

College Football

Cougars stay perfect with huge win

PULLMAN, Wash. (AP) — Luke Falk threw for 340 yards and two touchdowns, Erik Powell kicked a 32-yard field goal with 1:40 left and No. 16 Washington State beat No. 5 Southern California 30-27 on Friday night.

With the national stage to themselves, the Cougars proved they are ready to contend for the Pac-12 title, pulling off their first regular-season win over a top-five opponent in 25 years. Washington State (5-0, 2-0) had lost 15 consecutive home games against ranked opponents.

Falk was excellent most of the night against Southern California's pressure, but it was a key 35-yard run from Jamal Morrow that set up Powell's winning field goal.

USC star Sam Darnold struggled through a miserable night. Darnold was 15-of-29 passing for 164 yards and an interception. Darnold has thrown eight interceptions in five games after throwing nine interceptions all of last season.

Darnold did run for a pair

of touchdowns, including a 2-yarder with 5:01 remaining that tied it at 27. But he couldn't pull off a final rally, fumbling when he was sacked deep in Washington State territory with 1:27 left. Falk took two kneel downs and the party erupted on the turf of Martin Stadium.

Falk finished 34-of-51 passing, while Morrow added 91 yards rushing on six carries.

The duo combined to give the Cougars the lead early in the fourth quarter, with Falk finding Morrow for a 23-yard TD on a shovel pass and run. The drive included a key third-and-6 conversion early in the possession and a fourth-and-3 on Falk's pass to Kyle Sweet for 12 yards.

Darnold led the Trojans right back down the field, capping the drive with a series of plays that lived up to his hype. He stayed in a collapsing pocket on fourth-and-13 and Tyler Vaughns made a leaping catch across the middle in traffic for 15 yards to the Washington State 27. Darnold hit

Vaughns for 26 yards on the next snap and two plays later Darnold scored his second rushing touchdown.

Playing without three of his starting offensive linemen, Darnold was flustered and at times appeared rattled by the pressure from Washington State's defensive line. He was sacked only twice but was forced to move in the pocket regularly, disrupting the timing of the pass game.

USC (4-1, 2-1) was already without starting left tackle Toa Lobendahn when starting right tackle Chuma Edoga limped off late in the first quarter after a disastrous flea flicker that ended up being an intentional grounding penalty and a 14-yard loss.

It got worse for the Trojans when Viane Talamaivao was shaken up early in the second quarter and also did not return.

Southern California's Ronald Jones had 128 yards rushing and an 86-yard touchdown, but was mostly a non-factor outside of the long run.



Pac-12


USC
27


Wash. State
30

Washington State running back Jamal Morrow (25) celebrates his touchdown with offensive lineman Frederick Mauigoa (69) during the first half of an NCAA college football game against Southern California in Pullman, Wash., Friday.

AP Photo/Young Kwak

Ducks, Bears looking to rebound after losing conference openers

By ANNE M. PETERSON
Associated Press

EUGENE — The introduction to Pac-12 play wasn't so great for Oregon's Willie Taggart and Cal's Justin Wilcox.

Each new coach lost his first game of the season in his league opener, setting up Saturday night's meeting at Autzen Stadium.

The Golden Bears (3-1, 0-1 Pac-12) fell 30-20 at home last weekend to USC when the Trojans forced four turnovers and outscored the Golden Bears 17-7 in a frenzied fourth quarter.

For Wilcox, who replaced Sonny Dykes at Cal, it was a teaching moment.

"They played really hard and left it out on the field, and it wasn't good enough because we didn't maximize the opportunity that we had," he said. "There is no category for a moral victory. No matter the outcome you're always going to take the lessons from each game. You grow from every experience you have. That's important."

Wilcox is from Eugene and played at Oregon, where he completed a degree in anthropology. He's not too sentimental about the homecoming — he's been back numerous times with opposing teams. But some of that familiarity is helpful in preparing his team.

"When the offense has the ball it's going to be really loud," he said. "You have to work silent counts and prepare them as best we can. Quite a few guys have been there so they know."

Pac-12


California Golden Bears
(3-1)


Oregon Ducks
(3-1)

• Sat., 7:30 p.m. (TV: FS1)

• at Autzen Stadium

Oregon (3-1, 0-1) fell 37-35 at Arizona State last Saturday in a game decided on Brandon Ruiz's 41-yard field goal with 2:33 left. The Sun Devils' defense stopped two Oregon drives in the final minutes.

The Ducks, who dropped out of the Top 25 with the loss, have responded well in the aftermath, said Taggart, who took over for Mark Helfrich.

"Everyone takes credit when we win and I think when we lose we should all take credit for that loss," Taggart said. "Our guys showed that the other night, coaches and players. It shows it means a lot to them and that losing sucks. When the guys feel that way you get excited because you know they're going to go out and see to it that it doesn't happen again."

PILING UP PENALTIES: The Ducks have 42 penalties through their first four games, making them the second-most penalized team nationally. Oregon had 14 penalties for 99 yards in last week's loss to Arizona State.

"I said it to our team after the game: We're not good enough to beat ourselves and try to win Pac-12 games," Taggart said. "We have to play clean ballgames and not have that many penalties or dropped balls and expect to

win those games."

STANDING BEHIND BOWERS: Cal QB Ross Bowers completed 22 of 40 passes for 303 yards and a touchdown against the Trojans, but had four interceptions and two lost fumbles. Wilcox said he'll learn from it.

"He's not the first quarterback to have a game like that. Ross did some good things. It was just at the end it got away from him a little bit. Obviously the quarterback's always going to get the attention but not every turnover was on Ross," the coach said.

UNCLE MO: Taggart was caught on camera during the Arizona State loss giving an animated lecture to Tony Brooks-James, who celebrated a touchdown by spiking the ball and earned one of the Ducks' many penalties.

"That day I was ticked off that he got that penalty after making a great play," Taggart said. "That was a teaching lesson again for us. Had to explain to him, 'Hey, you made a great play there. Our football team's coming back, we've got the momentum. We can't let Uncle Mo get back on their side through something selfish we can control.'"

Taggart said the cameras didn't see when Taggart went back and told Brooks-James he loved him.

HISTORY: California leads the all-time series against Oregon 40-37-2. The Golden Bears won 52-49 in double-overtime last year in Berkeley to end Oregon's seven-game winning streak in the series. The Ducks are 13-6 against Cal at Autzen Stadium.

Huskies leery of rested Beavers

By ANNE M. PETERSON
Associated Press

PAC-12


Washington Huskies
(4-0)


Oregon State Beavers
(1-3)

• Sat., 5 p.m. (TV: PAC12)

• at Reser Stadium

Sixth-ranked Washington faces three teams as they come off byes this season. This Saturday it's the Oregon State Beavers, and that has Huskies coach Chris Petersen wary.

"They're just sitting over there, tweaking their (system), really studying themselves, studying what they do well and what they need to clean up, so it makes you better," Petersen said earlier this week. "And then along with that, they study you for a couple weeks. We're just last night getting into those guys. I know this: They haven't done what they've wanted to do the first four games."

Indeed, Oregon State (1-3, 0-1 Pac-12) has taken the bye to figure out how to get better. But the Beavers are facing considerable odds against the defending Pac-12 champions.

The game at Reser Stadium will be their first this season without starting quarterback Jake Luton, who injured his back two weeks ago in a 52-23 loss at Washington State.

Luton, a transfer from Ventura Community College, was diagnosed with a thoracic spine fracture and his return to the team is uncertain. Senior Darell Garretson gets the nod against the Huskies in his place.

Garretson started the first six games last season and threw for 617 yards and three touchdowns, with four interceptions.

The Huskies (4-0, 1-0) were a nearly four-touchdown favorite over the Beavers. Garretson will be facing a team that is allowing opponents just 11.8 points

a game to rank 10th in the nation in scoring defense.

The Huskies' D is allowing an average of just 274 yards a game and they've forced seven turnovers.

"I don't believe we've represented ourselves the way that we should as a football team as a whole, and that's just not the wins and the losses. That's the overall package," Beavers coach Gary Andersen said at his weekly press conference. "That is extremely frustrating to me and we've talked about that."

NALL EMERGES: Ryan Nall emerged against Washington State with 118 yards and two touchdowns — including a 45-yard scoring run. He also caught three passes for 12 yards. But Oregon State will need others to contribute. Nall found success against the Cougars starting with sophomore running back Artavis Pierce, but overall Oregon State is ranked 92nd in the nation with an average of 135.3 rushing yards a game.

REPLACING CHICO: Washington's offense took a hit this week when speedy wide receiver Chico McClatcher was lost for the season to a broken left ankle. McClatcher was hurt in the third quarter of the win over Colorado last week.

While Washington loses its No. 2 receiver, it also loses one of its most versatile players. McClatcher was used as a running back and on kickoff returns for the

Huskies as well. He had 34 receptions and five touchdown catches last season.

The Huskies are likely to use a handful of players to fill McClatcher's role, but look for freshman Salvon Ahmed to get some more opportunities as a runner and receiver with McClatcher sidelined.

LOST AND FOUND: After seeing its run game plod through the first three weeks, the Huskies rediscovered that potent aspect of their offense thanks to Myles Gaskin.

The Huskies rushed for 254 yards as a team against Colorado, including a career-best 202 yards from Gaskin. He had rushed for 163 yards in the first three games combined.

Washington's offensive line dominated the line of scrimmage and Gaskin's patient running style allowed them time to create space. Now the Huskies face an Oregon State defense that's allowing nearly 200 yards rushing per game.

DANTE'S QUEST: Dante Pettis is still looking for an NCAA record.

Pettis has eight career punt return touchdowns, tied for the most in NCAA history. He returned punts for touchdowns in each of the first three games this season, but Colorado denied him a record fourth straight game with a punt return TD. Pettis didn't get a single punt return against the Buffaloes, who were determined not to let him break free.

THE LAST TIME: Last season it was the Huskies coming off a bye. Jake Browning threw for 291 yards and three touchdowns in a 41-17 victory. Washington has won five straight in the series and the team has averaged 43.8 points in those five games.

WOMEN'S PRO BASKETBALL

Sparks beat Lynx, move within a win of back-to-back WNBA titles

By JILL PAINTER
Associated Press

LOS ANGELES (AP) — Candace Parker and Nneka Ogumike came up big to move the Los Angeles Sparks within one win of repeating as WNBA champions.

Parker had 13 points and five steals while Ogumike had 16 points and 10 rebounds to help the Sparks beat the Lynx 75-64 in Game 3 of the WNBA Finals on Friday night.

"Good players have to make big plays," Sparks coach Brian Agler said. "Tonight was our night."

The Sparks had double figures from four of their five starters as Odyssey Sims scored 16 points and Chelsea Gray added 14. Even the bench produced with 11 points.

The Sparks have taken a 2-1 lead in the best-of-five game series and with one

more win can become the first team since 2002 to win the championship in back-to-back years. Los Angeles won back-to-back titles in 2001 and 2002.

The Lynx face elimination on Sunday. A Minnesota win would push the series to a fifth and final game Wednesday.

Lynx forward Maya Moore scored 16 points, all of which came in the second half. She picked up her third foul in the second quarter and fouled out with 37 seconds left.

"It's hard to win a WNBA Finals game without your star players," Reeve said. "In the series we've seen the team that has the stars that outplay the other stars wins the game. We do find that important. However, I'm really appreciative of the group that was in there battling and giving us a chance to win the game. Our

defense gave us a chance for sure. We had a rookie point guard in there (Alexis Jones). We had to go small. I have an appreciation for what that group did to give us a chance to be in the game."

The Sparks led by as many as 13 points in the third quarter but the Lynx pulled to within one in the fourth quarter. Los Angeles held on, outscoring Minnesota 17-7 after the Lynx got within 58-57.

"We were able to get stops on the defensive end. They are a great team," Parker said. "They hit some big shots down the stretch. We just wanted to make things tough for the big-time players. We didn't let them get a lot of second-chance opportunities."

The first two games came down to the final seconds and this was another close game but the Sparks never trailed.

For the second straight game, Parker was held scoreless in the first quarter again and had just five points by halftime but produced in so



AP Photo/Mark J. Terrill

Los Angeles Sparks forward Candace Parker celebrates after the Minnesota Lynx turned over the ball during the second half in Game 3 of a WNBA basketball finals game, Friday in Los Angeles.

many ways.

The Sparks built an 11-point lead in the first quarter and but led just 32-26 by halftime.

Ogumike was whistled for her third foul with 8:18 left in the third quarter but played through it in 29 minutes.

SILENT PROTEST

The Sparks left the court before the National Anthem in silent protest. The Sparks have said they're standing for solidarity and unity and they did the same in Games 1 and 2. They were booed in Minnesota when they returned from the court in Game 2. They were not booed in Los Angeles.

REBOUNDING PROWESS

The Sparks outrebounded the Lynx 34-27 after making a concerted effort for a better performance on the glass. Parker didn't have a rebound in the first half of Game 2. She finished with seven rebounds. Ogumike had a team-best 10. For the Lynx, Sylvia Fowles had a team-high 11 rebounds but no other starter had more than three.

"By getting to the ball before we did," Moore said of the Sparks' dominance on the glass. "Rebounding is sometimes about luck by 99 percent is about effort. That's definitely not a secret about winning championships. You get extra possessions with rebounds. It's something we know we have to get done. Something we can do because it's been our identity all year."

CHAMPIONSHIP MOJO?

The Sparks can hoist the trophy in Los Angeles his time with one more win.