washington St., 7:30 p.m.
No. 9 Notre Dame at No. 21 Temple, 5 p.m.
No. 10 Iowa vs. Maryland, 12:30 p.m.
No. 11 Florida vs. Georgia, 12:30 p.m.
No. 12 Oklahoma St. at Texas Tech, 12:30 p.m.
No. 13 Utah vs. Oregon State, 4 p.m.
No. 14 Oklahoma at Kansas, 12:30 p.m.
No. 15 Michigan at Minnesota, 4 p.m.
No. 16 Memphis vs. Tulane, 4 p.m.
No. 17 Florida State vs. Syracuse, 9 a.m.
No. 18 Houston vs. Vanderbilt, 4 p.m.
No. 19 Mississippi at Auburn, 9 a.m.
No. 22 Duke vs. Miami, 4 p.m.
No. 24 UCLA vs. Colorado, Noon

No. 8 Stanford vs. Washington St surprisingly significant match-up

By NICHOLAS K. GERANIOS
Associated Press

This didn't have the look of a particularly significant game a few weeks ago.

Three straight wins by Washington State have left Saturday night's game against No. 8 Stanford as arguably the Cougars' biggest home game in more than a decade.

Stanford (6-1, 5-0 Pac-12) is the only undefeated team in league play, but it's Washington State (5-2, 3-1) that's right on the heels of the Cardinal. Not Oregon. Not California. It's Washington State that could take control of its destiny in the Pac-12 North race should it manage to knock off the Cardinal.

The last time Washington State was in contention for the conference lead this late in the season was 2003. Aside from rivalry games against Washington, it could be considered the Cougars' most significant home game since 2002 when Washington State went to the Rose Bowl.

The last time the Cougars beat a Top 10 team was No. 5 Texas in the 2003 Holiday

Pac-12

#8 Stanford Cardinal
(6-1, 5-0)

Washington St. Cougars
(5-2, 3-1)

- Saturday, 7:30 p.m.
- at Pullman, Wash.
- TV: ESPN

Bowl.

Stanford coach David Shaw said he has been impressed by how Washington State rebounded from a season-opening loss to FCS Portland State to win five of six games.

"These guys have bounced back from that and become a real, real good football team," Shaw said. "Offensively, their quarterback is playing at a high level. He's got weapons around him. They are protecting him better."

Washington State quarterback Luke Falk has thrown for 2,885 yards, with 26 touchdowns and four interceptions this season. The Cougars have scored more than 40 points in each of their last three games, including last week's 45-42 win at Arizona.

Seven different receivers

have at least 20 receptions for the Cougars and Gabe Marks leads the Pac-12 with 57 catches, good for 717 yards and 10 touchdowns. Marks caught a school-record four touchdown passes last weekend against Arizona.

Stanford has won six straight games since an opening loss to Northwestern, scoring more than 40 points in four of them. The Cardinal have won seven straight over the Cougars and may unleash even more of Christian McCaffrey on a defense that remains Washington State's weakness.

McCaffrey is leading the nation with 259.7 all-purpose yards per game, more than 40 yards per game over the next player. McCaffrey needs just 57 yards rushing to reach 1,000 for the season.

McCaffrey is the first Stanford player since 1991 to post 100 yards receiving and rushing in the same game, which happened last week in a win over Washington.

"We've got to do a good job this week to stop the running back," Washington State defensive lineman Destiny Vaeao said. "This is the best offensive line we are going to face in conference."

NFL

Seahawks, Cowboys meeting between unexpected four-loss teams

By SCHUYLER DIXON
Associated Press

ARLINGTON, Texas — Two preseason NFC playoff contenders are set to play, both with four losses before the halfway point of the season.

Dallas is just a little more desperate than Seattle.

The Cowboys (2-4) are on their second backup quarterback trying to get a win without Tony Romo, and running out of time to get the two they probably need to have a realistic shot at defending their NFC East title when he's eligible to return from a broken left collarbone.

Now Dallas is on its second starting running back since letting NFL rushing champion DeMarco Murray go to Philadelphia in free agency.

"We're fighting to get a win," Dallas cornerback Brandon Carr said. "They're in the same boat as us. We're both urgent in the same mindset of every single day throughout this week, just chip away one day at a time, leading up to Sunday."

At least the Seahawks (3-4) have more wins than losses since an 0-2 start by the defending NFC champions. And while Dallas has lost four

Week 8

Seattle Seahawks
(3-4)

Dallas Cowboys
(2-4)

- Sunday, 1:25 p.m.
- at Arlington, Texas
- TV: FOX

straight without Romo and All-Pro receiver Dez Bryant to drop to last place in the NFC East, Seattle is coming off a dominant win over San Francisco to avoid the same spot in the NFC West.

"We're not thinking desperate and I'm sure they're not either," Seattle quarterback Russell Wilson said. "I know we've had some tough losses, and I know they have had tough losses, too."

At least the Cowboys have a chance to get Bryant back for the first time since breaking his right foot in the opener. He practiced this week for the first time since the injury, and the team was optimistic he would play.

The return of Bryant could be a boost for Matt Cassel in his second start filling in for Romo. Cassel replaced Brandon Weeden, who lost all three starts in Romo's place.



Seattle Seahawks quarterback Russell Wilson (3) and running back Marshawn Lynch (24) during the second half of an NFL football game against the San Francisco 49ers in Santa Clara, Calif., Thursday, Oct. 22, 2015.

Darren McFadden will make his first start at running back for Dallas after rushing for 152 yards in last week's 27-20 loss to the Giants. Joseph Randle was the starter for six games, but injured his back early against New York. He was away from the team during the week dealing with unspecified personal issues.

The Cowboys also spent all week dealing with questions about polarizing defensive end Greg Hardy's shoving match with special teams coach Rich Bisaccia

right after former Dallas return man Dwayne Harris had a winning 100-yard kickoff return in the fourth quarter for the Giants.

"When things like that come up in the course of a season, you've got to be able to stay together, more so even when you've lost four in a row," tight end Jason Witten said. "We've shown that in the last couple of years that it's a close group, mentally tough, and work together."

UNDER PRESSURE: Seattle defensive end Michael

Bennett is coming off the best game of his career when he had 3 1-2 sacks against the 49ers and he's tied for the NFL lead with 6 1-2 for the season. But Dallas' talented offensive line is coming off what Garrett said was its best game.

"It's one of those games where you get challenged as a defensive line to see where you're at as a team," said Bennett, the brother of former Dallas and current Chicago tight end Martellus Bennett said.

TURNABOUT: The Dallas defense had one of its best games of the season in last year's 30-23 win at Seattle, allowing just nine first downs and 206 yards. The Cowboys even had a takeaway — an interception of Wilson. They haven't forced one during the current losing streak, and all of their NFL-low three takeaways came in a Week 2 win at Philadelphia.

FOLLOW ME: Richard Sherman is starting to make a habit of following the top receiver on the other team. And that could be Bryant, who had never missed more than four straight games before the current five-game absence.

"It's a fun challenge when I'm asked to do it," Sherman said.

AMERICAN CONFERENCE										
EAST	W	L	T	Pct	PF	PA				
New England	7	0	0	1.000	249	133				
N.Y. Jets	4	2	0	.667	152	105				
Buffalo	3	4	0	.429	176	173				
Miami	3	4	0	.429	154	173				
SOUTH										
W	L	T	Pct	PF	PA					
Indianapolis	3	4	0	.429	147	174				
Houston	2	5	0	.286	154	199				
Jacksonville	2	5	0	.286	147	207				
Tennessee	1	5	0	.167	119	139				
NORTH										
W	L	T	Pct	PF	PA					
Cincinnati	6	0	0	1.000	182	122				
Pittsburgh	4	3	0	.571	158	131				
Cleveland	2	5	0	.286	147	182				
Baltimore	1	6	0	.143	161	188				
WEST										
W	L	T	Pct	PF	PA					
Denver	6	0	0	1.000	139	102				
Oakland	3	3	0	.500	144	153				
Kansas City	2	5	0	.286	150	172				
San Diego	2	5	0	.286	165	198				
NATIONAL CONFERENCE										
EAST	W	L	T	Pct	PF	PA				
N.Y. Giants	4	3	0	.571	166	156				
Washington	3	4	0	.429	148	168				
Philadelphia	3	4	0	.429	160	137				
Dallas	2	4	0	.333	121	158				
SOUTH										
W	L	T	Pct	PF	PA					
Carolina	6	0	0	1.000	162	110				
Atlanta	6	1	0	.857	193	150				
New Orleans	3	4	0	.429	161	185				
Tampa Bay	2	4	0	.333	140	179				
NORTH										
W	L	T	Pct	PF	PA					
Green Bay	6	0	0	1.000	164	101				
Minnesota	4	2	0	.667	124	102				
Chicago	2	4	0	.333	120	179				
Detroit	1	6	0	.143	139	200				
WEST										
W	L	T	Pct	PF	PA					
Arizona	2	2	0	.500	118	133				
St. Louis	3	3	0	.500	108	119				
Seattle	3	4	0	.429	154	128				
San Francisco	2	5	0	.286	103	180				

Thursday's Game

New England 36, Miami 7

Sunday's Games

Detroit (+4) vs. Kansas City at London, 6:30 a.m.

San Francisco (+3) at St. Louis, 10 a.m.

N.Y. Giants (+3) at New Orleans, 10 a.m.

Minnesota (+1) at Chicago, 10 a.m.

Tennessee (+3.5) at Houston, 10 a.m.

Tampa Bay (+7) at Atlanta, 10 a.m.

Arizona (-6) at Cleveland, 10 a.m.

San Diego (+3) at Baltimore, 10 a.m.

Cincinnati (+1.5) at Pittsburgh, 10 a.m.

N.Y. Jets (-3) at Oakland, 1:05 p.m.

Seattle (-6) at Dallas, 1:25 p.m.

Green Bay (-2.5) at Denver, 5:30 p.m.

Open: Buffalo, Jacksonville, Philadelphia, Washington

Monday's Game

Indianapolis (+7) at Carolina, 5:30 p.m.