

Sports

COLLEGE FOOTBALL

Second half lifts Boise State to win

ByTim Booth
AP Sports Writer

BOISE — Hank Bachmeier’s arm and poise carried No. 20 Boise State until Robert Mahone took over in the fourth quarter.

And the Broncos’ defense? It continued to stymie opponents in the second half, even if it finally gave up some points.

“The second half we just went out there and tried to put the game away,” Mahone said. “It was a close game, but the second half we knew we had to finish and that’s what we did.”

Bachmeier threw for 263 yards and two touchdowns, Mahone rushed for a pair of scores in the fourth quarter, and Boise State pulled away in the second half for a 30-19 win over Air Force on Friday night.

Bachmeier’s arm made up for a Broncos’ running game that was ineffective until the fourth quarter. He hit CT Thomas on a 36-yard touchdown pass in the first half while getting crunched by a defender, and added a 28-yard TD toss to tight end John Bates late in the third quarter to give the Broncos a 17-13 lead.

Mahone added a pair of 10-yard TD runs in the fourth as the Broncos (4-0, 1-0 Mountain West) won their 20th straight conference opener.

Bachmeier was 19 of 26 passing in another impressive performance by the freshman in just his fourth start.

“He came back in the second half even better. He’s a strong kid back there in the pocket. He took a couple of licks, but he gets right back up,” Thomas said.

Air Force quarterback Donald Hammond III had an 8-yard touchdown run in the first half and threw a 31-yard TD to Geraud Sanders late in the fourth quarter.

Taven Birdow led Air Force (2-1, 0-1) with 67 yards rushing, but the second-best rushing attack in the country was held to 242 yards, more than 100 yards under its season average.

“They’ve got a really, really good team,” Air Force coach Troy Calhoun said.

Bachmeier also got help from his receivers, who made terrific catches. Thomas, who had a career-high 119 yards receiving, made a diving 29-yard catch to set up Eric Sachse’s 40-yard field goal in the first half. John Hightower made a juggling reception surrounded by two defenders on a key third-down in the fourth quarter, and Mahone scored on a 10-yard TD run on the next play to give the Broncos a 23-13 lead.

“We knew coming into the game Air Force does a great job being physical,” Thomas said. “Our mindset was we had to compete for the ball, every ball that comes our way.”

Tied 10-10 at halftime, Hammond spent the start of the second half in the injury tent while Isaiah Sanders took over at quarterback.

POWDER VALLEY FOOTBALL AT PINE-EAGLE

Powder Valley remains perfect

ByGerry Steele
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Powder Valley ran its Class 1A football season record to 3-0 Friday with a 46-14 Old Oregon League win over Pine-Eagle at Halfway.

“We’re 3-0, and it’s been a long time since we were 3-0. The kids are excited,” said first-year Powder coach Josh Cobb.

Cobb said the Badgers played every player on the roster, with equally positive results.

“We tried some different looks, and the kids stepped up,” Cobb said.

“Our younger guys played pretty big as well. It was one of my most favorite games so far because when we put our No. 2 guys in you wouldn’t have known they were No. 2 guys.”

Second-string quarterback Cole Martin ran for two touchdowns.

Starting quarterback Reece Dixon threw for a pair of first-quarter scores, and ran for another touchdown.

Moziss Nesser added a rushing TD.

“We just drove the ball up and down the field,” Cobb said. “We spread the

scoring across the board.”

Cobb said he didn’t have any individual stats on the game.

The Badgers also recovered three Pine-Eagle fumbles.

Cobb said the Badgers are gearing up for a tough stretch in their schedule the next three weeks.

Powder Valley hosts Elgin, travels to Crane then hosts Adrian/Jordan Valley during that stretch.

Powder is ranked ninth in the 1A ranking, Elgin fifth, Crane fourth and Adrian/Jordan Valley second.

PAC-12 FOOTBALL

Ducks defense stifles Stanford, 21-6

ByJosh Dubow
AP Sports Writer

STANFORD, Calif. — As soon as the final whistle blew, the Oregon players rushed to the corner of the end zone to celebrate with the large contingent of Ducks fans that made the trip to Stanford.

Celebrating victories over the Cardinal, big road wins in conference play and dominating defensive performances hasn’t happened often of late for Oregon.

That’s what made this one so sweet.

Justin Herbert threw two of his three touchdown passes to Jacob Breeland and No. 16 Oregon held a third straight opponent without a touchdown in a 21-6 victory over Stanford on Saturday.

“Physicality has been a big point of emphasis,” coach Mario Cristobal said. “When you go on the road, sometimes it’s a little bit ugly. But you never want to apologize for winning on the road because it’s tough, especially in conference. Identity wise we want to be physical, we want to be tough and we want to finish games.”



Tony Avelar / Associated Press

Oregon wide receiver Jaylon Redd (30) catches a pass in front of Stanford linebacker Jordan Fox Saturday.

The Ducks (3-1, 1-0 Pac-12) did all of that to end a three-game losing streak to the Cardinal (1-3, 0-2) and win the conference opener for the first time since 2014.

Oregon had lost 15 of its past 20 games away from Autzen Stadium, part of a stretch when the program fell from a level of dominance to becoming an also-ran.

“That’s something we really talked about,” Herbert said. “We kind of struggled on the road the past couple of years. This was a great opportunity for us to make our mark.”

Herbert finished 19 for 24 for 259 yards. He connected with Jaylon Redd and Breeland on scoring strikes in the first half and put the game away with a 24-yard pass to Breeland that made it 21-3 five plays after K.J. Costello was intercepted by Jevon Holland.

Oregon has gone three straight games without allowing a touchdown, but doing it against Stanford was far more impressive than against Nevada and Montana.

Costello completed 16 of 30 passes for 120 yards with an interception, while playing with a banged-up thumb.

Baker City Herald



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Entries must be postmarked by midnight this Thursday or dropped off at The Baker City Herald 4 p.m. this Friday.

Late entries will be considered invalid.

Mail entries to: Football Contest, Baker City Herald, PO Box 807, Baker City, OR 97814 or drop off at our office at 1668 Resort Street, Baker City (our front door faces Auburn Ave across from Clark Auto Electric, look for the striped awning!)

Limit 1 entry per person. Maximum of 2 entries per household per week. The contest is open to everyone in Baker County. No photocopies accepted. Employees of The Baker City Herald and their immediate families not eligible. Winners will be announced in Wednesday’s ad each week. Decisions of the judges are final.

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