

Oregon looking to atone for '88 Civil War loss

Third straight defeat in Beavers' future

By Tracy Sumner
Emerald Sports Editor

For a year now, Oregon football players and coaches have had to live with the humiliation of last year's 21-10 Civil War loss to Oregon State in Corvallis.

Now it's payback time. The Ducks host the Beavers Saturday in the 93rd Oregon Civil War football game, hoping to erase the memory of last year and end the 1980's with an 8-1-1 record against Oregon State.

Dee Andros, former Oregon State head coach used to sum up the feelings of all involved in the Civil War.

"Oh, this game isn't important," the Great Pumpkin used to say. "It's just for the right to live in the state of Oregon."

We can forgive Andros for the hyperbole. After all, at last check, Corvallis was still part of Oregon. (It is questionable whether anyone would fight for the right to live there, though.)

Oregon heads into the game with almost no chance at post-season play. After the Ducks' 38-20 win at UCLA last week, there was hope that Oregon would be given a shot at a bowl.

Those hopes have all but vanished this week with the announcement that the Freedom Bowl invitation would go to the winner of the Washington-Washington State game, with the Copper Bowl invitation going to hometown team Arizona.

Realistically, the only reason the Ducks' bowl hopes lasted as long as they did was that there are just too damn many bowls.

Once again, it gets back to blown opportunities by the Ducks, including early season losses to Stanford and Washington State.

Although Oregon's chances for a bowl bid are remote at best, this game still is of tremendous importance to the Ducks.

A win would give Oregon its first seven-win season since 1964 when it finished 7-2-1. Oregon lost the Civil War game that year to the Rose Bowl-bound Beavers (that is not a misprint).

Team	Conf	Overall
	W-L-T	W-L-T
USC	6-0-0	8-2-0
Arizona St	3-2-1	6-3-1
Oregon	4-1-0	6-4-0
Arizona	4-3-0	6-4-0
Washington	4-3-0	6-4-0
Oregon St	3-3-1	4-5-1
Washington St	3-4-0	6-4-0
California	2-5-0	4-6-0
Stanford	2-5-0	2-8-0
UCLA	2-5-0	3-7-0

The game also has importance for the Beavers, who could finish the season 5-5-1 for their first five-win season since 1971 and its first non-losing season since 1970.

Oregon State has arrived where it is this season with some unexpected wins and some really ugly losses.

The Beavers started the season with a 20-17 win over Stanford in Corvallis. Since then, Oregon State has beaten Boise State, UCLA and California. The Beavers also tied Arizona State.

The fact that the Beavers have lost five games at this point in the season is not nearly as disturbing (to OSU fans) as how they've lost. Oregon State's five losses have come by a cumulative score of 210-48.

To the non-mathematicians in the crowd, that works out to an average score of about 42-10. That's ugly.

Oregon State's key man

seems to be fullback Pat Chaffey. Chaffey is seventh in the conference in rushing, eighth in scoring and is an excellent receiver to boot.

In the Beaver win over Oregon last season, Chaffey ran for 109 yards and scored two fourth quarter touchdowns to secure the Oregon State win.

This season, in games where Chaffey has gained more than 100 total yards, the Beavers are 4-0-1.

But in the last two games — losses to Southern Cal and Washington by a cumulative 99-20 score — Chaffey has been held to a total of 39 yards rushing.

Obviously, without Chaffey running effectively, the Beavers are in deep, deep trouble.

Earlier in the season, the Beavers fooled some people into thinking they were "for real" and a legitimate contender for post-season play. What happened to the Beavers is that they stopped playing over their heads and became the team they usually are.

The last two weeks have brought the Beavers down to earth and given them a dose of reality. Saturday, they will receive another dose. Maybe an overdose.

Oregon by at least 14. If the Ducks get the Beavers down early, it could get ugly. The Beavers may stay in Oregon. Staying in Corvallis is punishment enough.

Washington hosts Washington State with the winner going on to the Dec. 30 Freedom Bowl at Anaheim, Calif. While Washington is on the upswing at this point, Washington State has been going through what is the equivalent of baseball's "June Swoon."

The Cougars started the season as the surprise of the Conference going 6-1 before losing

to Arizona, Arizona State and (gasp) California to go 6-4 heading into the Apple Cup showdown.

After losing quarterback Timm Rosenbach to the NFL and coach Dennis Erickson to University of Miami, it seemed the Cougars would have trouble even staying in the top half of the Pac-10.

But Washington State started the season scoring the way it usually does while playing solid defense on the way to its fine start.

The scoring is still there, but the Cougars haven't been able to stop anybody of late as shown by the 82 points surrendered in the last two games.

Apparently, the Cougars have spent the season just plain playing over their heads. They just aren't as good as they seemed to be.

The Huskies, after dropping three in a row to nationally ranked teams earlier in the season, have rebounded to win three of four, including last week's 51-14 win over Oregon State.

Washington was victimized by the schedule, losing to Arizona, Colorado and Southern Cal in consecutive weeks. The streak left the Huskies 2-3 heading into their game with Oregon.

The Huskies beat Oregon, beat California, beat UCLA, lost to Arizona State and thrashed Oregon State to go 6-4 with a solid shot at a bowl

game. Washington State had better get its act together in a hurry, or it will be a long afternoon for them in Seattle.

Washington by a field goal. Has there ever been a year in which UCLA's game with cross-town rival Southern California meant so little?

Six times in the 1980's, the USC-UCLA game had Rose Bowl implications, but this year, the game's meaning doesn't go beyond the rivalry.

The Trojans, 6-0 in conference play and 8-2 overall, clinched their third consecutive Rose Bowl appearance with last week's 24-3 rout of Arizona.

UCLA has struggled this season like no Bruin team in recent memory and boasts a 3-7 record after last week's loss to Oregon. With a loss this week, UCLA would finish with its worst record since 1971 when it finished 2-7-1.

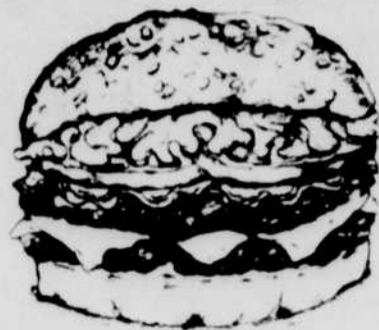
It is tempting to pick the Trojans by a big margin, but the fact remains that the Bruins have played their toughest competition close most of this season. Only in the Arizona game (and arguably against Tennessee) were the Bruins blown out, and they played Michigan tough before losing 24-23.

Still, the Trojans are by far the better team. They have a whole lot more to lose than the Bruins. It will be close, but the

Turn to Pac-10, Page 11

	OSU at UO	WSU at UW	UCLA at USC	Cal at Stan
T. Sumner (19-21)	UO + 14	UW + 3	USC + 6	Cal + 3
A. Conklin (21-19)	UO + 17	UW + 1	USC + 12	Cal + 1
C. Sivesind (20-20)	UO + 13	UW + 2	USC + 9	Cal + 1
D. Peters (20-20)	UO + 10	WSU + 3	USC + 7	Cal + 3

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