

College Football

Ducks forgo passing game in blowout loss to Cardinal

By STEVE MIMS
The Register-Guard

STANFORD, Calif. (AP) — Oregon had its full roster of wide receivers against Stanford with Charles Nelson and Dillon Mitchell returning from injury.

But neither one of those two were able to add to their receiving numbers Saturday night with Oregon rarely attempting a pass and struggling to complete those few opportunities during its second game without injured quarterback Justin Herbert.

True freshman Braxton Burmeister got his second straight start, and Taylor Alie relieved him late in the third quarter before Burmeister returned to finish off Oregon's 49-7 Pac-12 loss. Burmeister finished 3 for 8 for 23 yards with two interceptions, and the two quarterbacks combined to go 5 for 13 for 33 yards.

"If I saw that in practice, he wouldn't be playing in the game," Oregon coach Willie Taggart said when asked if Burmeister looked better in practice while beating out Alie for the starting spot. "He had a good week of practice and came out and did not



Oregon quarterback Braxton Burmeister (11) scrambles away from pressure by Stanford's Mike Tyler (33) during the first quarter of Saturday's game in Stanford, Calif.

AP Photo/D. Ross Cameron

have the game he wanted to."

Oregon's top four receivers on the season — Nelson, Johnny Johnson III, Mitchell and Jacob Breeland — did not catch a pass. Nelson's five-yard run marked the only touch in the

game from that foursome.

"There were times in this game those guys were open, and we just have to get the ball to them," Taggart said. "We have to get the ball to our playmakers."

Brenden Schooler was the

only Oregon wide receiver with a catch as he finished with two for 15 yards. Three of Oregon's five completions went to running backs — Kani Benoit had two for 10 yards and Royce Freeman had one for eight

yards. "I was open a few times, but the quarterback had some pressure," Nelson said. "That is part of football."

Burmeister's first pass was incomplete and his second was intercepted. Burmeister's third pass was his first completion, but his fourth was intercepted to finish the first half 1 for 4 with two interceptions.

"He had two turnovers and he was shook a bit on the sideline," Taggart said. "We felt going in we could run the football and play to our strengths, but when you turn the ball over like that it's tough against a good football team."

Oregon ran on 43 of 56 plays during the game while totaling 276 yards on the ground. After Burmeister threw his second interception of the first half, Oregon ran the ball on its final 17 plays over three drives before halftime.

The first of those drives featured some effective runs negated by penalties.

On second-and-1, Tony Brooks-James ran for two yards, but Johnson was flagged for an illegal block. Burmeister ran for 22 yards

on a second-and-14 when Jake Pisarcik was called for holding on a drive that ended when Stanford blocked a punt for a touchdown.

The next drive featured eight runs that covered 46 yards to give Oregon third-and-1 at the Stanford 38-yard line. Freeman was stuffed for a 1-yard loss and then got no gain on fourth-and-2 to give the ball back to the Cardinal.

Freshman Deommodore Lenoir got an interception in the end zone to give Oregon the ball at its own 20-yard line late in the first half.

After Brooks-James ran for 12 yards, Oregon took a timeout and gave the ball back to Brooks-James for a five-yard run. Oregon took another timeout with five seconds left in the half and again gave the ball to Brooks-James for six yards.

Oregon ran on its first seven plays of the second half to make it 24 consecutive running plays before Burmeister threw an incomplete pass. He followed with a seven-yard completion to Brenden Schooler for his first connection of the game to a wide receiver with 5:45 left in the third quarter.

BEAVERS: Team goes into bye week with time to prepare for No. 23 Stanford

Continued from 1B

were made. You look at the total yards, and you see the direction we're headed," he said. "We can run the ball, be physical and play as a team. It's not lip service ... this team is getting better and will continue to do better."

"Whether I'm in this position or not, those boys have come together and they're determined. I felt they fought hard. They showed a different side of Beaver football than I've seen since I've been here and I couldn't be more happier for them. To see the right kind of emotion after a game like that, times are changing."

It was just nice to see this group of players, after the week they went through,

regroup and compete for 60 minutes — even if it didn't result in a win.

Running back Ryan Nall — the former Central Catholic High star — was terrific for the Beavers, gaining 172 yards on 24 carries and scoring three touchdowns. Quarterback Darell Garretson was steady and made some pinpoint throws, completing 20 of 37 passes for 289 yards. Eight different players made receptions, with Timmy Hernandez leading the way with seven grabs for 65 yards.

OSU's special teams were good. Jordan Choukair had field goals of 32, 37, 20 and 31 yards. Unfortunately, he missed a 52-yard attempt with 10 seconds left that



AP Photo/Timothy J. Gonzalez

Oregon State running back Artavis Pierce (21) signals a first down after a carry during the first half of Saturday's game against Colorado in Corvallis.

would've tied the contest. "The score didn't show how we played," Nall said.

"We're playing good ball right now." "No doubt, our team

came together," Garretson added. "We had guys who stepped up and played very well. There was definitely a lot of energy. That's what coach Hall brings to the table."

The Beavers had trouble containing Phillip Lindsay and Montez. Lindsay finished with 185 yards rushing on 28 carries, highlighted by a 74-yard touchdown run with 8:34 left in the first quarter. He also had a 9-yard scoring run in the third quarter.

Montez, a sophomore, scrambled out of trouble several times, passing for 168 yards and two TDs.

Take away Lindsay's long scoring run and the OSU defense only gave up 107 yards in the first half.

"For the defense, I think we hurt ourselves more than inflicting pain," said Oregon State linebacker Manase Hungalu, who had a team-high 11 tackles. "It was just little things. Players have to be able to make plays. They hit our weaknesses and it was a poor performance."

Hungalu was asked if the Beavers were thinking of Andersen, who departed OSU with a 7-23 record, during the game.

"Not today," he replied. "Not at all."

The Beavers have a bye next weekend and will prepare for a Thursday night game on Oct. 26 against No. 23 Stanford at Reser.

"I don't like bye weeks, but with our situation it will benefit us," Hungalu said.

ALCS: Gray pitches Game 4 for Yankees, McCullers Jr. goes for Houston

Continued from 1B

Houston scored on a bases-loaded walk in the ninth before postseason star Jose Altuve grounded into a game-ending double play with the bases loaded.

Sonny Gray starts Game 4 for New York in the best-of-seven series on 11 days' rest Wednesday against Lance McCullers Jr.

Frazier got the Yankees rolling, taking an awkward hack at a low, outside fastball and slicing it into the seats.

"That was unorthodox, but I'll take a hundred like that," Frazier said. "The wind was going a little crazy."

Judge used his height and long left arm to make a leaping catch with his left shoulder slamming into the right-field wall against Yuri

Gurriel starting the fourth. "He'll go through a wall for you," Frazier said.

Being a rookie, he politely waited outside the dugout for all the veterans to descend the steps after the third out — as he always does — then capped a five-run bottom half with a laser of a line drive that just cleared the left-field wall.

Then in the fifth, he sprinted into short right for a diving backhand catch on Cameron Maybin in the fifth.

On the first chilly night of the autumn with a game-time temperature of 57, Sabathia relied on the sharp, slow slider that has helped revive the former flame-thrower's career.

Pitching with caution to Houston's dangerous lineup, he walked four, struck out five and pitched shutout ball

for the first time in 21 career postseason starts. During the regular season, he was 9-0 in 10 starts following Yankees' losses.

"Smoke and mirrors," Sabathia said.

Adam Warren followed with two hitless innings. Houston has just 15 hits over the first three games and is batting .169 in the matchup.

Morton was chased after 3 2/3 innings and allowed seven runs and six hits — including three infield singles, a bloop single to center, a double that Maybin allowed to fall in left and Frazier's homer.

Frazier, a New Jersey native who grew up a Yankees fan, entered 7 for 18 against Morton with two home runs.

With Frank Sinatra's version of "Fly Me to the Moon" as his walk-up music, Frazier hit

not-quite a moonshot in the second inning, driving a pitch just 18 1/2 inches above the dirt 365 feet with pretty much just his left arm. That gave the Yankees their first lead of the series.

He remembers sitting in the seats at old Yankee Stadium watching Jim Leyritz's 15th-inning home beat Seattle in the 1995 playoffs.

"It's such a cool feeling," Frazier said. "Goosebumps."

Starting eight right-handed batters against Sabathia, Houston loaded the bases with two outs in the third on a pair of two-out walks around Alex Bregman's single. But Carlos Correa popped out on a fastball in on his fists.

"I know he likes to get his hands extended," Sabathia said.

Judge made a leaping catch with his left shoulder slamming into the right-field wall against Gurriel starting the fourth, prompting Sabathia to raise both arms and point to him with his glove.

"I don't know what got hurt worse, the wall or him," plate umpire Gary Cederstrom was heard to say by one of Fox's microphones.

New York broke open the game in the bottom half. Chase Headley hit a run-scoring infield single — ending an 0-for-28 slide by New York designated hitters in the postseason. Brett Gardner was hit on a leg by a pitch, loading the bases, and Harris came in and threw a wild pitch that allowed Frazier to come home from third.

"Judge did what Judge has done 50-plus times, which is hit the ball out of the ballpark when he gets a pitch to hit," Astros manager A.J. Hinch said.

ALTUVE'S WEB GEM

Altuve made a diving backhand stop on Didi Gregorius' third-inning grounder, and the All-Star second baseman threw to first baseman Marwin Gonzalez, who did a split to catch the ball. Umpire Chris Guccione ruled Gregorius safe, which would have given the Yankees two on with one out, but the call was overturned on a video review. Altuve also made a fine shuffle pass to Harris covering first for the final out of the fourth after Gregorius' hard grounder off Gonzalez's glove.

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