

OREGON FOOTBALL

Gimpy Nix, Ducks hold off Utah

Oregon remains in contention for the Pac 12 title game

BY TIM BOOTH
Associated Press

EUGENE — Bo Nix started the week as a hobbled spectator sitting in the training room getting rehab. He ended it still hobbled, but celebrating on the field after helping keep alive Oregon's hopes of getting back to the Pac-12 championship game.

Nix threw for 287 yards and one touchdown despite a lower leg injury, Oregon intercepted three of Utah quarterback Cameron Rising's passes and the 12th-ranked Ducks knocked off the No. 10 Utes 20-17 on Saturday night, Nov. 19.

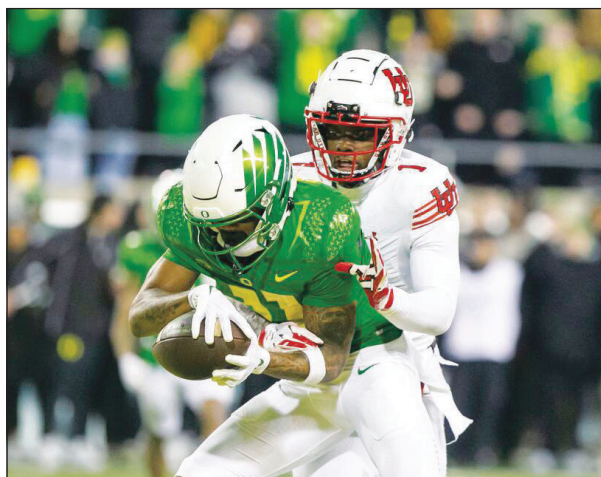
A week after watching their hopes at the College Football Playoff evaporate, the Ducks rebounded with a gutsy effort that preserved their chances of a fourth straight trip to the conference championship game.

And it was personified by their banged-up quarterback. "For him to go out there and have a gutsy performance was really important and special for this team," Oregon coach Dan Lanning said.

The Ducks (9-2, 7-1, No. 12 CFP) need only a win over rival Oregon State next Saturday, Nov. 26 to book their ticket to Las Vegas and a date with Southern California.

Nix was clearly limited after suffering an injury to his right ankle/foot late in last week's loss to Washington that snapped Oregon's 23-game home win streak. He threw a 4-yard TD pass to Troy Franklin in the first half and Bucky Irving added a 10-yard TD run as the Ducks built a 17-3 halftime lead.

Camden Lewis added



Sean Meagher/The Oregonian

Oregon wide receiver Troy Franklin pulls in a touchdown catch in the second quarter as the No. 12 Ducks host the No. 10 Utah Utes in a Pac-12 college football game at Autzen Stadium in Eugene on Saturday, Nov. 19, 2022.

field goals of 30 and 41 yards for the Ducks, the second of which came early in the fourth quarter and proved to be the winning points.

Nix finished 25 of 37 passing and his own interception proved not to be costly for the Ducks. Nix's first carry of the night came with less than 2 minutes remaining when he faked a pitch, dived for 2 yards and picked up the clinching first down for the Ducks.

Nix entered the night the third-leading rusher on the season for the Ducks averaging more than 50 yards per game and had 14 rushing touchdowns. Lanning said the quarterback was asked before that run if he was capable of pulling off the play. "The guy's got heart. He cares about the game, cares about his team. I think it shows in the way he plays," Lanning said.

Karene Reid returned a fumble 11 yards for a touchdown early in the third quarter on a failed reverse by the Ducks and sparked the Utes. Jaylen Dixon added an 18-yard touchdown run on a jet sweep later in the third quar-

ter, but the Utes (8-3, 6-2, No. 10 CFP) couldn't overcome an off night from their quarterback.

Rising was 21 of 38 passing, set a career-high with the three interceptions and flubbed an easy throw on fourth down in the fourth quarter deep in Oregon territory. Two of the picks came off deflected passes, but the costliest was Rising's late throw across the middle that Oregon's Bennett Williams nabbed near midfield with 4:15 remaining, his second pick of the game.

Utah got the ball back, but Rising couldn't connect with Solomon Enis on a fourth-and-6 throw from midfield in the closing minutes.

"Cam didn't seem to find much of a rhythm like he usually does," Utah coach Kyle Whittingham said.

Utah tight end Dalton Kincaid had 11 catches for 99 yards and was targeted 17 times by Rising. No other Utah receiver had more than five catches and Rising's worst throw of the game may have been the fourth-down pass he threw low intended for Kincaid at the Oregon 26

with 6:54 left.

That 11-play drive was one of three long possessions where the Utes came away empty. Utah had drives of 12 and 14 plays in the first half and failed to score.

"Just wasn't good enough," Rising said. "Didn't do what we needed to do to be successful, and kept shooting ourselves in the foot. I've got to play better, personally."

Williams didn't have an interception on the season but came up with two against Rising. Noah Sewell had Oregon's other interception.

"Today our offense wasn't able to carry us all the way. Our defense has to step up at some point," Williams said. "I don't think that's on the coaches. I don't think that's on anybody but us, especially in the back end."

The takeaway

Utah: The Utes hope of getting back to Las Vegas and defending their conference title took a major hit. While UCLA's loss to USC benefited the Utes, the Ducks only need a win over Oregon State to clinch their spot in the championship game and send Utah to a secondary bowl game.

Oregon: The Ducks were bullied last season in a pair of losses to the Utes getting outscored 76-17 in the two setbacks. Oregon's defense limited the Utes to just 326 total yards and Utah RB Tavion Thomas was held to 55 yards on 19 carries. The Ducks gave up 522 yards in last week's loss to Washington.

Up Next

Utah: The Utes close out the regular season at Colorado next Saturday, Nov. 26.

Oregon: The Ducks travel to Corvallis to face rival Oregon State next Saturday, Nov. 26 at 12:30 p.m.

OREGON STATE FOOTBALL

Beavers rout Sun Devils

Oregon State's first win as a ranked team in a decade

BY JACK THOMPSON
Associated Press

TEMPE, Ariz. — With Saturday's business taken care of, Oregon State can finally talk about next week's rivalry game against Oregon.

Led by Damien Martinez's 138 yards and two touchdowns, the 25th-ranked Beavers easily handled Arizona State 31-7 on Saturday, Nov. 19. Oregon State coach Jonathan Smith said after the game that he was "trying to get on the airplane" before thinking about the 12th-ranked Ducks, who visit Corvallis Saturday, Nov. 26.

Linebacker Easton Mascarenas-Arnold had no hesitation, though: "I've been thinking about the Ducks (since) before the season. We're ready for that." Mascarenas-Arnold was part of a defense that held the Sun Devils to 60 yards of offense in the second half Saturday.

The Beavers (8-3, 5-3 Pac-12) had several injuries, particularly on defense, and had lost 19 of their last 20 games at Arizona State — winning only in 2009 in the last 50 years.

"It was a challenge, but also I think guys were excited," Smith said of his team. "I was confident that these guys had the right approach. We got some veterans on that side of the ball."

Martinez scored a touchdown on Oregon State's first drive. After Arizona State tied the game on Xazavian Valladay's 11-yard run with 1:53 left in the half, the Beavers went 75 yards in four plays, two of them passes from Ben Gulbrandson to a wide-open Jack Velling. The first went for 35 yards, the last for 21 and a touchdown just 45 seconds after the Sun Devils scored.

Oregon State got the ball to start the second half and marched 83 yards in 10 plays, with Martinez running it in from 12 yards. After Arizona State failed to convert on fourth-and-9 from Oregon State's 41-yard line, the Beavers sealed it with Gulbrandson scoring from 8 yards a quarterback draw on third-and-goal, making it 28-7 with 10 seconds left in the third quarter.

Martinez has gained at least 100

yards in five straight games, the longest team rushing streak since Stephen Jackson in 2003.

"We talk about that (among the running backs)," Martinez said. "After contact, it's 'keep your legs running, keep your head down.'"

Smith said the freshman back is "physical. He won't go down easy ... he's getting to the line, guys are starting to hang, he's making guys miss, he's pushing the pile, he's finishing runs."

Gulbrandson finished 15 of 21 for 188 yards.

Valladay finished with 109 yards in 13 rushes for the Sun Devils (3-8, 2-6), who played their final home game of the season. They fell to 2-6 under interim coach Shaun Aguano, who replaced Herm Edwards on Sept. 20.

"We played a disappointing game in all phases," Aguano said. "We played hard, but it was just a huge disappointment."

Trent Bourguet, who came out of last week's loss at Washington State with a leg injury, started at quarterback for the Sun Devils and was 20 of 32 for 122 yards. He ran eight times for 26 yards.

Stepping in

Gulbrandson has thrown for 1,005 yards and eight TDs with one interception and two rushing touchdowns since replacing injured starter Chance Nolan (neck) for the Beavers' last six games. OSU is 5-1 in those games.

"I thought he was really good," Smith said. "Threw it well, made good decisions, (we) protected him for the most part. I thought it was one of his better games."

"We threw it early, he prepares well, recognized the coverage. Ben was efficient and played with great effort."

The takeaway

Oregon State: The Beavers, already bowl-eligible, won as a ranked team for the first time since 2012. They'll likely stay in the poll for next week's rivalry game in Corvallis.

Arizona State: One game left, then the search for a new coach likely begins. "It's all about pride," Aguano said of the game against Arizona, also finishing its season next week.

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Morning Worship 11 AM
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3520 Birch St, Baker City
541-523-4332

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WORSHIP GATHERING
10:00 AM

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www.BakerCityHarvest.org

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Baker City
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Service at 11 am
Live Streaming on Facebook

1734 Third Street, Baker City
541-523-3922
firstlutheranbakercity@gmail.com

Baker & Haines United Methodist Churches

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follow us on Facebook
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bakermc@thegeo.net
Pastor Leon Alden

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Wed Daily Mass 9 AM
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Sat 8 AM at Day Chapel

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Baker City Sunday Mass 9:30 am
St. Therese in Halfway 2 pm Sat
St. Anthony's in North Powder
11:30 Sun
541-523-4521
Corner of First & Church, Baker City

St. Stephen's Episcopal

Services at 9 AM
1st & 3rd Sundays, Holy Eucharist
2nd & 4th Sundays, Morning Prayer
5th Sunday, Morning Prayer

2177 First Street • Baker City
Entrance on 1st Street
Corner Church & First Streets
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Holy Eucharist

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2nd Service & Sunday School 10:00 AM

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Youth Pastor Silas Moe
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Sunday School 8:30am

Coffee served 9:15 AM - 9:45 AM

Pastor Troy Teeter
1250 Hughes Lane, Baker City
(Corner of Cedar & Hughes)
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www.bakernaz.com

Calvary Baptist Church

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