



CHAPTER 2

OREGON





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Pullman, Washington

October 9, 1915

The Oregon football team had a number of good reasons to be confident. On paper, the game would be lopsided. All of the Oregon linemen weighed in over 190 pounds. Even moving the fullback Carl Dietz to the line would give State, at best, an average of 175 pounds. Oregon had sent a scout to the Washington State alumni game, and he returned to tell Coach Bezdek, "Washington State will not be a factor." In truth, the scout only watched a few early plays and then disappeared to a local restaurant to get out of the weather. But add in such factors as a new Washington State coach with an entirely new system and Oregon had plenty of reasons to be dismissive.

Oregon Coach Hugo Bezdek waved off any talk of the upcoming game, announcing he would be holding out several key players, going so far as to tell an Oregon paper, "I will not use my Captain and star quarterback Cornell in the game, unless needed in a pinch."

As the Oregon team rolled into Pullman the day before the game, it brought with it a brackish bullying attitude that started with its coach and filtered its way down. Coach Bezdek fully promoted an ugly image of his team. Born in Prague, Czechoslovakia and immigrating to the United States as a child, he had played fullback

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at the University of Chicago. Since his arrival, his team had developed a loud and obnoxious reputation with a love for playing dirty. As he ran his team through its first afternoon workout, Bezdek launched a series of taunts heard all across the Pullman campus. "I can't hear you boys!" Bezdek bellowed. "You need to holler out on every play or else the hogs might get us!" Urged on by their coach, his players continued to laugh and join in the fun.

Nearby Washington State coaches didn't need to say a word. Bezdek had just handed their Washington State players all the motivation they would need.

Rally

On the Friday night before the first game of the season, the Washington State student body threw a rally for the team, complete with what promoters called "a red fire" that used special powders to turn the bonfire flames bright red. Unfortunately, the notion of tossing flammable powder into the fire did not set well with several sorority house mothers who refused to allow their women to attend. Despite the damper, the rally worked to help charge up the fans and, to some extent, the team.

Coach Dietz stood before the crowd, his team lined up behind him, all dressed in their best game day suits. Stepping forward, Dietz pressured his fans, "I do not predict victory or defeat. The team has been working hard, and I believe they have a good chance to win...if you students give us the right kind of support. Are you with us?" In response, the crowd of several hundred young men cried out their allegiance.

As the roar died down, someone yelled out to the team captain, "Hey, Clark, how about it?"

Clark stepped forward to speak for the team, "Well, Oregon has a fast and heavy team. But we have an entirely new system that looks pretty good to me. I put the odds at being fairly even." It was

a comment that left many in the crowd nodding in approval. After all, these fans would be happy watching a team that would just be able to compete.

Kick-Off

It was perfect weather for a Pullman afternoon in October. The skies were cloudy, with temperatures around the mid-70s. Oregon, having won the toss, had elected to kick off. Looking back into the stands, Dietz saw a crowd of some 1,200 fans gathered, mostly students to witness today's contest. It was a good-sized crowd, but one that looked rather sparse sitting in stands designed to hold nearly 3,000. Dietz allowed himself one moment to capture it all. He was about to stand tall as a head football coach for a respectable college team. The moment was broken only by the roar of the crowd as Washington State's Carl Dietz kicked the ball high into the air, sending it the entire length of the field. The Oregon receiver had barely caught the ball before the young WSC freshman Ronald Fishback was in his face. With nowhere for the runner to go, Oregon would begin the game on its own 9-yard line.

Eager to get into the game, the defensive unit from Washington State raced onto the field, joining those already on the kicking squad. While most coaches used special teams to train up their new players, Dietz believed in putting his best players on the field for every play. The large linemen for Oregon rumbled up to the ball, smiling as if they were all in on some big secret. Behind the center stood Oregon's young replacement quarterback, Orville Montieth, in place of the team's star player, Captain Anson Cornell. The ball snapped and the Oregon line rose to push forward with a direct run toward the middle, its two large backs pressing forward to make a path for the speedy running back. With lightning quickness, the WSC line shot into the gaps, or dove at the legs of the offense, creating a large pileup of bodies that made it nearly impossible to run. Into this log-jam, the running back tried to maneuver, only to be stopped cold.

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As quickly as the play ended, the WSC team was back on its feet and ready to go, a move that somewhat surprised the Oregon team, used to being able to meander back to the huddle and plot its next maneuver.

On the second play, WSC's defense suddenly became alive. Players were constantly shifting around, from side to side and from being down in a stance to standing straight up. In the confusion, the linemen for Oregon shot glances back and forth. How were they supposed to block someone who wouldn't hold still? At the snap of the ball, the WSC defense blasted into the offense with surprising speed. Rapidly exploiting this confusion, both Fishback and two other linebackers sprinted into the backfield to greet a surprised running back who could only put down his head and try to minimize the loss. Oregon had barely stood up from the play when WSC was back in position and ready to go. A confused Montieth looked over at his coach for instruction. The two had gone over a set list of plays they were to run, but no one had planned out that they would find themselves on third down with 14 yards to go and with their backs on the goal line at the beginning of the game. Coach Bezdek screamed back at his players, waving to his quarterback just to keep to the playbook. The next play called for a sweep to the side that would match his larger players out in the open field with the smaller State team. From the snap, Oregon expected to surge forward. Instead, the State team played match-up football and held the linemen in place. As the backfield sprinted out to the side, it was instantly met by the speedy players of WSC. First in line for Oregon was its large fullback who lowered his head to smash into the speeding Dick Hanley. But just as the fullback reached the point of impact, Hanley seemed to disappear, dropping to the ground and rolling into the fullback's legs. The momentum of the Oregon player sent him sprawling, while Hanley, in his well-practiced roll, popped up behind the blocker and sent the halfback into the ground with a quick tackle.

Just like that, Oregon had been stopped handily.

The speedy Washington State running back, Benton Bangs, raced into the game to receive the kick. Stepping back onto his 30-yard line, he grabbed the ball in mid-air, sprinting forward as quickly as possible. Across the field, a series of rolling blocks completely upset the timing of the Oregon defenders. With ease, Bangs moved the ball forward to mid-field. Coach Bezdek was beside himself. Racing onto the field, he screamed out at his players as they rose up to play defense. He paused in his rants long enough to see an entirely new team of players racing onto the field to play offense. Clearly, this Dietz had a few tricks up his sleeve. Coach Dietz was surprisingly calm, holding his quarterback close to go over strategy one more time.

All eyes were on the field to see what this new offense could deliver. Players were already set when the WSC quarterback Bull Durham raced to the field. "Apple-3," said Durham to the players as he passed behind them. A simple play, but one that best spoke to the development of this team from its very beginning. With the snap of the ball, the State offense operated as one. Large linemen, expecting to engage in a physical wrestling match, found linemen who dropped and attacked their legs. The ball snapped directly into the hands of the running back Bangs, which caused instant confusion as half the Oregon backfield followed quarterback Durham in the other direction. The eyes of the left side Oregon linebacker shot open when he realized a full gang of blockers was coming down on top of him. He never saw the lanky Washington State end, Dick Hanley, coming from his left to seal off the run.

When Bangs turned the corner, he saw nothing but empty field, which he would exploit for 40 yards before being dragged down from behind. Oregon's defenders had to get up quickly as they realized Washington State was already at the ball, ready for the next play. A quick snap and fullback Dietz came smashing into the line, untouched, to add another 10 yards. Washington State was now inside the Oregon 10-yard line. Two plays later, a substitution fullback, Basil Doane, was brought in as an extra backfield blocker.

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The move was a deception to mask the truth that Doane himself would be getting the ball. Slamming into the line, Doane put down his head, and with a surprising feat of strength, the young fullback pushed hard enough to drive back three Oregon defenders until he found himself standing in the end zone.

Just like that, WSC was up 7-0.

The stadium erupted with fans who could not believe how easily their Washington State team had just marched the ball down the field and scored. Neither could Oregon coach Bezdek, who realized this Washington State team was legitimate. Walking over to his start quarterback, Anson Cornell, he told him, "Warm up. We might just need you after all."

Washington State kicked off again, with the same result. Only this time, the return man had expected the speedy tackler and was able to side-step the attack to bring the ball back to the 25-yard line. At the line of scrimmage, the State defense, well-rested after being on the sideline, was again moving all over the place. The stronger Oregon linemen, many of whom played both offense and defense, began to grow frustrated with the scheme. Three times, Oregon plunged into the line. Three times they came up with little to show for it. For the second time in a row, they would have to punt without having made a first down.

Washington State's Bangs would return the punt to the team's own 35-yard line. By arrangement, Quarterback Durham began to work the ball inside the tackles. First left, then right, each play earned at least 5 yards. What was taking its toll was that as soon as the play ended, State was nearly back to the line of scrimmage and ready to strike again. On fourth down inside the Oregon 35-yard line, Oregon finally made a stand, holding Washington State on four downs.

Washington State had set the tempo for a fast-played game. A tempo that clearly favored the hometown team.

Switching now to defense, Washington State's defenders hit the Oregon team even harder. From the very first snap, it appeared WSC was in the backfield, even before the ball could be handed off. For Oregon, it would be the very same story—three tries and then a punt. The game was moving along at a rapid pace. It was barely the second quarter when State took over from its own 25-yard line.

“Apple-4,” Durham whispered to his players. But the play would not happen. On three, several Oregon players jumped off sides. Without a huddle, the defense was barely reset when State took off again with its sweep to the right. The Oregon players who had raced over to cover the play found themselves needing to sprint back to the line of scrimmage, barely in time for Washington State's Bangs running out to the left. Gaining 8 yards here, then 6 yards there, as frustrations began to mount on the Oregon side of the ball. Without warning, on the very next snap, the Oregon nose tackle, apparently tired of having Hank Applequist slamming his helmet into his chest, came up with a strong, right-handed fist that slammed into Hank's temple for a series of quick blows. Applequist, ignoring the assault, jumped up and was back over the top of the ball, ready for the next play. But Asa Clark noticed. Leaning back toward Durham, Clark asked for the inside Apple play—only Clark would not run behind the center. Instead, he pulled up and slammed his head directly into the offending Oregon lineman's face, giving him a bloody nose.

While a war was being waged along the trenches of the front line, the backfield continued to work its mastery. Soon, it was standing on the Oregon 20-yard line where Washington State had a secret play ready to go. By now, Oregon had been stretched out, running first to the left, then the right. “Bad Apple-3,” Durham whispered to his players. The team lined up in its standard formation. Durham called out the count. On the snap, Applequist shot the ball into the hands of a running Bangs, who sprinted to the right. Blockers, as they had this entire series, raced to catch up. But instead of pushing forward with their rolling blocks, the players suddenly stopped.

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Oregon, sensing a chance finally to catch the sprinting back for a loss, pressed hard to break through the wall. What it didn't notice was a missing fullback. Carl Dietz had run up to block at the line of scrimmage, only to slip out into the open area to the left side. With nowhere to run, Bangs suddenly stopped, lifted up the ball, and then tossed it far across the field to a wide-open Carl Dietz in the end zone.

Touchdown Washington State.

The crowd went crazy. Durham's kick was good and WSC now had a 14-0 lead with no sign of letting up. Even the newspaper writers in the press box had to be warned against cheering by the referee—something traditionally not allowed since journalists aren't supposed to show any favoritism.

Washington State's offense, rejuvenated by the moment, jumped up and down in excitement all the way to the sidelines. That is except for one player, Captain Asa Clark. While most eyes were on the ball, the Oregon line had set Clark up. The Oregon nose tackle had grabbed Clark's wrist and wrapped it under him as he fell to the ground. Two other linemen then slammed headlong into Clark as he was hunched over like a rabbit caught in a trap. As soon as the player struck, Clark could hear a tearing sound in his shoulder. The pain was immeasurable. Clark pulled his way free and headed over to the sidelines. He could not lift his right arm. With the celebration on the sidelines, no one noticed as Clark slipped to the bench and sat motionless.

On the Oregon sideline, Coach Bezdek remained frantic. Several of his top players, who hadn't even dressed for the game, were sent to the locker room for gear and were pressed into service. Pulling his star aside, Bezdek was seen screaming at his top player. The cocky quarterback, Cornell, brushed off the comment and strapped up his helmet to go to battle.

The move was not lost on Dietz, who pulled his defensive players

aside as the ball was being kicked off. Dietz would switch his defensive scheme, dropping back four linebackers and three defensive backs. With the new quarterback in the game, Oregon would surely want to pass the ball. With the Washington State defense jumping around before the snap, Oregon tried to counter by going to a quick count.

“Hike!” yelled Cornell, turning with the ball in his hands to set up for a pass. Shooting into the gaps, the Washington State linebackers found several openings. Oregon’s Cornell had hardly set up when he was suddenly scrambling for his life. Getting outside a tackler, he sprinted outside to the right, trying to outrun the speedy defense, but all that effort and energy was wasted since he barely made it back to the line of scrimmage. Cornell leapt to his feet, screaming at his players, “What the hell was that? Can’t you stop a bunch of farm boys?”

The words were not lost on Washington State. From that point on, WSC defenders took to making animal noises just prior to the snap. Typically, a defense is not supposed to holler when a quarterback is snapping the ball, but the line judge may have heard the “farm boy” comment as well, for it was clear he would allow the taunts. On the next snap, State was ready. Two defensive linemen smashed together into the same spot between offensive linemen. But instead of pushing forward, they pushed the players to the side. Running into the gap from behind, the speedy Fishback hit the opening at full speed. Cornell hadn’t even stopped to look for his receivers when he was slammed by the speedy linebacker. Both men crashed hard into the ground.

Washington State’s Ronald Fishback jumped quickly to his feet and offered his hand to help Cornell up. The Oregon quarterback reluctantly agreed, but as he stood, Fishback pulled him close, saying only “Moo.”

Not wanting to risk turning the ball over, Oregon decided to

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run for a first down, but it was again stopped short. The half was rapidly approaching, and not only had Oregon not had the ball past midfield, but it had yet to make a single first down. Playing it safe, Oregon would punt.

Doc Bohler glanced back to see a rather quiet Clark sitting by himself on the bench. As the ball was being punted, he walked over and said, "Hey, Clark, you O.K.?" Clark only nodded and strapped on his helmet with the only good arm he had left.

State now had the ball on its own 35-yard line. Running to the line of scrimmage, Clark moved the younger lineman Finney from his left guard spot over to tackle. Washington State quarterback Bull Durham had been told to keep the ball on the ground. There was still plenty of time left in the game. Noticing the change in the line, Durham just assumed it was something Coach Dietz had ordered. On the first play, fullback Carl Dietz grabbed the ball and headed over the right tackle. But as soon as the ball was snapped, Clark launched straight out at the Oregon nose tackle, delivering a solid left-handed fist to the temple. As the players fell into the pile, Clark didn't let up. Three, then four times, he slammed his hand into the nose tackle's head. Hidden under the pile, the referee didn't see what was happening. While Clark didn't have the leverage needed to strike a knockout blow, the message was clear: "Paybacks are coming."

The next play was to the right, but Clark shot straight out for one of the linebackers who had slammed into his shoulder. As Clark lowered his head to block, his left hand came crashing hard up into the linebacker's ribcage. "Ooof," was the only sound as the player's breath quickly left his body. Clark felt a sharp sting in his right shoulder as the player's partner decided to land a return blow; Clark simply turned and virtually ran the man over, dropping him to the ground, with Clark's knees driving straight into his chest. For Clark, this was no longer about a game. This was a personal war.

Neither of the Oregon players got up quickly, but they had no choice; Washington State was driving again. The line judge, who didn't have a clear vision of the melee, noticed the wobbly players holding their chests and stomachs. The referee went to Clark and said, "O.K., let's take it easy in there. I'm watching you."

The series had stalled with Washington State punting from the 50-yard line.

On the ensuing drive, Oregon got a break. State had begun substituting a number of younger players, one of whom was standing on the wrong side of the field when the runner broke loose. Using speed to make up for the gaffe, Washington State chased the runner down from behind. It was the first time Oregon had been onto the Washington State side of the field all game, with the ball just inside the 40-yard line.

Coach Dietz didn't seem to get too excited. Instead, he waved the droopy-headed defender back onto the field and praised him for catching up to the speedy back. With the closing seconds of the half, Oregon tried two rushed passes that went incomplete, and then he ran the ball off the right side to give their kicker a straight-on shot. Oregon's kick from the 35-yard line was good, and both teams headed into the locker room with the score WSC 14, Oregon 3.

What wasn't lost on Dietz was how several of Oregon's biggest players immediately dropped to the ground where they stood, choosing to sit instead of heading to the locker-room. The pressing Washington State offense had worn them out.

As Dietz looked up into the stands, he realized there were more fans now than at the game's beginning. As he led his players into halftime, he knew Coach Bezdek may have been caught off-guard, but he would not make the same mistake again. Players joyously jumped and cried out like the game had been won.

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At the back of the pack, Asa Clark walked slowly. Doc Bohler noticed how he was favoring his right arm. "When did you do that?" Bohler asked. Clark, in an attempt to be stoic, was trying to mask his pain. "Oh, it's fine; just a bit of a sprain." Doc then closed the ranks alongside his captain and lightly pressed up on his right elbow. The immediate wince on Clark's face told him everything he needed to know. He'd separated the shoulder. "Let's get inside; I'm going to take a look at it." Doc Bohler had earned his nickname because of the care and concern he showed his players. Once inside the locker room, Clark could hardly remove his shoulder pads without Doc's help. Doc pretended to be giving Clark an exam, but in truth, he knew the shoulder had been separated. "Yes, it looks like a slight separation, Clark. You're not going back in." Clark angrily replied, "The hell I'm not."

Dietz, who had caught the conversation, came over and reiterated Bohler's concerns. "Clark, I need you on this team for the entire season. It won't kill you to sit one half." Clark sat motionless. As his anger subsided, the pain in his shoulder began to become more intense. After a long pause, Clark finally nodded in agreement. At least he had gotten even for his injury.

Over in the Oregon locker room, Coach Bezdek had begun his angry rant the moment his team had arrived and he would continue nonstop until the referee stuck his head in to tell them it was time to go. Bezdek now had all of his best players into the lineup. Over in the Washington State locker room, Coach Dietz took an entirely different approach. Just as he had during the game, he continued to work on individual coaching sessions. Approaching a number of the younger players, Dietz told them to expect more playing time in the second half. While his defense was playing well, he knew Oregon would be coming at them full force in the second half. Stopping them early would be critical. Pacing now, Coach Dietz outlined their second half strategy. His only rallying words were to be ready. Pausing now, Dietz looked around the room. His players had not tasted such a victory before, and they were eager to get back onto the field. He didn't need to say another word.

Second Half

As the teams returned to the field, the players themselves took notice of the growing number of fans in the stands. Word had spread quickly across campus, and fans were eager to see the ending. Receiving the ball first, Washington State's running back, Benton Bangs, fielded the opening half kick-off and returned the ball to the 30-yard line where he quickly popped up ready to begin.

Dietz watched as Oregon's defense took to the field. The coach had now spread the defense out wide and brought more men up closer to the line of scrimmage. Recognizing the team would try to focus on the run, Dietz instructed his quarterback, Durham, to try a few passes to keep them off guard. At the first snap, Durham grabbed the ball and set up, quickly looking for a receiver. Zimmerman was having a tough time shaking his man loose. On the other side, Dick Hanley cut inside his man and waved for the ball. Durham tried to get in to him quick, but at the last instance, an Oregon linebacker reached out and tipped the ball to the ground.

Quickly back to position, Durham called out a running play to the left. The stacked up line was able to contain Bangs as he moved outside the tackle. On third down, Durham called Carl Dietz's number off the left side, where the absence of Clark was felt, but the fresh new guard opened enough of a hole for a good 6-yard run. It wasn't enough. Washington State would need to punt.

On the sidelines, Doc Bohler had noticed something he wanted to tell his defensive leaders. Bohler noticed that when an Oregon passing play was called, the large Oregon linemen would barely set their hands on the ground, knowing they would be standing straight up to pass block. Bohler told his linebackers that when they saw this move, the linebacker with the fewest linemen on his side would need to try and rush the quarterback, while the other would drop back to help cover a receiver.

After the Carl Dietz punt, Oregon had the ball on its 40-yard line.

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True to the rotation, Washington State's defense came on eager to go. Most of the Oregon players stayed on the field, having played defense, and were now switching gears to offense. From the first snap, Oregon had switched up its tactics. Instead of its linemen shooting out to make a block, the line stood straight up and used its arm strength to keep the defenders tied up. The running back found a gap and sprinted 7 yards—Oregon's biggest gain of the day.

On the next play, the Washington State linebackers stayed in tight to slow down the run. Oregon Quarterback Cornell dropped back to pass, making an easy 7-yard completion. It was Oregon's very first, first-down. Fishback and Hanley both looked at each other, knowing they had messed up. With its own quick snap count, Oregon moved the ball around the end for another 6 yards, for a first down and a renewed sense of momentum.

As Oregon rumbled up to the ball, both of the Washington State linebackers saw the Oregon linemen gently placing their hands down for a pass play, just as Bohler had noted. Hanley took one step forward; then he saw that Fishback had the open lane and dropped back into coverage. Fishback, with a head start, found himself in the backfield, just as the quarterback, Cornell, released the ball. Over the top of Hanley's head, the receiver grabbed the pass and ran down to the Washington State 40-yard line.

While the play might have rattled another team, Washington State stayed relatively calm. Just a few plays into the half and already the Oregon team showed signs of slowing. A run off right tackle was only good for a couple of yards. Then back to the left side for a sweep that State was able to push out with its speed. On third down, Hanley decided to make a crucial call. Both linebackers would go after the quarterback. For added measure, Hanley had the defense backs take an extra step backwards. Sure enough, Oregon wanted to pass. But Hanley and Fishback both had a head of steam when they hit the line, so they were soon chasing Cornell around. The quarterback had no choice but to get rid of the ball.

So from the 35-yard line, Oregon went for a field goal that went wide right. Washington State's lead held at 14-3.

On the sideline, Dietz had only a few words of encouragement, greeting nearly every player personally as he came off the field. Back on offense, Washington State returned to its form from the first half. Using a series of fakes and diversions in the backfield, a quick dive into the line by Carl Dietz would gain 5 yards, and Benton Bangs went around the end for another 7. Almost as soon as the team had downed the ball, Washington State was back at the line with another play. Simple—yet devastating. State marched the entire length of the field to Oregon's 20-yard line. Seeing how tired his boys were becoming, Coach Bezdek quickly called a time out. On cue, his players sat down, panting from all the extra plays State was running.

Dietz smiled. He had another surprise in store for Oregon. Waving over his receiver, Dick Hanley, Dietz had signaled for a special play—one that had been called “the reverse.” Clarence Zimmerman nearly busted out smiling. It was a secret play the team had only just added to the list a few days before.

As the referee blew his whistle, Washington State was already lined up. Quarterback Durham dropped down to line up to the right of the center, and on the snap, he disappeared to the left to become a blocker. The right tackle and the fullback joined him. The ball snapped high in the air, landing in Benton Bangs' hands as he raced to catch up to a mass of blockers who had effectively run against Oregon all day. Only this time without warning, Zimmerman, who had been blocking his man, turned around and grabbed the ball from Bangs, going in the opposite direction. Bangs lowered his head with a fake, appearing to be driving for extra yardage. Oregon had been working so hard to stop the sweep that it never even saw Zimmerman, who raced to the sidelines and ambled in, almost completely unnoticed for the touchdown.

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Washington State was now up 21-3.

The stadium erupted in pandemonium. From the students to the faculty to the people from town, not a single person was sitting down. Everyone was jumping up and down, screaming at the top of his or her lungs. Everyone, that is, except the 200 Oregon fans in the end zone who had traveled there from Eugene. It seemed the only one who was not celebrating was Coach Dietz. As he had all game, the Washington State coach spent his time talking individually with players.

There comes a time in every game when the coach becomes all but certain of the outcome of a match, long before it has come to its conclusion. As the fourth quarter began, the exhausted Oregon players could barely muster up a minimal offense. Dietz began to substitute players heavily in the fourth, even allowing players who had never played any of the skill positions to try their hands at running the ball.

On third down and long for Oregon, Zimmerman, still excited from his touchdown run, convinced his defensive backs into trying the special trick passing play they had come up with—one that baited the opposing quarterback into thinking a receiver had been left wide open. The players just smiled. As Oregon's highly rated quarterback, Cornell, brought his team to the line, he watched the left defensive back take a step toward the line as if he were going to try to charge the quarterback. Smiling, he knew a pass play would fix that, but he had to get rid of the ball quickly. "Hike!" the Oregon quarterback called out and dropped back to pass. With the defender rushing in from the side, Cornell stood firm, taking a hit just as he released the ball. Smiling as he hit the ground, he knew his receiver would be running for a score, especially when he heard the gratifying sound of the crowd erupting in cheers. But that smile began to fade as he realized the cheers were from Washington State fans. The Oregon quarterback had never seen the lanky defensive end Zimmerman step back from the line, raising up his long arms

to tip the pass into his hands. Ambling down the sidelines, virtually untouched, Zimmerman would add his second touchdown of the day to put Washington State up for good, 28-3.

The rest of the game was pretty much a blur, as both sides began playing out their reserves. As the final gun sounded, the two coaches met at midfield. "I gotta say, Dietz, your boys played a hell of a game," Oregon Coach Beznek offered while extending his hand to Dietz for a longer than expected handshake. Dietz graciously responded, "We had a good day."

In the locker room, Dietz wandered around from player to player, offering up his personal congratulations and spending a minute reliving a game highlight of which the player had been part. With a few words of encouragement, players couldn't help but respond by saying, "Not a bad day for a bunch of 'farm boys.'" The offense had worked extremely well. The difficult to master body-roll the team had struggled with in camp now proved to open large holes in the defensive lines, especially against larger, heavier players.

Dressed in their Sunday best, the players would walk across campus with a more meaningful step as the pride of Washington State.

But there would be little rest for the victors. Practice had been set for 5 p.m. on Monday. There would be just over a week of practice ahead before the team headed south for its second key test—a football match up in Corvallis.