

# Sports

OREGON FOOTBALL

## Ducks shrug off shaky 1st half, soar past Washington State

■ Oregon rebounds after early turnovers to win 43-29 and improve record to 2-0

PULLMAN, Wash. (AP) — Running back Travis Dye of No. 11 Oregon recalled the bitter feeling after the Ducks lost at Washington State in 2018, and he didn't plan to experience it again Saturday night.

Dye caught a pair of second-half touchdown passes and Oregon came back to beat Washington State 43-29.

"I remember every little detail of 2018," Dye said. "It stuck in my mind ever since we left that field."

He called Saturday's win "a thirst quencher."

Tyler Shough threw for 312 yards and four touchdowns for Oregon. The Ducks improved to 2-0, piling up 582 yards of total offense.

Freshman Jayden de Laura threw for 321 yards and two touchdowns for Washington State (1-1), which led at halftime but could not stop the Ducks in the second half. Freshman defensive back Ayden Hector recovered three Oregon turnovers in the first half.

"We're looking like a real great offense right now," Dye said. "We are moving and grooving way better than we have in the past."

Oregon coach Mario Cristobal said the touchdown Oregon scored in the closing seconds of the second quarter was key. It cut Washington State's halftime lead from 12 to five points.

"Certainly a huge momentum swing," he said. "Guys went into the locker room with a lot of juice, a lot of energy."

Shough played well, especially in the second half, Cristobal said.

"He made some great plays and some great decisions. Great job with protections, used his feet to get out of stuff," Cristobal said. "Just showing tremendous maturity in just a second start, so big days ahead for Tyler."

"We just started slow," Shough said. "We had those turnovers in the first half and those were crucial to our scoring ability. We just came out in the second half, saying that



Bob Hubner/WSU Photos

Oregon's Jaylon Redd runs against the Washington State defense Saturday, Nov. 14.

*"We just came out in the second half, saying that we're going to take care of the ball."*

— Tyler Shough, Oregon QB

we're going to take care of the ball and each do our job individually and that showed."

"We felt they couldn't stop us when we were doing our job, and not turning the ball over," Shough said.

Oregon scored 29 points in the second half, and it was the second straight game in which the Cougars have given up a lot of points after halftime.

"I don't think we're wearing down," Washington State coach Nick Rolovich said. "They're playing their hearts out."

He did point to the Cougars recovering three straight Oregon turnovers in the first half and only producing 10 points out of those.

"That game should have been different at halftime," Rolovich said.

He added that de Laura, a true freshman, played well in only his second college outing.

"He looked comfortable from beginning to end," Rolovich said.

Oregon went 92 yards in 15 plays on its first possession, and Shough hit tight end DJ Johnson with a 13-yard scoring pass for a 7-0 lead.

Washington State replied with an 18-yard touchdown pass from de Laura to Lucas Bacon. The Cougars attempted a 2-point conversion but de Laura's pass was incomplete.

Dye fumbled on the next possession and Hector recovered for the Cougars near midfield. De Laura hit Renard Bell with a 44-yard reception and, three plays later, connected with Bell on a 4-yard touchdown pass for a 13-7 lead.

Hector intercepted Shough's pass on Oregon's next possession but the Cougars had to punt.

Oregon's CJ Verdell was stripped of the ball on their next possession and Hector pounced on the fumble for his third recovery. But the Cougars had to settle for Blake Mazza's 39-yard field goal.

Mazza added a 49-yarder for a 19-7 lead with 20 seconds left in the first half.

Oregon was not done. Shough completed a 57-yard pass to Jaylon Redd to the Oregon 3, and Verdell ran in for the touchdown to cut Washington State's halftime lead to 19-14.

"That took an emotional toll," Rolovich said. "I stress being the last one to score before halftime."

The Ducks shut down Washington State's offense in the third quarter, holding the Cougars to 30 yards.

Meanwhile, Shough threw a 16-yard touchdown pass to Dye late in the third to lift the Ducks to a 21-19 lead. He added a short touchdown pass to Johnny Johnson in the opening seconds of the fourth to push the lead of 28-19.

Washington State put together a drive to Oregon's 8, but had to settle for a 25-yard field goal by Mazza to cut Oregon's lead to 28-22.

Oregon replied immediately as Shough fired a 71-yard scoring pass to Dye, and then ran in the conversion, to lift Oregon to a 36-22 lead with just over 8 minutes left.

OREGON STATE FOOTBALL

## Huskies hold off Beavers, 27-21

■ Oregon State disputes calls that running back Jermar Jefferson was stopped short of first down line on successive runs near goal line late

By Tim Booth  
AP Sports Writer

SEATTLE — Jimmy Lake's voice didn't finally start to fail until the postgame celebration in the locker room.

It wasn't the prettiest debut, but Lake was a winner in his first game as Washington's coach after the Huskies held off Oregon State 27-21 on Saturday night.

Sean McGrew rushed for 91 yards and a touchdown, Dylan Morris added a 1-yard TD plunge, and the Huskies won their ninth straight over the Beavers.

"That was a joyous locker room right there. That's where I probably lost my voice was right there," Lake said. "I'm just so proud of those guys for not flinching during this tumultuous time."

McGrew was part of a multifaceted rushing attack by Washington (1-0 Pac-12) that rolled up 267 yards rushing. McGrew had just nine carries and scored on a 21-yard run. Kamari Pleasant added 61 yards and a 15-yard TD. Richard Newton ran for 15 carries for 41 yards.

"You all got to see a little bit of it tonight, or a lot of it tonight," McGrew said. "And hopefully there is a lot of it more to come the rest of the season."

Lake took charge at Washington after Chris Petersen stepped away from coaching after last season. The debut was delayed after last week's game at California was canceled due to COVID-19 concerns with the Golden Bears.

Peyton Henry kicked a 23-yard field goal with 1:45 left, the only points scored in the second half by either team.

Jermar Jefferson rushed for 133 yards and a TD for Oregon State, his 12th career 100-yard rushing game. But Jefferson was stopped twice needing less than a yard from the Washington 5 early in the fourth quarter and the Beavers (0-2 Pac-12) on the cusp of taking the lead. Jefferson was stuffed on third- and fourth-down runs, although the Beavers appeared to get unfriendly spots on both runs.

"I felt like I got it the first time when it was third-and-inches but, you know, they said we didn't," Jefferson said. "So I felt like I got it. We felt like we got it."

Oregon State coach Jonathan Smith said he believed Jefferson had converted on third down and was thinking of first-and-goal plays.

"What my angle was on the third down call I thought we had it. We were beginning to talk about first down," Smith said. "And then the chains came out and obviously then we had to be prepare for either way it went."

B.J. Baylor had a 3-yard TD run for Oregon State in the second quarter and Jefferson scored from the 4 just before halftime.

Tristan Gebbia was just 11-of-24 passing for 85 yards and was intercepted on a deflected fourth-down pass with 54 seconds left.

"We did not play perfect, or well enough to win," Smith said. "But I know we competed until the end and had a couple opportunities to win the game."

The question of who would be Washington's starting quarterback was answered when Morris, a redshirt freshman, took the first snap. The expectation was either Morris or graduate transfer Kevin Thomson would be the starter. But Thomson was in street clothes on the sideline and Morris directed the Huskies.

## USC rallies again late

TUCSON, Ariz. (AP) — Southern California had too many penalties, struggled in the red zone and found itself in a late hole for the second straight week.

The Trojans rallied to win a week ago and did it again Saturday.

Vavae Malepeai bullied his way through multiple tacklers for an 8-yard touchdown run with 25 seconds left, and No. 20 USC beat Arizona 34-30 on Saturday. USC (2-0, 2-0 Pac-12) was outplayed by Arizona State last week before scoring 2 touchdowns in the final 3 minutes of a 28-27 victory.

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