

# Sports

OREGON 31, ARIZONA STATE 29

## Ducks stumble in second half but hold on to top Sun Devils

By Anne M. Peterson  
AP Sports Writer

EUGENE — The Oregon Ducks made what might be quarterback Justin Herbert's final game at Autzen Stadium more of a cliffhanger than they would've liked.

Herbert threw for 262 yards and two touchdowns and Oregon held off a late rally by Arizona State to win 31-29 and knock the Sun Devils out of contention for a spot in the Pac-12 championship game.

Herbert has not said whether he will return for his final year of eligibility for the Ducks. He was asked after the game for his takeaway on how he played against the Sun Devils.

"Fortunately it doesn't fall just on my shoulders. The defense played really well," he said. "I know the feeling all too well of going against these guys every day and they played big-time football. Sometimes you have to rely on your defense and they did a great job."

Dillon Mitchell, Herbert's favorite target this year, caught four passes for 103 yards and a touchdown against the Sun Devils.

Arizona State (6-5, 4-4 Pac-12) headed to Eugene on a three-game winning streak and needing a win to stay alive in its division race. But Utah defeated Colorado 30-7 in Boulder earlier in the day, giving the No. 19 Utes six wins in conference play. The Sun Devils' loss meant they could not catch Utah with just one game to go.

The Ducks (7-4, 4-4) were also bowl-eligible but had stumbled with three losses in their previous four games. Saturday's game was Oregon's last at home this season before hitting the road for the Civil War against Oregon State on Thanksgiving weekend.

Oregon was already eliminated from the Pac-12 North title race, which will be decided by next weekend's Apple Cup between No. 17 Washington and No. 8 Washington State. But the victory over ASU assured the Ducks would finish above .500 in coach Mario Cristobal's first



Chris Pietsch / Associated Press

Oregon receiver Justin Collins, center, breaks through the Arizona State defense during the second quarter of an NCAA college football game Saturday in Eugene.

*"The defense played really well. Sometimes you have to rely on your defense and they did a great job."*

— Justin Herbert, Oregon quarterback

year.

Manny Wilkins threw for 182 yards and two touchdowns for ASU. N'Keal Harry had seven catches for 105 yards. And Eno Benjamin, the Pac-12's leading rusher, had 29 carries for 149 yards.

Up next for the Sun Devils is the rivalry game against Arizona.

"This team didn't end on a down note, we ended the game fighting our butts off, and that's what matters," Wilkins said. "We've got a big one coming up this week and our guys are going to be ready. We're going to be dialed up and ready to go, simple as that."

After Oregon built a 28-12 lead at halftime, the Sun Devils made it interesting with 11 minutes left when Brandon Aiyuk caught a 25-yard scoring pass from Wilkins to close within 28-23. Oregon answered with Adam Stack's 28-yard field goal.

The Sun Devils scored again on Wilkins' 1-yard touchdown run with 4:35 left,

but the two-point conversion failed and Oregon remained in front.

Herbert was intercepted on a tipped pass by ASU's Cam Phillips, but on the ensuing drive Oregon recovered a Sun Devil fumble to get the ball back with just over three minutes to go.

"I think we got rolling pretty good, and we had a couple a couple of times when we didn't get the ball rolling and I think we started pressing, I think you could see that in our players. We dropped some balls and we made some critical errors that ended up being turnovers," Cristobal said.

CJ Verdell ran for the opening Oregon touchdown and also caught an 18-yard scoring pass from Herbert, who also found Mitchell with a 57-yard scoring pass in the first half. Jaylon Redd scored on an 8-yard run.

Brandon Ruiz kicked field goals from 38, 30 and 29 yards for the Sun Devils, while Wilkins had a 22-yard touchdown pass to Frank Darby.

"We fell a little short and that's kind of how it's been for us. We've lost games by one score and if you win a couple more of those, you're not sitting in this position, but our record is what it

is and we fell a little short tonight," ASU coach Herm Edwards said.

### THE TAKEAWAY

Arizona State: The Sun Devils were without freshman linebacker Merlin Robertson for the first half after he was flagged for targeting in the third quarter of last weekend's game. Robertson has 66 tackles, five sacks, an interception and a recovered fumble this season. ... Safeties Jalen Harvey and Demonte King did not play because of injuries. ... The Sun Devils are coming off a 31-28 victory over UCLA.

Oregon: There were questions earlier in the week whether CJ Verdell would be able to play because of a neck injury. ... The Ducks are coming off a 32-25 loss at Utah last Saturday. ... Herbert is widely considered to be among the top quarterbacks in next year's NFL draft should he choose to leave early.

### UP NEXT

Arizona State: The Sun Devils end the season at rival Arizona in the Territorial Cup on Saturday.

Oregon: The Ducks visit Oregon State in the Civil War rivalry game on Friday at 1 p.m.

WASHINGTON 42, OREGON STATE 23

## Beavers can't overcome Huskies' early onslaught

By Tim Booth  
AP Sports Writer

SEATTLE — Chris Petersen thought he'd make it through his pregame speech the night before the final home game for Washington's seniors. Then he looked at quarterback Jake Browning, and Petersen's words trailed off.

"There's no one that's spent more time in this office since the moment he got here," Petersen said. "It's exactly how it's supposed to be and he's a rare individual in terms of never finching, always the same, always prepping as hard as he possibly can, completely locked in at all times. It's hard to do for anybody let alone a college kid going through this process. (It's) really special."

Browning provided one more memory for Petersen and his teammates in his final home game, throwing three first-half touchdowns in No. 17 Washington's 42-23 win over Oregon State on Saturday.

Browning threw two of his three TDs in the first quarter as Washington jumped to a 28-3 lead. Fellow senior Myles Gaskin rushed for 135 yards and the Huskies (8-3, 6-2 Pac-12) used the fast start to make certain next week's Apple Cup against No. 8 Washington State carried all the meaning it possibly could.

The meeting against the Cougars will be a winner-take-all matchup for the Pac-12 North Division title. The winner of the 11th matchup will play in the conference title game with a Rose Bowl berth at stake.

"There's a lot on the line," Browning said about the Apple Cup. "But I think more it's a quick turnaround. I think whatever team can adjust to that quick turnaround better, that's an advantage."

The Huskies dominated Oregon State (2-9, 1-7) early then coasted the final three quarters. After getting a week off, Washington's 28-point first quarter tied a school record last accomplished in the 2016 Apple Cup against Washington State. Salvon Ahmed rushed for a pair of short touchdowns and Browning took advantage of his chances. He hit Aaron Fuller on a 17-yard TD after Oregon State fumbled a kickoff, and he later hit tight end Cade Otton on a 21-yard touchdown.

Browning finished 17 of 23 for 242 yards and a 205.3 passer rating, but was still playing early in the fourth quarter and took some unneeded shots as Washington's protection broke down. He finished his career with 55 touchdown passes at Husky Stadium.

"I don't really care what people were hoping for this whole season. Every team is undefeated at the beginning of the season. Everybody beats the crap out of each other in the Pac-12," Browning said. "It's who can absorb the blows, and just keep battling, because there's plenty of teams that, like us, had high expectations for their season, and haven't been able to absorb the blows and keep battling."

Gaskin had 135 yards rushing, but it was a disappointing total after the way he started. Gaskin had 101 yards after just three carries — including a 64-yard burst on the third play of the game to set up Washington's first touchdown. He finished the first half with 107 yards rushing, but his only time finding the end zone came on a 10-yard pass from Browning late in the half. Gaskin added a rushing touchdown in the third quarter on a 6-yard run one play after a punt by Washington hit an Oregon State blocker and was recovered by the Huskies.

## Washington State flexes muscles in 69-28 rout of Arizona

By Nicholas K. Geranios  
Associated Press

PULLMAN, Wash. — This record-setting season just keeps getting better for Gardner Minshew.

Washington State's star quarterback broke a school mark with seven touchdown passes and the No.

8 Cougars routed Arizona 69-28 on Saturday night to boost their longshot bid for a spot in the College Football Playoff.

"In high school I got six one time," Minshew said. "I never done seven. It was pretty crazy tonight."

Washington State (10-1,

7-1 Pac-12, No. 8 CFP) raced out to a 55-14 lead at half-time and was not seriously threatened on the way to its seventh consecutive victory. The Cougars host archrival No. 17 Washington next

Friday, with the Apple Cup winner taking the Pac-12 North title.

With their 10th win of the season, the Cougars matched a program record last accomplished in 2003.

They also won their 13th straight home game and set a season high for points.

Minshew, being pushed by

WSU as a Heisman Trophy candidate, completed 43 of 55 passes for 473 yards and was not intercepted.

### Mobile Service Outstanding Computer Repair

**Any issue \$40 flat rate**  
Call or Text 24/7  
Dale Bogardus 541-297-5831

Get excited about how well your computer runs!

[www.outstandingcomputerrepair.com](http://www.outstandingcomputerrepair.com)  
Refurbished Desktop & Laptops For Sale  
House calls (let me come to you!)  
Drop Offs & Remote Services are Available  
**Office Hours 7am-7pm • Monday-Saturday**  
All credit cards accepted

**HAINES STEAK HOUSE**

- Reserve Now (541) 856-3639
- Thanks-giving Buffet \$24.95 \$13 for kids 11 & under
- Book Your Holiday Parties Now!
- Regular Hours Mon-Fri 4:30PM Open Sat 3:30PM Sun 12:30PM
- 10 miles north of Baker Hwy 30 in Haines
- Famous for Flame Kist Iron Branded Steaks Recommended by Tom Turkey
- Buffet 12-5PM Also regular menu
- The pilgrims never had it so good!

### Thatcher's ACE Hardware & La Grande ACE Hardware

**Time to get festive!**

**Sale prices good through November 30th**

**YOUR CHOICE \$9.99 each**

- A. 10" Power Scissors with Drive \$102754
- B. Mechanical Sander with Random Orbit \$123254
- C. Ace 12" Sander Random Orbit Drive \$123254
- D. 10" Power Scissors with Drive \$102754

**SALE \$4.99 each**  
Ace LED Bulb 40W, 60W and equivalent. Lasts 10x longer. See store for complete details.

**Thatcher's Ace Hardware**  
2200 Resort St, Baker City • 541-523-3371

**La Grande Ace Hardware**  
2212 Island Ave, La Grande • 541-605-0152  
Monday-Friday 7-6 • Saturday 8-6 • Sunday 9-5  
photos for illustration only