

# Sports

PAC-12 FOOTBALL

## Washington State stops Houston

By Kristie Rieken  
AP Sports Writer

HOUSTON — After No. 20 Washington State struggled to get going early on Friday night against Houston before pulling away in the second half for a win, coach Mike Leach lamented that his team didn't have more time to play.

"I almost wish we had a fifth quarter because I thought we had more work to do and we could have grown a little bit more," he said. "I thought we were playing our best football at the end."

Anthony Gordon threw for 440 yards and three touchdowns for his third straight 400-yard game as Washington State got the 31-24 victory.

Gordon threw a 7-yard touchdown pass in the fourth quarter and had two 39-yard scoring throws, including one in the third quarter that gave Washington State (3-0) the lead for good.

"I thought we were frantic the first half both offensively and defensively," Leach said. "Then when we settled in I thought we played well the second half."

It was the first meeting as head coaches for Leach and Houston's Dana Holgorsen, who first met almost 30 years ago when Holgorsen played at Iowa Wesleyan, where Leach was an assistant.

The two coached together at both Valdosta State and Texas Tech and have remained close since that time, adding some familiarity to this game between teams meeting for just the fourth time.

"Me and him go way back ... it's fun to compete with him," Holgorsen said. "I thought our kids played hard and gave ourselves a chance, just came up a little short."

D'Eriq King had 128 yards passing and a score and added 94 yards rushing and two touchdowns on a night Houston (1-2) led 14-7 at halftime. But Houston struggled to move the ball in the second half, lost two fumbles and didn't get in the end zone after halftime until King's 12-yard run with 2:21 left cut the lead to 31-24.

"We don't want moral victories or any of that ... we didn't play good enough to win," Holgorsen said. "Didn't make enough plays and the ball didn't bounce our way enough for us to come out of here with a win and that needs to happen next week."

Brandon Arconado had nine receptions for 115 yards and Max Borghi added 61 yards receiving and ran for a touchdown in the third quarter to help WSU to the victory.

Houston went for it on fourth-and-1 on its first drive of the second half and fumbled the snap.

EASTERN OREGON UNIVERSITY FOOTBALL

## Montana Tech buries Mounties

By Ronald Bond  
The (La Grande) Observer

LA GRANDE — The Montana Tech Orediggers set the tone from the game's first drive and spoiled Eastern Oregon University's home opener.

Jed Fike rushed for 167 yards and three touchdowns, and Montana Tech built a 21-point first-half lead en route to a 35-10 victory over the Mountaineers Saturday in Frontier Conference action at Community Stadium.

"I knew after the first drive it was going to be C of I all over again if we didn't do something about it," head coach Tim Camp said, referring back to the Mountaineers' 48-12 loss to College of Idaho in the season opener where the Yotes raced out to an early lead and never let up. "We switched a couple things inside and kind of slowed them down. We gotta be better in (certain) scenarios, but our defense stepped up several times today and got the ball back in certain situations. The offense didn't do anything with it."

Montana Tech's first drive of the game was almost exclusively on the ground. The first six plays, in fact, were all rushing plays before Nate Sander caught a 5-yard touchdown pass for the early lead.

The ground-and-pound was a sign of things to come. Tech, with Fike leading the way, churned out 226 yards on the ground and totaled 394 yards on the afternoon. The bulk of that came in the first half, when Tech had 234 yards and two Fike touchdown runs, the second a 29-yard dash to the



Ronald Bond / The (La Grande) Observer

Eastern Oregon's Victor Dias (44) looking for running room against Montana Tech.

left side for a 21-0 lead with 5:57 to play in the opening half. Fike had 139 yards by halftime.

Jet Campbell added 168 yards passing and two touchdowns for the Orediggers, who defeated EOU for the fifth time in the last six meetings and ended a four-game winning streak by Eastern in home openers.

Eastern, which struggled to find a rhythm on offense against the Orediggers' front seven, manufactured a 63-yard drive just before the half, but had to settle for a 23-yard Jaiden Machuca field goal after getting to the 1-yard-line to cut the margin to 21-3 at the break.

"They were challenging us to throw the football. They wanted us to go over the top on them and they wanted to man us up," Camp said. "I felt that we had guys out there

that could take advantage of them but every time we caught something we fumbled it. Or a holding penalty. Or something."

Three third-quarter turnovers by EOU — fumbles by Victor Dias and Tanner Zenke and a Kai Quinn interception — doomed any comeback hopes for Eastern. The Mountaineers, who have been hampered by turnovers in the early stages of the season, committed four on Saturday, and have nine on the season.

Eastern also had nine penalties, a handful of which came at inopportune times and quelled promising starts to drives.

"Every time that we got something going we either turned the ball over or we got a penalty," Camp said. "It was totally different from last week. That's not something that we're used to with our

guys." Fike turned the first of those three third-quarter EOU turnovers into a 1-yard touchdown run, and Campbell hit Trevor Hoffman for a 59-yard scoring pass in the fourth for a 32-point lead.

Backup quarterback Joey Aliff scored on a 1-yard keeper in the fourth quarter for the final margin.

Eastern's offense picked up after a slow first half, but finished with just 232 yards and was held to 58 yards on the ground. Dias led the way with 45 yards rushing, but the rest of the team netted just 13 yards.

Quinn was 11-for-26 passing for 127 yards and was picked off twice. Aliff in relief was 5-for-11 for 45 yards. Christian Blaser had 44 yards receiving, and Isaiah Thomas had a team-best five catches and added 36 yards.

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