

2007 Emerald Bowl

INSIDE: Recaps, feature stories, photos from San Francisco and more



21-14 BEAVER WIN

Feeling déjà vu after once again starting the season 2-3, Oregon State matched a dominating 2006 second half performance by winning seven of its last eight games.

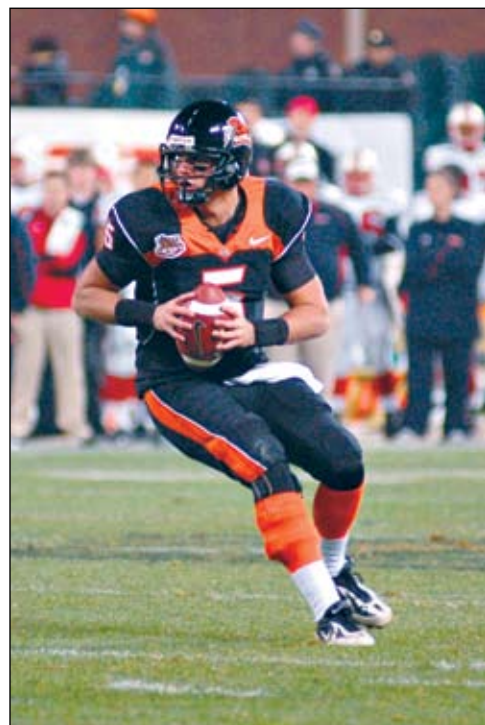
The season culminated with an impressive 21-14 win over Maryland at the 2007 Emerald Bowl under the lights at AT&T Park in San Francisco.

With a powerful running game and stellar defense, OSU won a ninth game of the season for the second straight year.

A sea of orange and black in attendance, Beaver fans also supported the team's impressive bowl-winning streak.



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PHOTOS BY LAUREN L. DILLARD / THE DAILY BAROMETER



Bernard delivers once more for Beavers

■ Senior returns from knee injury to rush for 177 yards in bowl MVP performance

By Kye Johnson
THE DAILY BAROMETER

When Yvenson Bernard took over as the starting running back for Oregon State three years ago, few people surrounding the program knew a lot about him. Now, after he has finished up his career by setting multiple bowl game records and earning honors as the 2007 Emerald Bowl Offensive MVP, you'd be hard pressed to find a college football fan who doesn't know the guy.

It would be difficult to plan a better ending to an illustrious career than the ending Bernard had with the Beavers. He set the Emerald Bowl record for most carries (38) and most rushing yards (177), helping lead the Beavers to a 21-14 win over Maryland.

But those weren't the only records going down thanks to Bernard. In the bowl game alone, his performance moved him up the Pac-10 all-time rushing list from the No. 11 spot to No. 6. Bernard's 177-yard game moved him past the likes of USC's Ricky Bell and former OSU standout Steven Jackson to conclude his career as one of the top rushers in conference history.

"I just went out there and played football," Bernard said. "I wasn't worried about the records and all of that. I just wanted to lead the seniors and this program to a win, and I think we all did a great job."

Bernard also became the Beavers' second all-time leading rusher, trailing only Ken Simonton on the list of Oregon State's best running backs.

His 1,214 rushing yards this season also tied him for the lead with most 1,000-yard rushing seasons in con-



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In his first game since November, tailback Yvenson Bernard demonstrated why he was one of the best in the nation by leading Oregon State over Maryland in the 2007 Emerald Bowl. He leaves OSU as the No. 2 rusher in school history and sixth best in the conference.

ference history. Simonton is another Beaver in that category.

But even though Bernard did his part to rewrite record books during his final game as an Oregon State Beaver, he gives all the credit in the world to his offensive line.

"I never doubt the offensive line, the way our coaches push those guys," he said. "I know they are going to give 100 percent regardless of the situation, and they did a great job. I've always praised my offensive line, and once

again they came up big."

Bernard's productivity in the Emerald Bowl may have even surprised a few people. Midway through the game at Washington State on Nov. 11, Bernard went down with a knee injury that required minor surgery. He was forced to sit out from his last Civil War game against Oregon and was even listed as questionable to play in the bowl game prior to the match-up with the Terrapins.

Head coach Mike Riley knew, however, that if Ber-

nard was good to go, he was certainly going to be the Beavers' focal point on offense.

"If he's able to, he's going to get that many carries," said Riley about Bernard's 38 touches. "And he always knows where he's at in terms of playing ability. We've gone through that a few times during Yvenson's career at Oregon State, but he just gets warmed up at about 25 carries."

Bernard's ability to get healthy quickly from knee surgery obviously played a huge role, if not the biggest

role in the Beavers fourth straight bowl win.

"It was absolutely great to have him back," Riley said. "He got a little mad in the first half about not getting the ball, but that's just typical him."

With the game tied at half-time, Bernard made his last half of collegiate football a memorable one, helping carry OSU downfield for the game-winning score. He and freshman James Rodgers wore down a tired Maryland defense for the entire second

half, ending any chance of the Terrapins getting back into the game.

And while records and awards were a huge part of his swan song in San Francisco, going out with a victory will be the lasting memory for the senior from Boca Raton, Fla.

"Just getting the win was all that I could think about," Bernard said. "And it feels great. I can't think of a better way to leave this program."

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Oregon State vs. University of Maryland BY THE NUMBERS



4 Straight bowl wins for Oregon State, the longest streak in the Pac-10. The Beavers have won all four games under head coach Mike Riley, who has never lost a bowl game in his coaching career (7-0).

5 Sacks by Maryland, a season-high for the team, with four being its previous best against Villanova and Boston College.

9 Total wins in 2007 for the Beavers. With 10 wins the previous year, it marks the first time in school history that OSU has won at least nine games in two straight seasons.

14 Points the Oregon State defense gave up in the first quarter. Coming into the game, the Beavers had only given up 16 first quarter points all year.

19 Total rushing yards allowed by the OSU defense. It was by far Maryland's lowest team rushing total in the 2007 season.

50 Consecutive starts by all-conference guard Roy Schuening, a new school record.

With Riley at helm, Oregon State wins fourth straight postseason game

By Kye Johnson
THE DAILY BAROMETER

Oregon State wins bowl games. Thirty years ago, Beaver believers couldn't have fathomed the amount of success that the program has recently grown accustomed to. Fortunately for them, they don't have to imagine anymore. Oregon State's seven-point victory over Maryland in the 2007 Emerald Bowl was its fourth straight bowl victory and its fourth victory in as many tries under head coach Mike Riley.

Even with sloppy weather, a handful of offensive starters unable to play and an early strike by Maryland, Oregon State was able to claw its way to another postseason victory, making those longtime Beaver believers proud as ever.

Unlike the majority of the season's games, the Emerald Bowl didn't have the greatest beginning, as starting quarterback Lyle Moevao went down twice in the first quarter. Moevao first suffered an arm injury on the Beavers' first possession before a leg injury took him out of the game for good. Once sophomore Sean Canfield was at the helm, however, Oregon State was able to do enough to ensure a win.

"We just had to keep on going like we had been doing," said running back Yvenson Bernard about Moevao going down. "We'd gone through our bumps in the road, and we just keep on going, and that's what I love about this team."

Canfield hooked up with freshman James Rodgers on a 14-yard touchdown pass to tie the game at seven, giving the Beaver offense a much-needed spark early on. That was just the begin-

ning of a memorable night for Rodgers.

Known for his speed on the fly sweep, the true freshman ran for 115 yards and two touchdowns. He was also Oregon State's leading receiver on the night, catching five balls for 40 yards.

"That kid does it all — he's definitely a threat," said Bernard about Rodgers. "You see what he causes on the offensive side, and I can't really imagine being a defense going against our offense with James back there."

But the Beaver defense, much like it had all year long, proved to be the deciding factor in the win. The Terrapins rattled off two long touchdown passes in the first quarter, but from that point on, first downs became virtually obsolete for the Terp offense.

"We knew it was going to be tough running on these guys," Maryland running back Keon Lattimore said.

OSU's defense held Maryland to a season-low 19 yards rushing. The previous low was an 89-yard performance against West Virginia in early September.

"It was tough," said Lance Ball, Maryland's other feature running back. "They penetrated us, and we just didn't get the job done. They have a really great defensive line though, so that's a credit to them."

Even as the Beaver defense snuffed Maryland all second half, the Terps had an opportunity to put together a game-tying drive late in the fourth quarter.

With just over six minutes to go, trailing by seven with the ball at the Oregon State 43-yard line, Maryland head coach Ralph Friedgen opted to punt on fourth and six instead of leaving his offense on the field to convert a fourth down. That choice ultimately did Maryland in, as they wouldn't get the ball back for the remainder of the game.

"I was tempted to go for it," Friedgen said. "But I thought we could pin them deep and hold them down there, but we didn't, and that was pretty much the game."

The Beavers put together a drive that started at their own one-yard line and ended at the Maryland eight as time expired thanks to a load of carries by Bernard and Rodgers.

"I was just thinking that maybe we could get a couple of first downs and punt it out of there and be in pretty good shape," Riley said about the last drive. "But the work of our offensive line and the running of Yvenson and James did the rest."

"Our win came down to three hard weeks of practice and we used it on the field to our advantage," Rodgers said.

Expect to see plenty of Rodgers in the near future for Oregon State. And hopefully for all Beaver believers, Rodgers, Riley and the rest of the team can keep bringing home those newly familiar bowl wins.



Mike Riley

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PHOTOS BY LAUREN L. DILLARD / THE DAILY BAROMETER

(Above) OSU student Josh Azevedo bows his head while listening to the national anthem at the start of the Emerald Bowl in San Francisco. (Top right) Alex Bianchi of San José, Calif., passes OSU fans while carrying an "O" flag in front of AT&T Park. (Bottom Right) Matt Wimore, Jenna Pounding, OSU student Carly Moran and Kevin Krainman watch the game from the front row of the stadium.



154 First quarter passing yards by Maryland quarterback Chris Turner, who also threw two touchdown passes to give the Terrapins a 14-7 lead.



170 Total yards by freshman wide receiver James Rodgers. He rushed for 115, led all receivers with 40 yards on five catches, ran back one kick return for 15 yards and scored a pair of touchdowns.

3,682 Career rushing yards for OSU tailback Yvenson Bernard, the second best mark in school history. By rushing for 177 yards in the Emerald Bowl, Bernard also moved up five spots to No. 6 all-time in Pac-10 history.

32,517 Game attendance at the 2007 Emerald Bowl, the second highest in the seven-year history of the bowl game.

BEAVERS 2007 SEASON

Opponent	Results
Utah	24 - 7 (W)
Cincinnati	3 - 34 (L)
Idaho State	61 - 10 (W)
Arizona State	32 - 44 (L)
UCLA	14 - 40 (L)
Arizona	31 - 16 (W)
California (2)	31 - 28 (W)
Stanford	23 - 6 (W)
USC (13)	3 - 24 (L)
Washington	29 - 23 (W)
Washington State	52 - 17 (W)
Oregon (18)	38 - 31 (W)
Maryland	21 - 14 (W)

Nick Lilja



Smiley Riley

If there is ever a time when Mike Riley isn't smiling, I don't want to be there to witness it. I've seen lion cages and lava pits that are more enticing. I understand that the half-time speeches and film sessions aren't lollipops, candy canes and hip-hip-hoorays, but you get the idea. If Riley were to not have a smile on his face, people would ask what happened.

And I don't know if I'd want to hear the answer.

Here is a guy who started this season, much like last season, with high expectations and endured a few weeks of interesting results. Another 2-3 start? Meh. Just get better with every game, he said. He smiled through disappointment, frustration and even through the criticism. He'd probably smile through a broken ankle or a root canal.

It begs the question, though: If he is always smiling, what's he so happy about?

Two years in a row, there have been 2-3 starts, and two years in a row there have been questionable decisions made by his players on and off the field. What's got him so giddy?

After the Emerald Bowl, Riley entered the post-game press conference as usual, with a huge smile. It was the smile you'd find on a 7-year-old boy listening to baseball cards in the spokes of his new bike, a smile of pure bliss.

Riley's smile was contagious. I was smiling. So was the guy next to me. And the guy next to him. I looked behind me and smiles were perking up all over the room. Even the event staff was smiling.

That's when Riley gives out his first clue: he loves the game of football. Maybe that's why he's smiling.

"I think this is where a game like this is kind of fun," Riley said. "There is some mystery to the whole preparation for the game and the intrigue about a team that you never see."

Most people in football don't like mystery and intrigue because it means you are seeing something new. "New" is a hazard, a tic in the L column. "New" is also scary, but "New" doesn't bother him. Riley is undefeated against "New" with a perfect 4-0. Maybe that's why he's smiling.

As gracious as he is, though, he wouldn't take the credit. It wasn't him; it was the rest of the team and the fans. What did he do? He'd probably say he just wore a headset and called a couple plays. No big deal.

The team was peaking at the right time, his coaching staff had his players ready, his players were making plays, and the fans were showing up.

"I'm excited for our fans. I think they were awesome," Riley said. "I think they caused a couple penalties."

The Beaver fans love to support their team and their coach. Maybe that's why he is smiling. Being loved by thousands will do that to a person. When thousands of people travel hundreds of miles to watch you do your job, you might open your eyes a little faster in the morning.

And why shouldn't the fans love him? Has he started seasons slowly? That goes in the yes column. Are his play calls predictable? For the most part. But for the last two years he has helped the team finish in a more than just a flurry — it's been a blizzard. Last season, the Beavers finished the season winning eight of their last nine, and seven of their last eight this year.

How does Riley pull it off, you ask? It's simple. He does it by doing what he does best: smiling.

He might start a season a little shaky, but he never gets down, never gets upset. He just tries to get better with every game, and he succeeds. The Emerald Bowl was no exception.

"It came down to finding a way to win it," he said.

And he did find a way to win, like usual, with a smile on his face.



(Top Left) Senior linebacker Derrick Doggett capped off his impressive career at OSU by adding the Beavers' only sack of the game on Terps quarterback Chris Turner. (Top Right) Safety Bryan Payton tries to break a tackle on his first interception of the season. (Left) Freshman wideout James Rodgers recovers an Yvenson Bernard fumble in the end zone for the game-winning touchdown in the third quarter. (Below) Wide receiver Shane Morales works his way through two Maryland defenders.

PHOTOS BY LAUREN L. DILLARD
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(Left) Senior running back Matt Sieverson looks for extra yards against the Terrapin defense in the 2007 Emerald Bowl.

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