

# Boise St. loses 3rd straight home game

By JASON CHATRAW  
Associated Press

BOISE — Brad Roberts rushed for 138 yards and two touchdowns, Air Force's defense turned in another stifling performance, and the Falcons knocked off Boise State 24-17 Saturday night, Oct. 16.

Air Force (6-1, 3-1 Mountain West Conference), which hasn't started a season this well since 2002 when the Falcons began the season 6-0 before finishing 8-5, snapped a four-game losing streak to the Broncos.

After giving up two touchdowns on Boise State's first three possessions, Air Force's defense took over.

"We really settled in after the first three series and made some big plays when we really needed them," Air Force coach Troy Calhoun said. "We were able to keep them out of the end zone and came up with some key stops, even at the end of the game to hold them to just a field goal."

Boise State (3-4, 1-2) lost its third home game of the season, the first time that has happened since 1998. It's also the first time the Broncos have lost three straight at home since 1997.

"Everyone knows what the standard is here, whether it's on the road or at home," Boise State coach Andy Avalos said. "The standard is the competitive nature and the standard we have on the field is that it gives us an opportunity to be successful. And there are a lot of things we have to continue to improve on. ... We had some opportunities and we didn't execute."

After falling behind early, Air Force employed the nation's top rushing attack to grind down Boise State and take a 21-14 halftime lead.

Still clinging to a 21-14 lead late in the third quarter, the Broncos drove deep into Falcon territory to set up a first-and-goal at the 6. But Air Force prevented a score when Alec Mock sacked Hank Bachmeier on fourth-and-goal at the 2.

McKenly O'Neal missed a 30-yard field goal with 11:38 remaining that would have given Air Force a two-score lead, but he nailed a 28-yarder after Boise State fumbled a punt away at its own 15-yard line with 2:49 left to play to up the Falcons' lead to 24-14.

The Broncos got a 37-yard field goal from Jonah Dalmas with 49 seconds to go and recovered the onside kick, but Tre Bugg III picked off Bachmeier on first down — setting off a wild celebration along the Air Force sideline that spilled onto the field and drew five unsportsmanlike penalties.

After the win, Air Force players lingered on the field, taking selfies on Boise State's famed blue turf and relishing a victory in Boise for only the second time in the program's history.

And Calhoun tried to keep the win — and Air Force's best start in his tenure — in perspective.

"It's trite — and I say it over and over — but it's one game," Calhoun said. "We need to enjoy this one, but we need to get better and have some things we need to fix. We made a good number of mistakes, but we hung in there and persevered."

Bachmeier finished with 259 yards passing and a touchdown in the loss. Without leading rushers Cyrus Habibi-Likio and George Holani, the Broncos struggled just to get 78 yards rushing.

# No. 9 Oregon holds off California 24-17

By ANNE M. PETERSON  
Associated Press

EUGENE — Quarterback Anthony Brown shut out the noise to lead Oregon to a fourth-quarter comeback, then let the defense seal a victory over California.

Brown scored on an 11-yard keeper with 4:50 left and the ninth-ranked Ducks held off surprisingly tenacious Cal 24-17 on Friday night, Oct. 15.

The Golden Bears took a 17-10 lead early in the final quarter, but Brown answered with a 20-yard touchdown pass to Jaylon Redd to tie it. The Ducks (5-1, 2-1 Pac-12) pulled in front on Brown's scamper into the end zone.

Cal threatened on the ensuing possession. The Golden Bears got to the Oregon 3 after Chase Garbers' fourth-down pass to Kekoa Crawford preserved the drive, but his fourth-and-2 attempt with just 2 seconds left fell incomplete.

Oregon was coming off a bye following an overtime loss at Stanford. The rebound win was the Ducks' 16th straight victory at Autzen Stadium.

Travis Dye ran for 145 yards and a score as Oregon leaned on him in the absence of CJ Verdell, who was injured against Stanford and is out for the season.

Brown threw for 244 yards and a touchdown, while rushing for 44 yards and another score. But he faced boos from the Autzen crowd earlier in the game as Oregon's offense sputtered.

"He's a great leader, he's willing to step up in those big moments and he's not afraid to shy away from those moments. He shows that time and time again," said offensive lineman Ryan Walk. "We saw that tonight, when the going was getting tough there he stepped up, grabbed the offense, he said, 'We're going to get this thing right, let's get it going.'"

California (1-5, 0-3) has not defeated an FBS opponent this season — the team's lone win came against Sacramento State.

Garbers, who went into the game leading the league in total offense (281.2 yards



Chris Pietsch/The Register-Guard-TNS

Oregon quarterback Anthony Brown (13) stiff arms California's Josh Drayden on his way to the game-winning 11-yard touchdown in the fourth quarter of Friday's game, Oct. 15 at Autzen Stadium.

per game) and ranked third in passing yards (249 per game), threw for 242 yards and two touchdowns.

Cal, also coming off a bye, defeated Oregon last season in Berkeley, 21-17, with Garbers accounting for a pair of touchdowns, one via pass and the other on a keeper.

"It's very frustrating, extremely frustrating, so there's no other adjectives to use, it's very frustrating," Cal coach Justin Wilcox said.

Verdell, who led Oregon with 406 yards rushing and six touchdowns, injured his left leg during the Ducks' 31-24 overtime loss to Stanford. Bennett Williams, who had three interceptions this season, broke his leg in practice before the game and was also out for the season.

Camden Lewis' 49-yard field goal gave the Ducks the early lead, but Garbers answered with a 9-yard touchdown pass to Jake Tonges.

Oregon looked out of sorts at times on offense. The Ducks were driving late in the second quarter before Kris Hutson fumbled on the Cal 11 and the Golden Bears recovered.

Oregon went up 10-7 on Dye's 11-yard touchdown run and took the lead into halftime. Cal tied it in the third quarter on Dario Longhetto's 45-yard field goal.

Garbers found Gavin Reinwald with a 4-yard touchdown pass to give the Golden Bears a 17-10 lead.

"We went down and scored there late in the game. And then came back and they got a big kick return on us and then went right down and scored and tied it up," Wilcox said. "So the momentum seemed to shift a little bit. I thought the guys stayed with it and kept competing really in every phase, and that gave us a chance to win the game in the end, but unfortunately we didn't quite get it done."

### The takeaway

California: Wide receiver Nikko Remigio and offensive lineman Will Craig were back from injuries this week. ... Garbers has 43 career touchdown passes, tying him for eighth all-time at Cal with Aaron Rodgers.

Oregon: Oregon was without its marching band for the game because of a coronavirus outbreak among members. The university said 14 members tested positive. ... The Ducks saw the return of offensive coordinator Joe Moorhead, who missed the game against Stanford because of illness. ... Defensive end Kayvon Thibodeaux played the second half after sitting out the first because of a targeting penalty at Stanford.

### Counting on Travis

Cristobal was pleased with the way Dye stepped up in Verdell's absence. "His style of play, his energy, his leadership, which has really stood out all week long, made a tremendous impact. He was our guy that spoke to the team before the game as well, and his message was strong, and from the heart, and I think it really carried through and showed up in the fourth quarter," Cristobal said.

### Up next

Cal hosts Colorado next Saturday. Oregon visits UCLA at the Rose Bowl next Saturday.

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