

Sports

Tulsa coach leery of Duck attack

By Ashley Conklin
Emerald Sports Reporter

To put it mildly, Tulsa head coach Dave Rader is "concerned" to be playing Oregon in the Dec. 16 Independence Bowl.

After a 4-7 record last season, Rader guided the Golden Hurricane to a 6-5 mark this year, and while he's glad to be going to Shreveport, La., for Tulsa's first bowl appearance since 1976, he is worried about facing the Ducks.

"When we were set up with the Independence Bowl committee I thought we would be playing a middle-of-the-pack team," Rader said, "not the No. 2 team from the Pac-10."

After exchanging game tapes with the Oregon coaching staff, Rader is learning all he can about the Ducks, and is impressed with what he's seen.

"We know they're a very good football team," he said. "They have a very balanced offense and that's what really puts the heat on you (as a defense)."

Quarterback Bill Musgrave set several school records this season including most yards passing (2,761) and most touchdown passes with 20. For the first time in his career, Musgrave has stayed healthy and Oregon has reaped the benefits by going to a bowl game for the first time since 1963.

A lot of talk was made in the pre-season about Musgrave staying healthy all season, and Rader said that's been the difference for the Ducks.

"They do a good job of protecting him," Rader said. "There was a lot of hype before the season started about Musgrave's injury problems and their line has made a concentrated effort to keep him healthy."

"They put a lot of pressure on you with Musgrave and (Terry) Obee and then they

come at you with (Derek) Loville on the ground," he added. "That makes it really tough for any defense to stop them."

Oregon averaged 418 yards and 32 points per game this season. Musgrave led the Pacific-10 Conference in passing yardage while Loville was fourth in rushing and scoring.

While Rader is worried about the Duck offense, Oregon head coach Rich Brooks is probably equally concerned about the Golden Hurricane attack.

Led by quarterback T.J. Rubley and split end Dan Bitson, Tulsa has one of the best passing attacks in the nation.

Rubley threw for 22 touchdown passes this season, with Bitson catching 16 of them. Rubley had 2,292 passing yards this year while Bitson caught 73 passes for 1,425 yards.

Rader is worried about Oregon's secondary, particularly cornerback Chris Oldham, and how well Rubley will be able to pass on the Duck defense.

"I don't really know what kinds of things we'll be able to do offensively," he said. "I think it will depend on how hot we are."

"Oregon has a very good secondary and, I think, the premier defensive back in the nation in Oldham," Rader added. "Their secondary will probably curtail some of the things we're able to do, but hopefully we can complete a few passes and go from there."

But as Rader said, the Rubley-Bitson show is an exciting one, and could be the toughest test for Oregon's defense this season.

"Bitson has had an outstanding season," he said. "T.J. has thrown 22 touchdowns and Dan has caught 16 of them and they're really fun to watch when they're on, especially as their coach."

Bitson was a third team all-

American choice by *Football News* this year and will undoubtedly be on several other all-American teams when they're announced. He has already passed Seattle Seahawk wide receiver Steve Largent on all of the Golden Hurricane receiving charts, and is as good a receiver as anybody, Rader said.

"He's a different type of receiver than Steve Largent, but he's a good receiver who can be compared with anybody," Rader said. "His intensity and desire to be the best is what makes him such an outstanding player."

Besides the powerful Tulsa passing game, they can also strike on the ground with running back Brett Adams, who gained over 1,000 yards this season, providing needed balance to the offense.

"Having some balance in our offense was something we needed last year," Rader said, "and by having that type of balance this year it opens up our whole offense."

As an independent, Tulsa didn't see the same type of rigorous competition as the Ducks did in the Pac-10, but did see some good teams this season in Arkansas, Iowa and Louisville, which should help them in Shreveport, Rader said.

"We didn't face as many tough teams as Oregon did," he said, "but we've seen some good football teams this year and I think our guys will know how to respond."

While Shreveport is new territory for the Ducks, Rader said playing in the Independence Bowl and its location near Texas is very beneficial for his program.

"Going to the Independence Bowl is really important to us because Shreveport is close to Texas where we recruit a lot of our players," Rader said. "It's a pretty big deal for us."

Cagers host Arizona in Pac-10 opener

For the second time in five days, the Oregon men's basketball team faces a top 10 team when it entertains No. 2 ranked Arizona tonight at 7:30 p.m. in McArthur Court. The game will be the 1989 Pacific 10 Conference opener for both teams.

The Ducks lost 102-75 last Sunday to ninth-ranked Arkansas while Arizona beat defending national champion Michigan 82-75 Saturday in the Hall of Fame Tip-off Classic in Springfield, Mass.

The win over the Wolverines, combined with losses by other ranked teams, boosted Arizona from No. 6 in the nation to No. 2.

The Wildcats, who lost all-American forward Sean Elliot and all-Pac-10 center Anthony Cook to graduation, are still loaded despite the ineligibility of transfer Chris Mills.

In the Michigan game, Arizona was led in scoring by 6-foot-11-inch sophomore Sean Rooks with 20 points. Sophomore guard Matt Othick chipped in

13 points.

Center Brian Williams, who was Atlantic Coast Conference Newcomer of the Year with Maryland in 1987 before transferring to Arizona, came off the bench to add 12 points, five rebounds and two blocked shots.

Sophomore forward Wayne Womack also added 12 points and two assists.

Senior Jud Buechler led the Wildcats with 12 boards to go with his 11 points. Buechler also added eight assists and three steals.

Arizona went 29-4 overall and 17-1 in conference play last season and lost to Nevada Las Vegas in the West region semifinal of the NCAA basketball tournament.

The Wildcats beat Oregon 95-71 in Tucson and 78-57 in Eugene. Cook led Arizona with 43 points in the two games, followed by Othick with 30.

Arizona coach Lute Olson, who took over at Arizona after a 1-17 league season in 1983 and led it to a 35-3 record in

1988 and 29-4 in 1989, was 137-55 coming into this season including five straight NCAA appearances. He has a 13-11 record in 11 total NCAA appearances.

Overall, Olson is 329-148 coming into tonight's game and 9-4 against Oregon. With Olson at the helm, Arizona has not lost to an Oregon team since the the 1987 Pac-10 tournament when the Ducks won 72-63.

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