

Humboldt State Loses 31-28 At Western Oregon

MONMOUTH, Ore. (Oct. 31) - Miguel Gonzalez intercepted Mike Proulx' pass in the end zone with nine seconds remaining, preserving Western Oregon's 31-28 homecoming win over Humboldt State Saturday.

With the win, Western Oregon improved its record to 5-4 overall and is now 3-2 in the Great Northwest Athletic Conference. Humboldt State fell to 4-5 overall while remaining winless at 0-5 heading into next week's GNAC finale against Dixie State.

The game was WOU's second win in the two-game season series, only four points separating the teams in the games combined. The Wolves claimed a 17-16 victory over the Jacks in the league-opener on Sept. 12 in Arcata.

"We needed this, and the players did everything we asked of them," HSU head coach Rob Smith said. "It just came down to missed kicks and missed opportunities."

Riddled with injuries to key personnel, Humboldt State suffered another blow when running back Corey Stollmeyer suffered a game-ending injury in the fourth quarter. Stollmeyer, the GNAC's leader in all-purpose yards, rushed for 59 yards on 16 carries while also catching four passes Saturday.

Proulx finished 30-of-45, passing for 359 yards while throwing three touchdown passes and two interceptions. His counterpart for WOU, Josh Riddell, was 25-40 for 324 yards, also throwing three TD passes and being picked off twice.

"Mike (Proulx) played a great game," Smith said. "It's just really unfortunate the way it ended for him, and for us. But he'll learn from it and improve."

Initiating the shootout, Western Oregon needed only three plays to score following the opening kickoff. All three passes were completions from Riddell to Sean Fullerton, including a 62-yard hookup that set up 5-yard connection for the touchdown.

Humboldt State immediately answered, needing only four plays of its own to finish off a 57-yard drive. Proulx's 35-yard pass to Matt Smith ended the march, and the extra point tied the score at 7-7 with only four minutes elapsed.

Another big play burned HSU and gave Western Oregon the 14-7 lead. Riddell found Ore for a 49-yard touchdown pass, finishing a 6-play, 62-yard drive.

The Lumberjacks outscored the Wolves, 12-10 in the second quarter, Proulx throwing two more touchdown passes for HSU. His first was a 32-yard strike to Matt Devlin and his second was an 8-yard pass caught by Smith, but both times the extra point failed to leave the Jacks trailing 24-19 at the half.

After the frenzied first half, the scoring quieted down in the third quarter. The first score came on Kyle Schierholt's 34-yard-field goal that cut the WOU lead to 24-22 with 10:40 left in the period.

With the quarter winding down, the Jacks forced the Wolves into their second straight turnover when Bubba Reynolds delivered a hit, forcing Tirrell Thompson to fumble. Jacob Taylor recovered the ball on the WOU 30-yard line, and 7-play drive that included an 11-yard fourth down conversion finished with Stollmeyer's 6-yard touchdown run and HSU's first lead at 28-24.

Along with the fumble recovery and Chris Peterson's interception, the Jacks got big defensive plays from Dawiet Haile, who put the pressure on Riddell while tracking down ball carriers all day. Haile finished the day with seven tackles to tie for the team lead in that category.

HSU appeared to hold the Wolves again, forcing an incomplete pass on fourth-and-two after WOU had moved the ball to the HSU 23-yard line. But a defensive offsides penalty handed Western Oregon one first down, and an illegal contact call on the Jacks provided another that set up DJ Jackson's 5-yard touchdown run for a 31-28 lead.

Schierholt had a chance to tie the game, but his 32-yard field goal attempt sailed right with 7:04 showing on the clock.

Humboldt State finishes the season at home Saturday, hosting Dixie State at 1 p.m. in Redwood Bowl.

Humboldt State	7	12	9	0	--	28
Western Oregon	14	10	0	7	--	31

WOU – Fullerton 5 pass from Riddell (Morgan kick)

HSU – Smith 35 pass from Proulx (Schierholt kick)

WOU – Ore 49 pass from Riddell (Morgan kick)

WOU – Thompson 30 pass from Riddell (Morgan kick)

HSU – Devlin 32 pass from Proulx (kick failed)

HSU – Smith 8 pass from Proulx (pass failed)

WOU – Morgan 27 Field Goal

HSU – Schierholt 34 Field Goal

HSU – Stollmeyer 6 run (kick failed)

WOU – Jackson 5 run (Morgan kick)