

College Football



AP Photo/Rick Bowmer, File

In this Oct. 31, 2015, file photo, Oregon State quarterback Nick Mitchell prepares to pass the ball against Utah in the first quarter during an NCAA college football game, in Salt Lake City.

Beavers stick with freshman QB against No. 22 Bruins

By ANNE M. PETERSON
Associated Press



• Saturday, 1:30 p.m.
• at Reser Stadium
• TV: PACN

So much for easing into the job.

Nick Mitchell's first tests at starting quarterback for Oregon State have been challenging, to say the least. While Seth Collins has been sidelined with a hyperextended knee, Mitchell got his first career start last weekend against No. 13 Utah.

The redshirt freshman will get his next on Saturday when the Beavers (2-6, 0-5 Pac-12) host No. 22 UCLA (6-2, 3-2).

Collins, a freshman, hurt his left knee in practice last week before the 27-12 loss to the Utes. Mitchell, who fell to third in the tight competition between Collins and Marcus McMaryion in fall camp, had played his way into a backup role a couple of weeks ago.

Mitchell completed 19-of-35 passes for 204 yards and a touchdown against Utah, with no interceptions. He also rushed for 40 yards on 12 carries.

"It was a good step. We'd all like to have some throws back, some calls back, some whatever it is on offense, defense and special teams, but he gave us an opportunity to be able to stay in the game and manage it enough to be able to be within striking distance," head coach Gary Andersen said. "Now we've just got to get him and the rest of the offense to be able to take the next step and score more points."

Oregon State, rebuilding in its first year under Andersen, is the last winless team in Pac-12 play.

The Bruins have won two straight at home against Cal and Colorado after tumbling with consecutive losses to Arizona State and Stanford.

Already bowl eligible, the Bruins are favored against the young Beavers, but they're wary given the close 35-31 victory over the Buffaloes at the Rose Bowl last weekend.

"You can't ever sleep on these teams," said Bruins wide receiver Jordan

Payton. "There is no bad team in the Pac-12. It's always the wild, wild West. Every week we have to bring the intensity and bring the focus and gut out a win."

Other things to consider when the Bruins visit the Beavers on Saturday:

BEEN A LONG TIME: Payton, a senior, is among the dwindled list of UCLA players who have faced the Beavers — the two teams haven't met since 2012. And that game wasn't very memorable for the Bruins. The Beavers were unranked when they visited the Rose Bowl and upset then-No. 19 UCLA 27-20. Oregon State quarterback Sean Mannion threw for 379 yards in that one. That said UCLA has won seven out of the last 10 in the overall series with the Beavers.

IMPROVING D: Oregon State's defense is showing signs of improvement. The Beavers have allowed just 10 touchdowns and 821 yards total offense to opponents over the last 10 quarters. In the previous 10, they allowed 17 touchdowns and 1,531 total yards. "I think their belief in what they can do is continually getting better. But it's week-in and week-out, because as we see in this league, that Grim Reaper is right around the corner for a lot of teams if you're not careful," Andersen said. "So you've got to be able to prepare every week for a great offense, and this one is no different."

OTHER FRESHMAN QB: UCLA also has a promising young quarterback in Josh Rosen, who is considered among the top freshmen in the country at his position. Rosen is averaging 278.8 yards passing a game and he's thrown for 16 touchdowns.

Oregon and Cal seeking bowl eligibility

By ANNE M. PETERSON
Associated Press

EUGENE — His injury trouble behind him, Oregon quarterback Vernon Adams is back to having fun.

The heralded senior transfer got off to a disappointing start with the Ducks after breaking his index finger in the opener against his former team, Eastern Washington. Adams struggled with the injury in subsequent games before he was relegated to the sideline to heal while backup Jeff Lockie and newcomer Taylor Alie stepped in.

Adams returned two weeks ago against Washington, throwing for 272 yards and two touchdowns in a 26-20 Oregon victory. Last Thursday, he threw for 315 yards and four TDs in a 61-55 triple-overtime win at Arizona State.

Adams was named the Pac-12 offensive Player of the Week for his performance. He'll look to continue the comeback on Saturday night when the Ducks host California.

"It was definitely the best game I played here fun-wise," he said. "It was really fun for myself and the team, I think. We had a great time enjoying that but now we're moving on to Cal."

Oregon (5-3, 3-2), with losses to Michigan State, Utah and Washington State this season, sits in second place in the Pac-12 North standings with the Cougars. The Ducks will have to



AP Photo/Ross D. Franklin

Oregon's Vernon Adams Jr. signals to his teammates during the second half of an NCAA college football game against Arizona State Thursday, Oct. 29, 2015, in Tempe, Ariz.

catch No. 9 Stanford (7-1, 6-0) if they hope to defend their Pac-12 title, but time is running short.

Oregon visits the Cardinal next week.

Like the Ducks, Cal (5-3, 2-3) needs one more victory to be bowl eligible, but the Golden Bears have lost three straight after a promising 5-0 start.

"We have to come out this week with our hair on fire and want this one like we haven't wanted any other game, and that's how they'll get it. Because I know they want this one just as bad," defensive lineman Mustafa Jalil said. "Actually I take that back. They don't want this one as bad as we do. This game means a lot to us."

Other things to consider when the Golden Bears visit the Ducks on Saturday:

SO MANY YARDS: Cal junior quarterback Jared Goff

threw for 272 yards and two touchdowns in last week-end's 27-21 loss to USC, which put him in the 10,000 yards-passing club. Goff has 10,018 yards passing and is the 92nd player in FBS history to reach the mark. He's also got a school-record 75 touchdown passes.

Oregon coach Mark Helfrich said this week that he met with Goff on a recruiting visit years back. The teenager was wearing a Cal sweatshirt.

"Never a good sign," Helfrich said.

HISTORY: The series hasn't gone Cal's way of late. Oregon has a six-game winning streak over the Golden Bears, who haven't defeated the Ducks since a 26-16 victory in Strawberry Canyon in 2008. Oregon has outscored California 273-105 over that span.

ROYCE ROLLS: Oregon



• Saturday, 7:30 p.m.
• at Autzen Stadium
• TV: ESPN2

sophomore running back Royce Freeman has amassed 1,109 yards rushing this season, becoming the fourth RB in school history to have back-to-back 1,000-yard seasons. He ranks eighth nationally with 138.6 yards a game.

"He's a great back, a step above what he did last year. They use him really well for what they do," Jalil said. "Big back, hard running but I think we have a pretty big defense that's a little bit harder hitter than he is."

THE LAST TRIP TO EUGENE: In 2013, Goff went into the game against Oregon as the nation's leader with an average of more than 435 yards passing a game, but after completing just three of six passes for 11 yards in the first quarter, he was replaced by Zach Kline. The Golden Bears lost 55-16.

But what Goff remembers most was the rain.

"I think they said it was the worst they'd ever seen. It was the worst rain that I've ever seen. I'm excited to go back up there and have another chance in Autzen and have a chance to do something special and hopefully get a win," he said.

By the way, the forecast calls for rain on Saturday.

Pass-happy WSU faces challenge in blitz-heavy ASU

By NICHOLAS GERANIOS
Associated Press



• Saturday, 12:30 p.m.
• at Martin Stadium, Pullman
• TV: FS1

Washington State throws on nearly every down. It's at the core of why the offense led by Luke Falk goes by the nickname "Air Raid."

Arizona State is big on the blitz and leads the Pac-12 in sacks.

Something will have to give when the Cougars (5-3, 3-2 Pac-12) host the Sun Devils (4-4, 2-3) on Saturday.

"If we can protect Luke, he's going to have a field

day," Washington State running back Jamal Morrow said.

Falk is averaging more than 400 yards per game through the air, and the

Cougars have an array of good receivers.

But the Sun Devils rank second in the nation with 9.5 tackles for loss per game. They have 29 sacks on the season, three more than any other Pac-12 defense.

"They mix it around and they have different schemes and bring different people at different times," Washington State coach Mike Leach said.

Arizona State poses a different kind of problem on the other side of the ball. The Cougars have been vulner-

able to running quarterbacks this season, and Arizona State's Mike Bercovici is focused on doing more damage with his legs.

"The quarterback has to use his legs in order for this offense to succeed at the highest level," said Bercovici, who has rushed for four touchdowns this season.

Said safety Taylor Taliulu: "If we're all in our right gaps, we should be gapped out and there should be no running lanes for anyone."

Top two defenses in Pac-12 meet as No. 13 Utes face Huskies

By TIM BOOTH
Associated Press



• Saturday, 4:30 p.m.
• at Husky Stadium
• TV: FOX

SEATTLE — In a conference known for scoring, Washington and Utah are trying to prove there is a place for defense.

The top two scoring defenses in the Pac-12 meet on Saturday when the 13th-ranked Utes travel to Washington trying to keep their hopes alive for a late surge into the College Football Playoff conversation.

It's the second time in three weeks the Utes (7-1, 4-1 Pac-12, No. 12 CFP) will go on the road as the leaders of the Pac-12 South to play underdog to an unranked opponent. Two weeks ago, the Utes were routed by

USC for their only loss. It's Washington (4-4, 2-3) that's favored this Saturday.

"The last year and a half we've been pretty good on the road except this one little hiccup with USC," Utah linebacker Jared Norris said. "We don't fear playing on the road. We like it. We like going into a hostile environment and trying to go win a game in someone else's house."

Utah's strength on defense has been shutting down the run. They're No. 1 in the Pac-12 and No. 17 in the country, giving up 113 yards per game on the ground. The Utes have not allowed a 100-yard rusher in their last nine games dating back to last season.

The talk about Washing-

ton's defense entering the season centered on whether the Huskies could replace a trio of all-Americans in Shaq Thompson, Hau'oli Kikaha and Danny Shelton, along with first-round pick Marcus Peters. The defense was seen as a potential weakness with all that talent gone.

What's been evident through eight weeks is the talent that was out of the

limelight last season. Travis Feeney leads the Pac-12 with 6 1/2 sacks. Darren Gardenhire, Sidney Jones, Kevin King and Budda Baker all rank in the top 10 in the conference in passes defended. The Huskies are giving up 16.9 points per game, the only team in the conference allowing less than 20 points per game. The last time Washington led the conference in scoring defense: 1991.

"It's almost like the mentality of we have to prove it every week before we say hey, we're this or we're that," Washington coach Chris Petersen said. "And I think that's probably the best thing our defense has done. They kind of go out there with a prove-it mentality."

SCOREBOARD

Local Slate

PREP FOOTBALL

Saturday
(2A first round) No. 13 Irrigon at No. 4 Kennedy, 1 p.m.
(2A first round) No. 10 Weston-McEwen at No. 7 Reedsport, 2 p.m.
(2A first round) No. 15 Monroe at No. 2 Heppner, 3 p.m.

PREP BOYS SOCCER

Saturday
(5A quarterfinal) No. 5 Woodburn at No. 4 Hermiston, 2:30 p.m.
(3A quarterfinal) No. 6 Riverside at No. 3 St. Mary's, 4 p.m.

PREP VOLLEYBALL

Saturday
(2A elimination round) Weston-McEwen vs. Bonanza (Ridgeview HS), 8 a.m.
(1A elimination round) Ione vs. Crane (Ridgeview HS), 10 a.m.

COLLEGE FOOTBALL

Saturday
College of Idaho at Eastern Oregon, Noon
Saturday, Nov. 14
Southern Oregon at Eastern Oregon, Noon

COLLEGE VOLLEYBALL

Wednesday
Blue Mountain at Big Bend, 6 p.m.

COLLEGE WOMEN'S SOCCER

Wednesday
(CCC Quarterfinals) Eastern Oregon vs. NW Christian (at Springfield), 5 p.m.

COLLEGE MEN'S BASKETBALL

Saturday
Eastern Oregon at Gonzaga (exhibition), 5 p.m.
Friday, Nov. 13
Eastern Oregon vs. Arizona Christian (at Las Vegas), 4 p.m.
Saturday, Nov. 14
Eastern Oregon vs. Vanguard (at Las Vegas), 2 p.m.

COLLEGE WOMEN'S BASKETBALL

Saturday
Eastern Oregon at Arizona Christian, 3 p.m.
Friday, Nov. 13
Eastern Oregon at Eastern Washington (exhibition), 10:30 a.m.

Football

OSAA

Friday's scores

Class 6A

First Round
Beaverton 56, Willamette 30
Central Catholic 42, McNary 21
Clackamas 35, South Medford 21
Grants Pass 63, Forest Grove 7
Jesuit 52, Jefferson 12
Lincoln 28, Newberg 0
Oregon City 53, Southridge 15
Sheldon 63, Barlow 21
Sherwood 59, North Salem 20
South Salem 21, North Medford 20
Sunset 34, Sprague 27
Tigard 34, Centennial 22
Tualatin 38, Wilson 34

Class 4A

First Round
West Linn 41, Roosevelt 6
West Salem 32, Franklin 0
Westview 56, Lake Oswego 21

Class 5A

First Round
Ashland 39, Bend 21
Central 46, Hillsboro 28
Crater 45, Silverton 0
Liberty 49, Hood River 7
Redmond 41, Lebanon 21
Springfield 28, St. Helens 13
Summit 59, South Albany 14
Wilsonville 49, Hermiston 14

Class 4A

First Round
Cascade 42, La Grande 27
Marshfield 13, Molalla 7
Mazama 44, Crook County 7
North Bend 37, Astoria 12
North Marion 21, Sisters 14
Philomath 7, Junction City 0
Scappoose 35, Gladstone 14

Class 3A

First Round
Cascade Christian 77, Colton 12
Coville/Pacific 48, Taft 25
Harrisburg 37, Dayton 34
Salem Academy 35, Rainier 6
Santiam Christian 46, Pleasant Hill 0
Scio 46, Nyssa 20
Vale 54, Lakeview 7

Class 2A

First Round
Central Linn 42, Nestucca 12
Regis 49, Myrtle Point 6
Stanfield 56, Vernonia 26

Class 1A

First Round
Hosanna Christian 32, Lowell 22
Yoncalla 50, Camas Valley 26

NCAA

Thursday's scores

Baylor 31, Kansas St. 24
Mississippi St. 31, Missouri 13

Friday's scores

Temple 60, SMU 40

Saturday's Top 25 games

No. 1 Ohio State vs. Minnesota, 5 p.m.
No. 3 Clemson vs. No. 17 Florida State, 12:30 p.m.
No. 4 LSU at No. 7 Alabama, 5 p.m.
No. 5TCU at No. 12 Oklahoma State, 12:30 p.m.
No. 6 Michigan State at Nebraska, 4 p.m.
No. 8 Notre Dame at Pittsburgh, 9 a.m.
No. 9 Stanford at Colorado, 10 a.m.
No. 10 Iowa at Indiana, 12:30 p.m.
No. 11 Florida vs. Vanderbilt, 9 a.m.
No. 13 Utah at Washington, 4:30 p.m.
No. 14 Oklahoma vs. Iowa State, 4 p.m.
No. 15 Memphis vs. Navy, 4 p.m.
No. 16 Michigan vs. Rutgers, 12:30 p.m.
No. 18 Houston vs. Cincinnati, 12:30 p.m.
No. 19 Mississippi vs. Arkansas, 12:30 p.m.
No. 21 North Carolina vs. Duke, 9 a.m.
No. 22 UCLA at Oregon State, 1:30 p.m.
No. 25 Texas A&M vs. Auburn, 10:30 p.m.

NFL

AMERICAN CONFERENCE

EAST

| W | L | T | Pct | PF | PA |
|---------------|---|---|--------|-----|-----|
| New England 7 | 0 | 0 | 0.1000 | 249 | 133 |
| N.Y. Giants | 4 | 3 | 0.571 | 172 | 139 |
| Buffalo | 3 | 4 | 0.429 | 176 | 173 |
| Miami | 3 | 4 | 0.429 | 154 | 173 |

SOUTH

| W | L | T | Pct | PF | PA |
|--------------|---|---|-------|-----|-----|
| Indianapolis | 3 | 5 | 0.375 | 173 | 203 |
| Houston | 3 | 5 | 0.375 | 174 | 205 |
| Jacksonville | 2 | 5 | 0.286 | 147 | 207 |
| Tennessee | 1 | 6 | 0.143 | 125 | 159 |

NORTH

| W | L | T | Pct | PF | PA |
|------------|---|---|--------|-----|-----|
| Cincinnati | 8 | 0 | 0.1000 | 229 | 142 |
| Pittsburgh | 4 | 4 | 0.500 | 168 | 147 |
| Baltimore | 2 | 6 | 0.250 | 190 | 214 |
| Cleveland | 2 | 7 | 0.222 | 177 | 247 |

WEST

| W | L | T | Pct | PF | PA |
|-------------|---|---|--------|-----|-----|
| Denver | 7 | 0 | 0.1000 | 168 | 112 |
| Oakland | 4 | 3 | 0.571 | 178 | 173 |
| Kansas City | 3 | 5 | 0.375 | 195 | 182 |
| San Diego | 2 | 6 | 0.250 | 191 | 227 |

NATIONAL CONFERENCE

EAST

| W | L | T | Pct | PF | PA |
|-------------|---|---|-------|-----|-----|
| N.Y. Giants | 4 | 4 | 0.500 | 215 | 208 |
| Washington | 3 | 4 | 0.429 | 148 | 168 |

Philadelphia

3 4 0.429 160 137

Dallas 2 5 0.286 133 171

SOUTH

| W | L | T | Pct | PF | PA |
|-------------|---|---|--------|-----|-----|
| Carolina | 7 | 0 | 0.1000 | 191 | 136 |
| Atlanta | 6 | 2 | 0.750 | 213 | 173 |
| New Orleans | 4 | 4 | 0.500 | 213 | 234 |
| Tampa Bay | 3 | 4 | 0.429 | 163 | 199 |

NORTH

| W | L | T | Pct | PF | PA |
|-----------|---|---|-------|-----|-----|
| Green Bay | 6 | 1 | 0.857 | 174 | 130 |
| Minnesota | 5 | 2 | 0.714 | 147 | 122 |
| Chicago | 2 | 5 | 0.286 | 140 | 202 |
| Detroit | 1 | 7 | 0.125 | 149 | 245 |

WEST

| W | L | T | Pct | PF | PA |
|-----------|---|---|-------|-----|-----|
| Arizona | 6 | 2 | 0.750 | 263 | 153 |
| St. Louis | 4 | 3 | | | |