

Sports

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Bowl.
 "At 4:15 this afternoon, the Independence Bowl announced that Oregon was the number one choice of their committee to play the University of Tulsa in the Dec. 16 Independence Bowl," Hellyer said at a press conference held in the Stadium Club room at Autzen Stadium.
 "Official invitations cannot be extended until 6 p.m. Pacific time on Saturday," he said. "We have no indication that it will be anything other than the University of Oregon, however."

The Oregon Athletic Department will reportedly receive \$500,000 for the game, but no other financial details were disclosed.

The invitation ends a long period of frustration for Oregon head coach Rich Brooks who took over the program in 1977.

"I am obviously extremely pleased for our football team," Brooks said.

"I think we have an outstanding team, an exciting group of players who have done a lot of things for Oregon football and their accomplishments this season, not only in games we won, but in games we lost were deserving of post-season recognition," he said.

"I'm not totally sure it's sunk in yet," Brooks said. "Obviously it's been a struggle to get this program to the level of post-season play and be in a position to get considered (for a bowl game.)"

Under Brooks, the Ducks were 6-5 in 1984 and 1987, but failed to secure a bowl berth. Last year Oregon started out 6-1, but lost its final five games

after suffering season-ending injuries to quarterback Bill Musgrave and linebacker Mark Kearns.

All the disappointments couldn't compare with the satisfaction Brooks felt Monday.

"I am just tickled to death for them, particularly the group of seniors that have done so many great things not only this year," he said, "but for the last four years for the University of Oregon."

"This puts a stamp of legitimacy on the resurgence of Oregon football," Brooks said. "Seven and four should do it, but I don't think it does it as emphatically as a bowl game does."

"Quite honestly I think we were very, very fortunate in recruiting several years ago when this class came in together," he said. "It's a combination of players from four and five years ago and from the junior colleges."

The Ducks have 21 seniors on this year's roster, and they are among the best to ever play at Oregon.

Tailback Derek Loville is the all-time leading rusher and scorer in Oregon history, and became the 10th best rusher in Pacific-10 history last weekend. He did so without redshirting.

Terry Obee, who also played as a true freshman, is the school record holder in receiving yardage and the Pac10 career record holder in punt returns and punt return yardage.

Senior guard Chris Husko started all 45 games the Ducks have played over the last four

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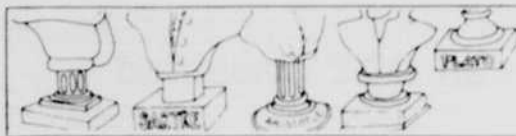
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