

College Football

Herbert returns, helps Ducks beats Wildcats

By ANNE M. PETERSON
Associated Press

EUGENE — The Ducks obviously missed Justin Herbert.

Oregon's starting quarterback returned after a five-game absence and helped lead the team to a 48-28 victory over Arizona on Saturday night. Royce Freeman ran for four touchdowns in the win, which made Ducks (6-5, 3-4) bowl eligible in coach Willie Taggart's first year as head coach.

"It was just a lot of fun to be back out there," said Herbert, who threw for 235 yards and a score in his first game back since fracturing his collarbone. "We've got great guys on this team and it's so much fun to be part of this and it's awesome to play in that game."

Freeman ran for 135 yards on 19 carries. His first scoring run of the game gave him the Oregon career record for total touchdowns.

Arizona quarterback Khalil Tate was held back by Oregon's defense, passing for 159 yards and a touchdown while running for 32 yards. Tate, who was the team's leading rusher with 11 touchdowns, had run for a in each of the last six games for Arizona (7-4, 5-3).

Asked what Oregon did to slow him down, Tate replied: "They played football."

While there were rumors Herbert was poised to come back, it wasn't official until he was announced as a starter by the public address announcer at Autzen Stadium.

He proclaimed his comeback on-field with a 40-yard dash for a touchdown in the opening quarter that tied the game at 7.

"It was a little surprising. There was a little pressure inside,



Oregon's quarterback Justin Herbert, right, rushes for the end zone ahead of Arizona's Tony Fields II for a touchdown during the first quarter of Saturday's game in Eugene.

so I got out to the left and didn't see anyone in front of me, so I decided to take off, and luckily I got into the end zone," he said.

Herbert was injured in Oregon's 45-24 victory over California on Sept. 30 and replaced by true freshman Braxton Burmeister. The Ducks went 1-4 over the course of Herbert's absence.

The Wildcats scored first Saturday on Nick Wilson's 18-yard run. After Herbert's long scoring run, Freeman ran four yards for his 59th touchdown, setting a new Oregon career record.

Arizona's Dane Cruikshank intercepted Herbert early in the second quarter and ran the ball back 64 yards into the end zone but as he sprinted the final 10 yards he wagged his finger at the Oregon players chasing him. He was flagged for taunting and the touchdown was negated.

The penalty enraged Arizona coach Rich Rodriguez. "Totally ridiculous," he said. "We should never do it. It should never, ever, ever, ever happen. Never do it."

Arizona ended the drive with a touchdown anyway when Tate hit Tony Ellison with a 15-yard touchdown and then Wilson gave the Wildcats a 21-14 lead with a 20-yard scoring run.

But Herbert found Jacob Breezland with 39-yard touchdown pass to tie it again and Freeman added a 28-yard scoring run to give the Ducks a 28-21 lead at halftime.

Freeman added an 11-yard touchdown run midway through the third quarter, but Arizona kept it close with Zach Green's 2-yard touchdown run.

Aiden Schneider's 40-yard field goal gave the Ducks a 38-28 lead to open the fourth quarter. After Herbert's 50-yard pass to

Johnny Johnson III, Freeman ran a yard for his fourth TD of the night. He moved past LaDarian Tomlinson into 10th on the NCAA's career rushing list with 5,499 yards and has 58 career rushing touchdowns, one shy of the conference record set by Oregon State's Ken Simonton (1998-2001).

Schneider's 24-yard field goal was for the final margin and Arizona went scoreless in the final period.

Tate went into the game leading the nation with five 70-plus yard runs, four of them for touchdowns. He has the longest run for a quarterback (82 yards) and his 327 yards rushing against Colorado set a single-game NCAA record for a QB.

"I thought they had some success in slowing him down," Rodriguez said. "We didn't block them well, we didn't read it well, and they did a good job. The frustrating part is we'll probably watch the film and they were playing the exact way we thought they'd play. But they played it better than us."

LONG TIME COMING: Freeman had not scored a rushing touchdown since Sept. 23.

"I felt like I needed to take it upon myself to do a little bit more," he said about his offensive outburst.

Freeman went over 100 yards rushing for the 30th time in his career, and it was the third time he's run for four touchdowns in a game.

UP NEXT

Arizona will visit Arizona State in Tempe in a Territorial Cup rivalry game next Saturday.

The Ducks will host Oregon State in the annual Civil War on Thanksgiving weekend.

Men's College Basketball

Oregon signs center Bol Bol, son of the late Manute Bol

Associated Press

EUGENE — Center Bol Bol, son of the late Manute Bol, has signed a letter of intent to play at Oregon.

Bol is considered a five-star recruit and is the highest-ranked prospect ever signed by the Ducks. The nearly

7-foot-2 Bol announced his decision on the Players' Tribune website.

Bol selected Oregon over Kentucky. He said he had thought about his father in recent days as he was making the

decision. Manute Bol was a 7-foot-7 center who played 12 seasons in the NBA. He passed away in 2010.

"Here's what I know. I know my dad would want me to represent my family well. I know he would want me to pursue my interests outside of basketball, like music, fashion and eventually, the humanitarian work that he began in Sudan," Bol wrote.

At a media availability Monday, Oregon coach Dana Altman said he expects Bol to only be in Eugene for a season before heading to the NBA.

"Our job is to get him here in the summer and help him grow as a person, get some communication classes, things that will help him; some finance classes that will help him. And then try to help him as a player," Altman told reporters.

Bol is currently finishing out his senior year of high school in Las Vegas.



Bol

DAWGS: Face Churchill on Saturday night in 5A state title game in Hillsboro

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growing pains of relying on a young, inexperienced quarterback with a mediocre 57 percent completion rate with a combined 15 turnovers.

This season as a junior, however, James has grown as a quarterback and in the meantime helped his Hermiston offense transform into a unit opposing defenses are scared to face. He has the ability to make most throws, such as a 26-yard toss to Jordan Ramirez in the first quarter Saturday, where James rolled to his right and then threw off-balance across the field to Ramirez running deep and connected with his receiver to set up Hermiston's first touchdown of the game. He also has the awareness to operate the read-option run game to near perfection.

He finished Saturday's semifinal completing 10-of-17 passes for 164 yards, and also ran the ball 12 times for 82 yards with one touchdown, a five-yard scamper on a quarterback draw in the third quarter which gave Hermiston a 29-14 lead at the time.

Now through 12 games this season, James has 2,211 passing yards with 27 touchdowns and just five interceptions and is also Hermiston's second-leading rusher with more than 1,000 yards with six touchdowns. He says he owes his improvement to a better relationship with



Hermiston's Jonathan Hinkle carries the ball during the Bulldogs' 35-27 win over Wilsonville in the 5A semifinal on Saturday in Hillsboro.

everyone on the offense. "I mean, it's a confidence I've built with the guys," James said on Saturday. "I trust every single one of them on the field and that's what happens when you have that trust."

James and Hermiston's offense picked apart Wilsonville's defense on Saturday night, piling up 471 yards of offense. The Bulldogs punted on their first two possessions, but found the end zone first on a seven-yard scamper by Jonathan Hinkle to go up 8-0 with 2:12 left in the first quarter. The rest of the

way, Hermiston established itself with a successful run game — thanks to a dominant offensive line — that opened up some big plays in the passing game to beat the Wildcats.

"I mean they (Wilsonville) brought pressure the whole game but we found those little creases when we ran the ball, we found the little holes when we passed the ball," James said. "It was the little things that got us through."

Hinkle carried a pile five yards for his second touchdown in the second quarter and Peter Earl busted a

45 yard touchdown run midway through the second quarter to give Hermiston a surprising 22-0 lead. Wilsonville began to figure out Hermiston's defense as the first half came to a close, with the Wildcats finally finding the end zone with 21 seconds left, giving them momentum into the second half.

"(Faaeteete) said don't let up," James recalled from the halftime talk. "Great teams try to come back and that's what they (Wilsonville) did. We just had to stop them and that's what we did."

The Wildcats got within



Hermiston's Joe Gutierrez carries the ball away from a Wilsonville defender during the Bulldogs' 35-27 win over the Wildcats during Saturday's 5A semifinal in Hillsboro.

22-14 but the Bulldogs answered on the next drive when Hinkle ripped off a 67 yard run to get inside the Wildcat 10, and James finished off the drive with a touchdown run. Wilsonville again got on the board early in the fourth on a five-yard run by Cooper Mootz to make it 29-20 before Hermiston's crucial drive was capped off by a four-yard touchdown run by Keaton Mikami on 4th-and-goal.

James was also a leader on defense Saturday with seven total tackles, part of a unit that forced two turnovers, two turnovers-on-downs inside the red zone, and tallied four sacks. Wilsonville did tally more than 400 yards of total offense, but the Bulldogs' early successes put the Wildcats in a hole that

proved to be too big to dig out of.

"We were playing with a killer mindset," Hermiston senior Joe Gutierrez said, "and when we play like that our defense rolls."

Now, Hermiston will get back to practice as they prepare for No. 4 Churchill in the state championship game on Nov. 25 at 6 p.m. at Hillsboro Stadium. And James will get another week to make himself a household name in Oregon.

"It's an awesome feeling," James said of the chance to play for a title. "Our guys worked so hard, our line, just everyone, and it just feels so good."

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Portland Trail Blazers guard CJ McCollum (3) drives against Memphis Grizzlies center Deonta Davis (21) in Monday's game in Memphis, Tenn.

AP Photo/Brandon Dill

BLAZERS: Game marked first stop of five-game road trip

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outscored Memphis 32-22 in the frame.

That allowed the Blazers to hold 55-46 lead at the break as McCollum had 16 and Napier had 11.

Evans had 16 for Memphis.

TIP-INS

Trail Blazers: Lillard turned his ankle with just under 3 minutes left in the half after stepping on Gasol's

foot. Lillard was down on the floor under the Portland basket, but eventually hobbled to the bench. Lillard came out of the second half. The game was the first of a five-game road trip for Portland. Vonleh's 18 rebounds were one short of his career-high 19 on April 12 last season against New Orleans.

UP NEXT

Trail Blazers: Travel to Philadelphia on Wednesday.

SEAHAWKS: Injury bug bit again, losing DB Griffin, RB Griffin and OL Aboushi during game

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for a fake field goal late in the first half rather than attempting a 35-yard kick. He also made a questionable challenge in the fourth quarter that didn't go his way and left Seattle with just one timeout.

That lack of timeouts came back to haunt Seattle on the final drive when seconds ticked away and rather than running one more play, Walsh was sent out to attempt the 52-yard kick. His long for the season is 49 yards.

The conclusion only amplified Carroll's baffling decision at the end of the first half, when Seattle ran a fake field goal rather than having Walsh attempt a 35-yarder that would have pulled Seattle within 24-20. Holder Jon Ryan completed his shovel pass to Luke Willson, but Grady Jarrett read the play and tackled Willson for a 4-yard loss.

Seattle played a game for the

first time since the end of the 2010 season without Richard Sherman. His streak of 99 consecutive starts in the regular season was snapped because of a torn Achilles tendon suffered against Arizona. The Seahawks were also without safety Kam Chancellor because of a neck injury, leaving their vaunted secondary with several new faces.

Ryan was more than happy to pick on a defense without those anchors. He was 19 of 27 passing for 195 yards and rarely faced pressure. Seattle had one sack, and the Falcons went 9 of 14 on third-down conversions.

Sanu made a great one-handed grab for a 2-yard touchdown in the first quarter. Ryan found Toilolo on a 25-yard TD in the third quarter to give Atlanta a 31-20 lead. Matt Bryant added a 19-yard field goal with 3:49 left to put the Falcons ahead by 11, and Wilson's late heroics weren't enough.

INJURIES

Seattle's injury woes continued. The Seahawks lost rookie cornerback Shaquill Griffin to a concussion on the second play of the game, forcing newly signed veteran Byron Maxwell into a more prominent role than expected.

Early in the second half, promising running back Mike Davis was lost to a groin injury after taking a screen pass 21 yards. Davis had two receptions and had carried six times for 18 yards before getting hurt. Seattle also lost starting guard Oday Aboushi in the fourth quarter with a shoulder injury.

Atlanta got a scare when safety Keanu Neal was checked for a concussion in the first half. He was cleared to return.

UP NEXT

Falcons: Host Tampa Bay on Sunday to open a three-game homestand.

Seahawks: Travel to division foe San Francisco on Sunday.