

Sports

OREGON FOOTBALL

Ducks’ playoff dreams die in the desert with loss to ASU

■ Oregon nearly rallies in the fourth quarter, but a late touchdown pass seals game

By Jose M. Romero
Associated Press

TEMPE, Ariz. — Jayden Daniels’ big night on a prime-time national stage helped Arizona State stun No. 6 Oregon 31-28 Saturday night, giving the Sun Devils their biggest victory of the season. Daniels, a true freshman, completed 22 of 32 passes for 408 yards and three touchdowns and Arizona State intercepted two of Justin Herbert’s passes in the fourth quarter. Arizona State (6-5, 3-5 Pac-12) ended Oregon’s College Football Playoff hopes and its nine-game winning streak. The Sun Devils snapped a four-game losing streak with their first victory over a top-five team since Oct. 14, 2017, against then No. 5 Washington. Oregon (9-2, 7-1) has clinched the Pac-12 North title and a place in the conference championship game. But the Ducks’ best-case scenario is likely the Rose Bowl. “There’s lot of goals that go into a season. One of them was to have ourselves in a situation coming into this game to be part of every conversation and every kind of championship,” Oregon coach Mario Cristobal said. “But right now the only conversation that needs to take place for us as a team is the most logical one, that we get back

to our process of being 1-0.” The Sun Devils held on after Oregon scored three touchdowns in a 6:38 span in the wild fourth quarter. The Ducks, down 24-7 with 8:42 to play, scored twice on three-play drives. It took them 59 seconds to make it 24-14 on Cyrus Habibi-Likio’s touchdown run, then 43 seconds to get Herbert’s scoring pass to Johnny Johnson III. Then, with Arizona State facing third-and-16, Daniels hit Brandon Aiyuk in stride for an 81-yard touchdown strike with 3:54 to play. Sun Devils coach Herm Edwards said play action was the key to Daniels’ long completions. “We just felt that our matchup with our receivers, that we had the ability to beat them. We wanted one-on-one matchups with their corners and we go it,” Edwards said. Herbert and Johnson connected again for a touchdown with 2:04 left, but Arizona State was able to run out the clock. Daniels found holes in the secondary all night, hitting Frank Darby for touchdown passes of 57 and 26 yards. Daniels had eight completions of 17 yards or more as Arizona State scored 21 straight points after trailing 7-0 in the first quarter. Daniels completed his first

12 passes of the game. “Just trust, that is what we wanted to do,” Daniels said. “That is the skill set that we have. Brandon, Frank, Eno (Benjamin) and me.” Aiyuk had seven catches for 161 yards, Darby finished with four catches for 125 yards and running back Benjamin had 168 total yards. Christian Zendejas made three short field goals, including a 22-yard kick for a 17-point lead. “I came out here with a chip on my shoulder and I know they all did, too,” Darby said. Herbert was 20 of 36 for 304 yards. C.J. Verdell rushed for 99 yards on 18 carries and Johnson had 10 catches for 207 yards. Arizona State got the game’s only two takeaways, the first an interception by Jack Jones on the first play of the fourth quarter. Four plays later, Daniels hit Darby in the back of the end zone for a 26-yard touchdown pass, then found Benjamin for the 2-point conversion and a 21-7 lead. “They hit some big plays on us, some will be technique-oriented, some will be just them making a really good throw and catch,” Cristobal said. “Credit them for making those plays.” After throwing just one interception in the first eight

games of the season, Herbert, once considered a Heisman Trophy contender, has four in his last three games. “I made a bad decision and the defense made a play,” Herbert said. “We didn’t play like we could.” **MIGHTY FALLS** Aiyuk said he was glad to see Oregon in man-to-man coverage. “They think they are big bad mighty Oregon, so I kind of had a feeling that they were going to come out and do what they do,” Aiyuk said. “Last year we had them talking to themselves. A lot of big talkers. They didn’t say too much today.” **CENTER SWITCH** Oregon had to turn to starting right tackle Calvin Throckmorton to play center in the second half when Jake Hanson suffered an undisclosed injury. The Ducks’ experienced offensive line held up fairly well, giving up two sacks but paving the way for 172 rushing yards. The Ducks were also without junior wide receiver Jaylon Redd, who was held out due to injury, and freshman sensation Mycah Pittman. Redd has 42 catches for 396 yards and seven touchdowns. **THE TAKEAWAY** The Ducks will certainly fall in the College Football Playoff standings next week, and Herbert was inconsistent until the final minutes, when Oregon made a valiant comeback but couldn’t complete it. And a defense that had been one of the Pac-12’s best this season was torched for 535 total yards. **UP NEXT** Oregon hosts Oregon State in the Civil War rivalry game Saturday. Arizona State hosts Arizona in the Duel in the Desert game Saturday night.

OREGON STATE FOOTBALL

Heartbreak on the Palouse: Beavers fall in final seconds

■ On the verge of clinching its first bowl berth since 2013, Oregon State squanders a fourth-quarter lead to resilient Washington State

By Will Ferguson
Associated Press

PULLMAN, Wash. — Max Borghi predicted that Washington State would beat Oregon State to become bowl eligible. On Saturday night, Borghi made his prediction come true with a 2-yard touchdown run with 2 seconds left to lift Washington State to a wild 54-53 victory. The final drive of the game came after the Washington State defense stopped Oregon State on a fourth-and-6 with 1:10 left in the game. Anthony Gordon then led Washington State on a 10-play, 58-yard drive, capped by Borghi’s touchdown. The win makes Washington State (6-5, 3-5 Pac-12) bowl eligible for the fifth consecutive year. “It was a really wild game. I was proud of our guys for being tough enough to stick in there. We created a bunch of adversity for ourselves in the fourth quarter and then clawed our way out of it,” said Washington State coach Mike Leach. “The biggest thing in games like this is to have the resiliency to fight through them. You don’t know how it is going to unfold. The only way you are going to have a chance is if you fight through it and you are willing to do it from start to finish.” Gordon went 50 of 70 for 606 yards, six touchdowns and three interceptions. He broke the Pac-12 single season passing touchdown record formerly held by Jake Browning and Jared Goff when he hit Renard Bell in the end zone with 1:44 left in the third quarter. Gordon has 45 passing touchdowns for the season. “It’s pretty awesome,” Gordon said. “I really haven’t had the time to reflect on it. The individual awards aren’t really all that important to me to be honest though. It just goes to show if you keep your head down and work hard anything is possible. I’m just real proud of the way our team battled. The defense did an unbelievable job of getting that stop on fourth down and giving us a chance and I’m so happy the way we pulled through on that last drive.” Renard Bell had 108 receiving yards and two touchdowns and Dezmon Patmon added 75 yards and two touchdowns for the Cougars. Both Deon McIntosh and Calvin Jackson also caught touchdown passes and had 93 and 76 yards receiving for the Cougars. Borghi rushed for 44 yards and two touchdowns. Oregon State (5-6, 4-4) recovered an onside kick on their 49, down three with 7:30 left in the fourth quarter and converted it into a touchdown on the ensuing drive. The Beavers were up 53-42 with 4:17 left in the game before Washington State closed out the game with two consecutive touchdowns. “It was a heck of a football game. It was back-and-forth and credit Washington State for continuing to answer,” said Oregon State coach Jonathan Smith. “We got ourselves down by 11, responded with a couple of quick scores to take the lead and it goes back-and-forth. Our guys played their hearts out, they really did, but we were just one play short.”

Cavaliers hand Blazers fourth consecutive loss

By Steve Herrick
Associated Press

CLEVELAND — Riding a six-game losing streak, coming off a 42-point loss and playing without their leading scorer seemed to be a negative set of circumstances for the Cleveland Cavaliers. Those obstacles didn’t matter Saturday night. Jordan Clarkson made all six of his 3-point attempts

and scored 28 points to help Cleveland beat the Portland Trail Blazers 110-104. Clarkson’s season high, which included 14 points in the fourth quarter, came a night after he was held scoreless in a 143-101 loss at Dallas. The Cavaliers completed a stretch of five games in seven days Saturday after the team arrived in Cleveland around 3 a.m. Larry Nance Jr. started in place of forward Kevin Love, who missed his second game this week because of a sore back. “Obviously, last night wasn’t necessarily a morale booster,” said Nance, who had 11 points and 12 rebounds. “To come back in and win this game, I’m really excited to see.” Cleveland coach John Beilein has remained upbeat despite his team’s difficult stretch that dropped the Cavaliers’ record to 5-11. “I didn’t see any fatigue,” he said. “I didn’t see anything but effort to try and win the game. There are a lot of teams that have had tough schedules, that have had injuries and are rebuilding. We just have to stick together so we can be

better than this.” Tristan Thompson scored 25 points and Cleveland held off a Trail Blazers’ run in the fourth quarter. Damian Lillard returned after missing two games because of back spasms and scored 23 points, but Portland dropped to 5-12 and is 2-10 this month. The Trail Blazers have lost four straight and five of seven. Portland advanced to the Western Conference finals last season, but the Trail Blazers are struggling without center Jusuf Nurkic, who broke his leg in March and is still sidelined. “I’m not a big worrier, but there is reason for concern on certain things,” Lillard said. “Because of the expectations for us, absolutely, it’s disappointing.” Carmelo Anthony, playing his third game with Portland, scored 11 points in 35 minutes. Anthony was 5 of 15 from the field and missed all eight of his 3-point attempts. “Physically I feel great,” he said. “Mentally I feel great. We’ve all been in situations like this before where we’re trying to figure it out.”

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