

WEEK FOUR
WASHINGTON at BYU

No. 22 Washington dominates BYU for 45-19 victory

PROVO, Utah -- Winning games with elite defense is second nature to Washington. The Huskies are quickly silencing doubters who expected them to take a step back this season. Relentless defensive pressure and efficient offense blended together perfectly for No. 22 Washington in a 45-19 victory over BYU on Saturday. The Huskies forced three BYU turnovers and scored a pair of touchdowns off those defensive plays. In four games, Washington has allowed just 18.3 points per contest and held each opponent under 400 yards of total offense. The Huskies' defense resembles past units that led the Pac-12 in scoring defense and total defense each of the previous four seasons.

"We got people that are going to show up and work and we're going to execute when we're out there," linebacker Brandon Wellington said. "Sometimes, it's not going to be pretty but we're going to figure out a way to get it done."

Jacob Eason found a way to get it done on offense. Eason threw for 290 yards and three touchdowns while completing 24 of 28 pass attempts. The Huskies (3-1) totaled 477 yards on offense behind his efficient performance.

Aaron Fuller, Eason's top target, tallied 91 yards on eight catches. Fuller had one touchdown catch and returned a punt 88 yards for another score. Eason put together his second straight 200-yard passing game. Washington has won all three games this season in which he has passed for at least 200 yards.

"There's always something that's better from week to week," Huskies coach Chris Petersen said. "We emphasize it and he's on it." Zach Wilson threw for 277 yards and a touchdown on 26 of 42 passing to lead BYU. It wasn't nearly enough to help the Cougars (2-2) prevent the Huskies from dominating in all three phases of the game. Three BYU drives ended with turnovers. Two others ended in failed fourth down conversions.

"They put us in a really tough spot," Cougars coach Kalani Sitake said. "They got ahead of us, and whenever we tried to gain momentum, they were able to stop it."

Washington took control behind a productive first quarter from Eason. He threw for 99 yards and a pair of touchdowns, while completing 90% of his pass attempts during the quarter. Eason capped each of his team's two drives with a 17-yard TD pass -- one to Richard Newton, the other to Fuller -- to put the Huskies up 14-3. Following Lopini Katoa's 48-yard return to midfield, BYU marched down to the Washington 20 on its second drive. It ended when Wilson coughed up a costly fumble on a sack. Wellington scooped up the loose ball and returned it 69 yards to extend the Huskies' lead to 21-3 late in the first quarter.

"They're returning Pac-12 champs, they're gonna be a really good team this season," tight end Matt Bushman said. "But our mistakes just made them look like world beaters."

The Cougars' offense found some life in the second quarter. Emmanuel Esukpa punched in a 1-yard run and Jake Oldroyd made a career-long 54 yard field goal just before halftime to cut Washington's lead to 24-12. Oldroyd's field goal was the first from 50 or more yards for BYU since 2006.

Everything unraveled for BYU after halftime. Andre Baccellia slipped free of a tackle and caught a 35-yard TD pass from Eason, and Fuller returned a BYU punt 88 yards to give Washington a 38-12 lead with 10:37 remaining in the third quarter. Trent McDuffie forced and then recovered a fumble from Dax Milne at the Huskies 48 to set up Baccellia's touchdown.

Washington outscored the Cougars 21-7 in the third quarter after struggling in that quarter during each of the team's previous two games. "You always want to come out after halftime with some juice and I think we did that today," Eason said.

NEXT MAN UP

Washington running back Salvon Ahmed did not make the trip to Provo after re-aggravating a lower leg injury last week. Ahmed is day-to-day, although Petersen said he is making good progress in his recovery and could potentially be ready to go against USC.

Sean McGrew filled in and ran for 110 yards on 18 carries in his first start. The Huskies also got 80 yards and a TD on 16 carries from Newton.

"That's how you want it," Petersen said. "You cannot just have one good player at that position. That's been our mantra around here for a long time. It's just too physical of a game."

WILLIAMS OUT

BYU running back Ty'Son Williams did not play in the second half after suffering an apparent knee injury late in the second quarter. The injury occurred after he caught a 16-yard pass for a first down at the Washington 31.

Williams finished with 28 yards on six carries and 17 yards on two receptions. With the senior on the sidelines for the final two quarters, BYU mustered just 79 total rushing yards and averaged 2.9 yards per carry.

"He's a workhorse, he just runs so hard. He wants us to succeed. That one hurt," Bushman said.

BYU had no immediate update on the severity of Williams' injury or how much time he's expected to miss.

FAKE FG FIZZLES

Leading 24-9 late in the second quarter, Petersen made the decision to fake a field goal attempt from the BYU 5-yard line. The play unraveled. Payton Wilgar stuffed holder Race Porter after a 1-yard run and the Cougars marched down to score on Oldroyd's 54-yard field goal just before halftime.

THE TAKEAWAY

Washington: The Huskies have not lost a step on defense despite losing nine full-time starters on that side of the ball from last season. Washington pressured Wilson early and often. It led to three turnovers, a pair of sacks and four tackles for loss.

BYU: All the good vibes from back-to-back overtime victories over Tennessee and USC vanished into the mountain air. The Cougars got dominated on both sides of the ball for the better part of four quarters.

POLL IMPLICATIONS

Washington will likely move inside the top 20 after blowing out BYU on the road.

Final	1	2	3	4	T
WASH	21	3	21	0	45
BYU	3	9	7	0	19

Scoring Summary -----

FIRST QUARTER

WASH

BYU

WASH TD 12:10 Richard Newton 17 Yd pass from Jacob Eason (Peyton Henry Kick)

8 plays, 75 yards, 2:50

BYU FG 9:31 Jake Oldroyd 43 Yd Field Goal

8 plays, 50 yards, 2:39

WASH TD 3:50 Aaron Fuller 17 Yd pass from Jacob Eason (Peyton Henry Kick)

11 plays, 68 yards, 5:41

WASH TD 2:17 Brandon Wellington 69 Yd Fumble Return (Peyton Henry Kick)

5 plays, 22 yards, 1:33

SECOND QUARTER

WASH

BYU

WASH FG 11:00 Peyton Henry 30 Yd Field Goal

8 plays, 61 yards, 3:15

BYU TD 8:22 Emmanuel Esukpa 1 Yd Run (Jake Oldroyd PAT failed)

5 plays, 75 yards, 2:38

BYU FG 0:26 Jake Oldroyd 54 Yd Field Goal

13 plays, 59 yards, 3:47

THIRD QUARTER

WASH

BYU

WASH TD 12:28 Andre Baccellia 35 Yd pass from Jacob Eason (Peyton Henry Kick)

3 plays, 52 yards, 1:11

WASH TD 10:37 Aaron Fuller 88 Yd Punt Return (Peyton Henry Kick)

4 plays, 17 yards, 1:51

WASH TD 5:22 Richard Newton 3 Yd Run (Peyton Henry Kick)

8 plays, 85 yards, 3:57

BYU TD 0:00 Matt Bushman 7 Yd pass from Zach Wilson (Jake Oldroyd Kick)

1 play, 7 yards, 0:01

Team Stats

WASH

BYU

First Downs

27

21

Passes for First

14

13

Rushes for First

11

5

Penalties for First

2

3

Third Down Efficiency

6-10

3-13

Fourth Down Efficiency

0-1

2-4

Total Yards

477

356

Total Plays

67

69

Avg Gain Per Play

7.1

5.2

Net Yards Rushing

187

79

Rushes

39

27

Yards Per Rush

4.8

2.9

Net Yards Passing

290

277

Comp-Att

24-28

26-42

Yards Per Pass

10.4

6.6

Times Sacked

0

2

Yds Lost To Sacks

0

-15

Interceptions

1

1

Punts

1

3

Punt Average

37.0

42.0

Penalties

10

9

Penalty Yards

79

80

Fumbles

2

3

Fumbles Lost

1

2

Time of Poss

34:30

25:30

Individual Stats

RUSHING

WASHINGTON

Rush

Yds

Avg

TD

LONG

Sean McGrew

18

110

6.1

0

36

Richard Newton

16

80

5.0

1

13

Jacob Eason

1

2

2.0

0

2

Race Porter

1

1

1.0

0

1

Team

3

-6

-2.0

0

0

BYU

Rush

Yds

Avg

TD

LONG

Emmanuel Esukpa

9

49

5.4

1

23

Ty'Son Williams

6

28

4.7

0

15

Lopini Katoa

5

13

2.6

0

5

Aleva Hifo

1

3

3.0

0

3

Zach Wilson

6

-14

-2.3

0

5

PASSING

WASHINGTON

Comp

Att

Yds

Y/A

TD

Int

QBRat

Jacob Eason

24/28

290

10.4

3

1

96.4

BYU

Comp

Att

Yds

Y/A

TD

Int

QBRat

Zach Wilson

26/42

277

6.6

1

1

45.6

RECEIVING

WASHINGTON

Rec

Yds

Avg

TD

LONG

Aaron Fuller

8

91

11.4

1

18

Andre Baccellia

4

72

18.0

1

35

Hunter Bryant

4

49

12.3

0

22

Cade Otton

3

36

12.0

0

24

Kamari Pleasant

1

18

18.0

0

18

Richard Newton

2

16

8.0

1

17

Sean McGrew

2

8

4.0

0

11

BYU

Rec

Yds

Avg

TD

LONG

Matt Bushman

6

89

14.8

1

28

Aleva Hifo

6

87

14.5

0

22

Dax Milne

4

29

7.3

0

10

Micah Simon

2

22

11.0

0

18

Ty'Son Williams

2

17

8.5

0

16

Gunner Romney

3

16

5.3

0

6

Talon Shumway

2

11

5.5

0

6

Emmanuel Esukpa

1

6

6.0

0

6