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Sports

CIVIL WAR FOOTBALL

Ducks bowl over Beavers, 55-15

By Anne M. Peterson AP Sports Writer

CORVALLIS — Oregon coach Mario Cristobal says redshirt freshman running back CJ Verdell is just "scratching the surface" for what he can become.

Verdell ran for 187 yards and four touchdowns, and also caught a scoring pass as Oregon defeated Oregon State 55-15 Friday in a Civil War victory that was marred by quarterback Justin Herbert's first-half injury.

Herbert threw for 102 yards and a touchdown before he appeared to injure his shoulder or upper arm on a sack and left the field on a cart. The Ducks (8-4, 5-4 Pac-12) now await bowl selection having already been eliminated from contention for a berth in the conference championship game.

Verdell's five touchdowns were the most for a Duck since 2012. Travis Dye ran for 199 yards and two additional touchdowns for Oregon.

"He just keeps on getting better and better," Cristobal said about Verdell.

The loss ended the season for the Beavers (2-10, 1-8) in coach Jonathan Smith's first year as coach.

"The game itself, you can look at it from a lot of different reasons for it not going our way — in the run game, both sides of the ball, rough. Opportunity to finish some drives, we didn't do it. Momentum, never really came on our side," Smith said. "So that is not the standard. We are going to continue to work and look forward to building on this thing."

It may have been the final Civil War for Herbert, who could forgo his senior year to declare for the NFL draft. He is widely considered one of the top prospects at the position, but could opt to stay at Oregon for the chance to play with his younger brother Patrick, a four-star tight end who has committed to the Ducks.

Herbert was replaced by backup Braxton Burmeister for the second half. Ducks coach Mario Cristobal said afterward he would not have an update on Herbert's condition until the junior QB got back to Eugene for additional

"It didn't seem like it was too big of a shot, but enough where we had to keep him out," Cristobal said.

Ducks running back Tony Brooks-James was also injured on the opening kickoff of the second half and returned to the sidelines on crutches with what looked to be a left knee injury.

It also might have been the final game for Beavers quarterback Jake Luton, who threw for 282 yards and two scores. Luton has been beset by injuries during his Oregon State career including a thoracic spine fracture last season and a high ankle sprain this season. There's a possibility that Oregon State could petition for a sixth vear of eligibility for Luton because of medical hardship.

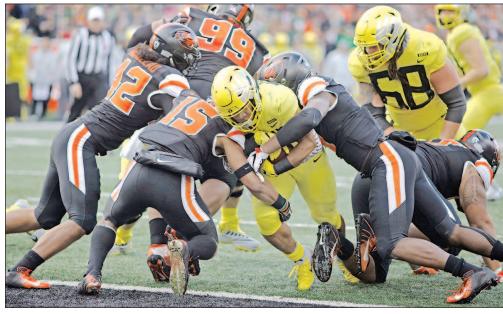
Oregon State true freshman running back Jermar Jefferson ran for 64 yards in the loss. Jefferson ranked seventh nationally with 119.6 yards rushing per game going into the Civil War. Isaiah Hodgins had

eight catches for 133 yards for the Beavers.

The Beavers gave up 510

Ducks, including 392 yards rushing.

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Oregon's C.J. Verdell, center, bulls his way past Oregon State defenders for a touchdown during the first half Friday in Corvallis. Verdell scored five touchdowns as the Ducks won the Civil War, 55-15.





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