

WEEK THREE  
WASHINGTON ST vs HOUSTON

Gordon leads No. 20 Washington State over Houston 31-24

HOUSTON -- After No. 20 Washington State struggled to get going early on Friday night against Houston before pulling away in the second half for a win, coach Mike Leach lamented that his team didn't have more time to play.

"I almost wish we had a fifth quarter because I thought we had more work to do and we could have grown a little bit more," he said. "I thought we were playing our best football at the end."

Anthony Gordon threw for 440 yards and three touchdowns for his third straight 400-yard game as Washington State got the 31-24 victory.

Gordon threw a 7-yard touchdown pass in the fourth quarter and had two 39-yard scoring throws, including one in the third quarter that gave Washington State (3-0) the lead for good.

"I thought we were frantic the first half both offensively and defensively," Leach said. "Then when we settled in I thought we played well the second half."

It was the first meeting as head coaches for Leach and Houston's Dana Holgorsen, who first met almost 30 years ago when Holgorsen played at Iowa Wesleyan, where Leach was an assistant.

The two coached together at both Valdosta State and Texas Tech and have remained close since that time, adding some familiarity to this game between teams meeting for just the fourth time.

"Me and him go way back ... it's fun to compete with him," Holgorsen said. "I thought our kids played hard and gave ourselves a chance, just came up a little short."

D'Eriq King had 128 yards passing and a score and added 94 yards rushing and two touchdowns on a night Houston (1-2) led 14-7 at halftime. But Houston struggled to move the ball in the second half, lost two fumbles and didn't get in the end zone after half-time until King's 12-yard run with 2:21 left cut the lead to 31-24.

"We don't want moral victories or any of that ... we didn't play good enough to win," Holgorsen said. "Didn't make enough plays and the ball didn't bounce our way enough for us to come out of here with a win and that needs to happen next week."

Brandon Arconado had nine receptions for 115 yards and Max Borghi added 61 yards receiving and ran for a touchdown in the third quarter to help Washington State to the victory.

"We were a little out of control in the first half," Gordon said. "We had some positive plays, but we were kind of stepping on our own feet taking penalties and me taking a sack ... we relaxed and trusted our game plan. I went through my reads and gave my play-makers the ball."

Houston went for it on fourth-and-1 on its first drive of the second half and fumbled the snap. Washington State recovered and Borghi caught a 17-yard pass on the ensuing drive and tied it at 14-all with a 1-yard scoring run.

Gordon used a perfect throw to deposit the ball between two defenders to Dezmon Patmon for a 39-yard touchdown midway through the third to give Washington State its first lead of the game 21-14.

King looked to have scored on a 72-yard run late in the third quarter, but Jeremy Singleton was called for holding and it was brought back. Houston's drive stalled after that and the team had to punt.

There were about 11 minutes left when Houston got within 21-17 with a 42-yard field goal.

Another touchdown pass by Gordon, this one a 7-yard strike to Travell Harris, pushed Washington State's lead to 28-17 with about seven minutes remaining.

Houston took a 7-0 lead midway through the second quarter when King capped a 15-play, 82-yard drive with a 13-yard TD pass to Marquez Stevenson.

Washington State tied it up on the next drive when Easop Winston got in front of the defense to grab a 39-yard touchdown reception from Gordon.

"What I thought was impressive about him is he got better as the game went on," Leach said of Gordon. "He got more precise. He got sharper with his throws and was quicker to get his eyes in the right place."

King put Houston back on top 14-7 when he sneaked on from 1-yard out on the next drive. King has at least one TD pass and one scoring run in 14 straight games to tie the FBS record for consecutive games with a TD run and passing touchdown set by Tim Tebow.

Washington State put together a nice drive after that, but Gleson Sprewell made an acrobatic interception in the end zone to allow Houston to keep the lead heading into halftime. The play extended Houston's streak of games with a takeaway to 20, which is the longest active streak in the nation. It was also Houston's 103rd interception since 2013, which is the most in the country in that span.

THE TAKEAWAY  
These teams combined for 209 yards of penalties on Friday night, something they'll need to clean up before the two schools open conference play next week.

THEY SAID IT  
Holgorsen on the challenges of playing against a team with a long-time coach when he's in the first year at Houston: "Mike he's been there eight years, I've been here eight months. I'm not frustrated with it, but I am disappointed in the loss and we've got to get better."

Final	1	2	3	4	T
WSU	0	7	14	10	31
HOU	0	14	0	10	24

Scoring Summary -----					
SECOND QUARTER					
			WSU	HOU	
HOU TD 7:33 Marquez Stevenson 13 Yd pass from D'Eriq King (Dalton Witherspoon Kick)					
15 plays, 82 yards, 7:27			0	7	
WSU TD 5:36 Easop Winston Jr. 39 Yd pass from Anthony Gordon (Blake Mazza Kick)					
5 plays, 72 yards, 1:57			7	7	
HOU TD 2:27 D'Eriq King 1 Yd Run (Dalton Witherspoon Kick)					
7 plays, 75 yards, 3:09			7	14	
THIRD QUARTER					
			WSU	HOU	
WSU TD 10:24 Max Borghi 1 Yd Run (Blake Mazza Kick)					
6 plays, 44 yards, 2:24			14	14	
WSU TD 7:30 Dezmon Patmon 39 Yd pass from Anthony Gordon (Blake Mazza Kick)					
4 plays, 91 yards, 1:25			21	14	
FOURTH QUARTER					
			WSU	HOU	
HOU FG 10:45 Dalton Witherspoon 42 Yd Field Goal					
6 plays, 29 yards, 1:51			21	17	
WSU TD 6:43 Travell Harris 7 Yd pass from Anthony Gordon (Blake Mazza Kick)					
8 plays, 95 yards, 4:02			28	17	
WSU FG 3:50 Blake Mazza 22 Yd Field Goal					
6 plays, 21 yards, 2:44			31	17	
HOU TD 2:21 D'Eriq King 12 Yd Run (Dalton Witherspoon Kick)					
6 plays, 75 yards, 1:29			31	24	

Team Stats	WSU	HOU
First Downs	25	22
Passes for First	19	7
Rushes for First	5	10
Penalties for First	1	5
Third Down Efficiency	3-10	6-12
Fourth Down Efficiency	1-1	0-1
Total Yards	489	367
Total Plays	67	63
Avg Gain Per Play	7.3	5.8
Net Yards Rushing	49	239
Rushes	19	39
Yards Per Rush	2.6	6.1
Net Yards Passing	440	128
Comp-Att	36-48	13-24
Yards Per Pass	9.2	5.3
Times Sacked	2	2
Yds Lost To Sacks	-13	-10
Interceptions	1	0
Punts	4	3
Punt Average	37.5	48.0
Penalties	11	8
Penalty Yards	132	77
Fumbles	0	2
Fumbles Lost	0	2
Time of Poss	32:06	27:54

Individual Stats							
RUSHING							
WASHINGTON ST	Rush	Yds	Avg	TD	LONG		
Max Borghi	9	40	4.4	1	17		
Anthony Gordon	7	16	2.3	0	10		
Deon McIntosh	1	2	2.0	0	2		
HOUSTON	Rush	Yds	Avg	TD	LONG		
D'Eriq King	17	94	5.5	2	21		
Patrick Carr	9	77	8.6	0	25		
Kyle Porter	9	53	5.9	0	14		
Marquez Stevenson	2	16	8.0	0	14		
PASSING							
WASHINGTON ST	Comp	Att	Yds	Y/A	TD	Int	QBRat
Anthony Gordon	36/48	440	9.2	3	1	81.5	
HOUSTON	Comp	Att	Yds	Y/A	TD	Int	QBRat
D'Eriq King	13/24	128	5.3	1	0	68.9	
RECEIVING							
WASHINGTON ST	Rec	Yds	Avg	TD	LONG		
Brandon Arconado	9	115	12.8	0	31		
Davontavean Martin	5	76	15.2	0	33		
Easop Winston Jr.	5	70	14.0	1	39		
Max Borghi	6	61	10.2	0	17		
Dezmon Patmon	2	52	26.0	1	39		
Renard Bell	3	33	11.0	0	17		
Travell Harris	3	29	9.7	1	16		
Rodrick Fisher	1	7	7.0	0	7		
Deon McIntosh	2	-3	-1.5	0	1		
HOUSTON	Rec	Yds	Avg	TD	LONG		
Keith Corbin	3	54	18.0	0	37		
Marquez Stevenson	5	34	6.8	1	18		
Bryson Smith	2	24	12.0	0	14		
Jeremy Singleton	1	11	11.0	0	11		
Christian Trahan	1	7	7.0	0	7		
Kyle Porter	1	-2	-2.0	0	0		