

OREGON FOOTBALL

Ducks roll past Colorado, 49-10, for eighth straight win

Oregon has won eight straight after opening loss to No. 1 Georgia

BY PAT GRAHAM
Associated Press

BOULDER, Colo. — Bo Nix and the Oregon offense tried out some new and creative wrinkles. Not that they really needed to as a heavy favorite, but it sure was exciting.

A halfback pass back to Nix for a score. A linebacker plunging in from short. An offensive tackle switching his number to become eligible and hauling in a short TD pass — on his birthday, no less.

The do-everything Nix led the charge with two passing touchdowns, two rushing scores and his TD grab as the eighth-ranked Ducks resorted to some trickery to beat Colorado 49-10 on Saturday, Nov. 5.

"We're just dynamic," Nix nonchalantly said.

With the wind howling — 39 mph gusts — the Ducks (8-1, 6-0 Pac-12, No. 8 CFP) breezed to their eighth straight win since a 49-3 loss to No. 1 Georgia in the season opener.

The Ducks dialed up one gadget play after another, with offensive tackle Josh Conerly Jr. catching a 4-yard TD pass to open the scoring ("I didn't realize until after it's his birthday too," said Nix, who got him the perfect present). Linebacker Noah Sewell got the call, too, scoring on a 1-yard dive. Even Nix got into the trick-play act by catching an 18-yard touchdown pass from tailback Bucky Irving.

The Ducks are the first FBS team to have a receiving TD from an O-lineman, a receiving score from a QB and a rushing TD by a defensive player in the same game

since at least 1996, according to research provided by Oregon.

"When you're a team that's complete and you're hard to predict, it's harder to really prepare for you," said Oregon coach Dan Lanning, whose team was a 3½-point favorite, according to FanDuel Sportsbook. "For us, they're not really trick plays when you execute them consistently in practice."

The Ducks have now scored 40 or more points in eight straight games for the first time since 2014.

"We don't care about stats. Stats are for losers," Lanning said. "I'm sure our players take pride in it. I don't want that to come across the wrong way. The goal is always to win."

Nix turned in another strong performance, completing 20 of 24 passes for 274 yards and two scores. He also had two rushing



David Zalubowski/Associated Press

Oregon quarterback Bo Nix, right, hands off the ball to running back Noah Whittington in the first half against Colorado Saturday, Nov. 5, 2022, in Boulder, Colorado.

touchdowns to give him 13 on the ground. With his TD reception, Nix joined Marcus Mariota (2012 and '14) and Joey Harrington ('00) as Oregon quarterbacks who've been on the receiving end of scores since '96.

Irving finished with 120 yards rushing and, courtesy of his pass, posted an astounding pass efficiency rating of 581.2.

Oregon defensive back Christian Gonzalez tormented his former team with a pair of intercep-

tions. Gonzalez earned Pac-12 All-Conference honorable mention accolades last season for the Buffaloes before transferring.

"I had a lot of fun," Gonzalez said.

About the only thing that didn't go well for Oregon was Nix's backward, hook-shot-looking pass on fourth down near the end zone. Even that worked out, though, as two plays later Gonzalez intercepted a J.T. ShROUT pass. It set up a short Nix run to make it 35-10.

There was a scary moment for the Buffaloes (1-8, 1-5) in the fourth quarter when talented freshman receiver Jordyn Tyson went down with what appears to be a lower leg injury. Tyson had five catches for 137 yards, including an 81-yard score.

"Our thoughts and prayers are with Jordyn," Buffaloes interim coach Mike Sanford said.

NFL

Seahawks hold off Arizona Cardinals

BY BOB CONDOTTA
Seattle Times

GLENDAL, Ariz. — It was workmanlike. Maybe at times not all that exciting. And, for an instant, even a little anxiety-inducing.

But when it was over, the Seahawks had one of the most satisfying wins they've had in years here Sunday, Nov. 6, a 31-21 victory over the Arizona Cardinals that gave them a sweep over one of their most heated NFC West rivals.

It was also the Seahawks' fourth straight win, improving their record to 6-3 and keeping them in front of the NFC West by a game-and-a-half.

And it was achieved with another stellar performance by a Seattle defense that a month ago was drawing comparisons to some of the worst in team history.

Instead, in the span of a month — starting with a 19-9 win over Arizona on Oct. 16 in Seattle — the Seahawks have morphed into one of the best defenses in the NFL, keying the team's surge to the top of the NFC West.

Seattle held Arizona to just one offensive touchdown in the first three quarters before allowing a late touchdown as the clock was running out.

And when Arizona briefly grabbed the lead — and seemingly the momentum with a pick-six by linebacker Zaven Collins early in the third quarter — Geno Smith calmly led the Seahawks on touchdown drives on their next three possessions to retake the lead.

Smith finished the game 26-of-34 for 275 yards and two touchdowns, with his passer rating brought down to 106.9 due to the pick-six.

But more important, Smith helped Seattle convert seven straight third downs on the two second-half TD drives, once throwing a pass to Tyler Lockett to convert a third-and-12 and another time scrambling for 18 yards to convert a third-and-7.

A Smith pass of 9 yards to Lockett gave Seattle the lead for good in the third quarter at 17-14 following after the pick-six.

The 30-yard defensive score put the Cardinals ahead 14-10 at the 9:18 mark of the third quarter and for an instant seemed to indicate that weird things might again be happening in Arizona — where strange things usually happen for the Seahawks.

Instead, the Seahawks scored on their next three possessions on drives of 75, 81 and 85 yards to put away the Cardinals and send a team that a year ago started the season 7-0 to 3-6.

Arizona cut the lead to three with a 6-yard Tyler Murray pass to Zach Ertz with 3:35 left.

But the Seahawks drove 85 yards in five plays for a 5-yard TD run by Kenneth Walker III with 2:14 that put the game away.

Arizona drove 83 yards on nine plays the first time it had the ball, which seemed foreboding.

BAKER CROSS-COUNTRY AT CLASS 4A STATE MEET

Baker boys 5th, girls 10th at state meet

Sofie Kaaen places 10th in girls race, while Daniel Brown is 13th in the boys; Pine Eagle's Cooper Gover 10th in Class 1A/2A event

Baker City Herald

EUGENE — With a pair of sophomores leading the way, the Baker boys finished fifth and the girls were 10th in the team standings at the Class 4A state cross-country meet on Saturday, Nov. 5 at Lane Community College.

Sofie Kaaen was Baker's top individual finisher, placing 10th in the girls race.

Fellow sophomore Daniel Brown was 13th in the boys race.

In the team standings, the Baker boys, with 167 points, were just 3 points behind fourth-place Marist Catholic, at 164. The Dalles won the team title with 57 points.

La Grande won the girls team title.

In the boys Class 2A/1A race, also at Lane Community College, Pine Eagle senior Cooper Gover placed 10th in a time of 16:53.9.

"State was a great success," Baker coach Suzy Cole said. "The boys team goal was to place fourth or better at state and we missed that by 3 points. So that was disappointing for the kids, but they did everything they could have and you can't do any better than that."

Cole said Kaaen, who set a season personal best, finishing the 5-kilometer course in 20:20.5, ran "a very impressive race for a sophomore."

"She stayed tough in a group of about five or six runners battling for the sixth to 10th medal positions," Cole said. "When that happens it makes it even more of a mental and physical race knowing that she could not give up any positions if she wanted to medal. She hung in there really tough even with another runner making one last move on her the last 100 meters."

Cole said she was pleased with all seven Baker girls. Freshman Gwen Rasmussen was Baker's second runner, finishing 38th overall in 21:54.5.

"With half the team running at state for the first time, they all worked together really well and ran like a team," Cole said. "I am very proud of them and the way they have competed all season."

On the boys side, Cole said Brown was in the back of the pack in the first half mile but moved up steadily, running a season personal best of 17:30.2.

"He is still learning his best race strat-



Left: Baker sophomore Daniel Brown nears the finish line at the Class 4A state cross-country meet Saturday, Nov. 5, 2022, at Lane Community College. Brown finished 13th to lead Baker to a fifth-place finish in the team standings. Right: Baker sophomore Sofie Kaaen with her 10th-place medal at the Class 4A state cross-country meet on Saturday, Nov. 5, 2022, at Lane Community College.

egy and becoming his own runner more and more," Cole said. "Last year he was 36th at state, so looking forward to what next year might have in store."

"Thaddeus Pepera also ran really tough," Cole said.

"He knew he had to go out hard and he did just exactly that and hung on for a long time, but unfortunately there was just too much race. Thaddeus did just what he had to do so I am really proud of his courage."

Freshman William Spriet set a personal season record, finishing 36th, and Baker's second finisher, in 18:08.8.

"William Spriet continues to grow as a runner," Cole said. "He started the season out being our 10th runner and every race he kept getting stronger and more confident. He is physically and mentally tough and has great potential in his career."

Cole said the state meet was a fitting conclusion to the season, with both the boys and girls teams qualifying.

"All the kids have been just amazing this year," Cole said. "They race with all their heart and do what is asked of them every day. We are really going to miss our seniors, Thaddeus Pepera, Jordan Mills, Seth



Stephanie Brown/Contributed Photos

Mastrude and Angel DeArcos. I could not ask for better leadership, both on the team and on the course. My team, and especially us coaches, are going to miss these four young men."

Class 4A state cross-country meet

BAKER BOYS INDIVIDUAL RESULTS

- Daniel Brown, 13th, 17:30.2
- William Spriet, 36th, 18:08.1
- Thaddeus Pepera, 38th, 18:09.7
- Hunter Bingham, 48th, 18:16.8
- Jordan Mills, 58th, 18:30.0
- Angel De Arcos, 66th, 18:38.9
- Nathaniel Jensen, 78th 19:12.1

BAKER GIRLS INDIVIDUAL RESULTS

- Sofia Kaaen, 10th, 20:20.5
- Gwen Rasmussen, 38th, 21:54.5
- Maddy Gagnon, 48th, 22:22.2
- Anastasia Johnson, 69th, 23:44.6
- Katie Spaugh, 75th, 24:09.0
- Paige Marlia, 85th, 24:49.6
- Sage Cuzick, 86th, 24:58.6

OREGON STATE FOOTBALL

Beavers lose heartbreaker at Washington

Huskies get game-winning field goal with 8 seconds left

BY TIM BOOTH
Associated Press

SEATTLE — Michael Penix Jr. has accomplished plenty in his first season as the quarterback at Washington. He added a game-winning, fourth-quarter drive to the list on Friday night, Nov. 4.

Peyton Henry made a 22-yard field goal with 8 seconds left to cap a 92-yard scoring drive, and Washington held off No. 23 Oregon State 24-21 to preserve its hopes in the Pac-12 championship game race.

The Huskies took over at their own 3 with 4:33 left and Penix led the march downfield against the Beavers' stingy defense.

Penix was 9 of 13 for 66 yards on the drive, including key third-down conversions to Devin Culp, Ja'Lynn Polk and a



Naji Saker for The Oregonian

Oregon State's Kitan Oladapo (No. 28) breaks up a pass intended for Washington's Jalen McMillan but is called for pass interference as the No. 23 Beavers face the Huskies in a Pac-12 football game at Husky Stadium in Seattle on Friday, Nov. 4, 2022. Washington won 24-21.

diving catch by Cameron Davis. Penix's push pass to Giles Jackson for 12 yards got the Huskies to the Oregon State 2. After a pair of incompletions, the Huskies set up for the short field goal and Henry delivered the winning kick.

"We knew if we gave them the ball back we probably

wouldn't have got it back," Penix said. "We wanted to make sure that we took advantage of that drive and make sure we got down there and got some points on the board. And it was great that we took up all that clock."

Washington (7-2, 4-2 Pac-12) won its third straight and

kept alive its slim hopes of finding a spot in Las Vegas in the conference title game.

"Credit to those guys for finishing the game better than we did ultimately," Oregon State coach Jonathan Smith said.

"It was back-and-forth battling. Some missed opportunities out there and they made one or two more plays than us."

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NATIONAL BASKETBALL ASSOCIATION

Suns roll past Trail Blazers

BY DAVID BRANDT
Associated Press

PHOENIX — The Phoenix Suns got beat in dramatic fashion by the Portland Trail Blazers on Friday night, Nov. 4.

In response, they made sure there was zero doubt about Saturday's outcome.

Devin Booker scored 24 points, Chris Paul added 15 and the Suns cruised to a 102-82 win over the Trail Blazers.

"We have a team full of sore losers," Suns coach Monty Williams said.

"I knew the way that we lost last night, we'd get an intentional effort to-night on both ends. Defensively, I thought we were locked in."

"That's what good teams do — make adjustments. We had a chance to do that tonight."

— Devin Booker

The teams were playing each other for the second straight night. The Blazers won 108-106 on Friday when Jerami Grant hit a baseline jumper at the buzzer.

By comparison, Saturday's game was a snoozer. The Suns pushed to a 61-40 halftime lead and had a comfortable advantage throughout the second half.

"That's what good teams do — make adjustments," Booker said. "We had a chance to do that tonight."

Phoenix has the best record in the Western Conference with a 7-2 mark. Both of the losses have come to the Blazers, who fell to 6-3. The teams have already completed their three-game series in the regular season.

Grant scored 14 points and rookie Shaedon Sharpe added 13. The Blazers were held to their season low in points.

"We didn't pass the ball enough," Blazers coach Chauncey Billups said. "Kind of played a little one-on-one too much in the first half. That is an elite defense."

The Blazers were again playing without their high-scoring backcourt of All-Star Damian Lillard and Anfernee Simons because of injuries. The two have combined to average 53 points per game.

Booker scored 16 points while Paul had 13 before halftime. The Blazers shot just 34.8% from the field in the first half.

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