

## **Riddell Leads Western Oregon Past Humboldt State**

### **WOU Sports Information**

MONMOUTH, Ore. - Western Oregon's offense scored a season-best 31 points and Josh Riddell threw for 324 yards and three touchdowns as the Wolves earned a 31-28 win on Homecoming over Humboldt State Saturday.

This was the second consecutive win for the Wolves (5-4, 3-2 Great Northwest Athletic Conference) as they guaranteed themselves at least at .500. The loss was the first time all season the Lumberjacks have suffered back-to-back defeats.

The game was back-and-forth as both offenses had it going throughout the game. The Wolves totaled 413 yards of total offense but they were matched every step of the way by the Lumberjacks who totaled 475 yards. WOU also converted nine of its 15 third-down attempts to keep of number of drives alive.

"Our offense was extremely good today and set the tone early," head coach Arne Ferguson said. "We were very good throwing the ball today, especially on third-down."

But despite their easy to move the ball WOU found itself trailing 28-24 entering the fourth quarter. With the pressure on, the Wolves marched down the field with a 12-play, 68-yard drive and took the 31-28 lead on a five-yard DJ Jackson touchdown run. On the drive, WOU was 4-of-4 on third-down conversions and took 5:42 off the clock.

The score did not faze the 'Jacks who took the ball right back at WOU and marched to the Wolves' 15 to set up an opportunity for a game-tying field goal. However, the 32-yard attempt was pushed right by HSU's kicker preserving the Wolves' lead with 7:04 remaining.

Western Oregon then went to nearly exclusively to Jackson on the ground, which notched 44 of his 92 yards on this drive as WOU took the clock down to 2:33.

Humboldt State had one more chance to tie or take the lead on their final drive but once again Miguel Gonzalez stepped up against HSU with a crucial late game interception in the endzone. It was a sense of redemption for Gonzalez who just two plays before had been flagged for defensive holding to preserve the 'Jacks drive.

The game looked like it as going to be a shootout early as WOU scored on its first two possessions and HSU its first, as the game was 14-7 just 6:13. The Wolves were able to move the ball so quickly thanks to a long reception by Fullerton and a 49-yard scoring strike from Riddell to Justin Ore.

Western Oregon would find paydirt one more time and add on a field goal before the half to take a 24-19 lead into the locker room.

The Wolves defense struggled for much of the game allowing 409 yards through the air and a number of big plays.

"Our defense was off today and we uncharacteristically gave up the deep ball," Ferguson noted. "Our timing was just off."

"Our offense will build off today's performance and the defense will improve and be ready against Central Washington."

<b>Humboldt State</b>	<b>7</b>	<b>12</b>	<b>9</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>--</b>	<b>28</b>
<b>Western Oregon</b>	<b>14</b>	<b>10</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>7</b>	<b>--</b>	<b>31</b>

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)