

# Tulsa overmatched in bowl game

By Tracy Sumner  
Emerald Sports Editor

The post-season has not been kind to Tulsa football coach Dave Rader.

First, it was announced that Tulsa's opponent for the Dec. 16 Independence Bowl in Shreveport La. would be Oregon — a team that tied for second in the powerful Pacific 10 conference.

Now, the 6-5 Golden Hurricane will have to deal with the Ducks without the services of one of the nation's best receivers.

All-American wide receiver Dan Bitson will be sidelined after a car crash last Monday that left him with two broken legs and a broken wrist. There was talk that Bitson, a junior, would leave school a year early to enter the National Football League draft.

Now there's some question whether he will ever play again.

For the rest of the players, football life goes on. But how will it go with the Golden Hurricane, already an underdog, playing without its best player?

"We may have to change some of our philosophies," Rader told the Associated Press. "There are ideas I don't know if I can answer right now. We'll just have to adjust."

Even with the passing of quarterback T.J. Rubely and the receiving of Bitson, Tulsa would have been overmatched. Bitson is a great receiver, but three very good receivers are better than one great receiver any time.

In receivers Terry Obee, Tony Hargain and Joe Reitzug, the Ducks have one of the deepest, best receiving corps in the country. Running backs Derek Loville and Latin Berry will also catch their share coming out of the backfield.

Tight ends Joe Meerten, Jeff Thomason and scoring specialist Kolya Tefft (five touchdowns on seven receptions) give quarterback Bill Musgrave three more targets.

Before the season started, football writers all over the country predicted Oregon would make post-season play if Musgrave stayed healthy. Musgrave did stay healthy and the Ducks — with some lobbying by athletic director Bill Byrne

— were invited to the Independence Bowl.

Musgrave doesn't have the strongest arm in college football. His passes are rarely textbook spirals and often his receivers have to make adjustments for the catches.

But Musgrave is a winner. He knows how to do what it takes to win on the Pac-10 level of play. And most importantly, his teammates believe in him.

Rubley piled up some nice numbers this season for Tulsa. But it was against some lesser competition. At last check, Bowling Green and Wake Forest weren't exactly considered hotbeds of college football. And again, he will be without Bitson.

The Ducks have the advantage at quarterback.

Tulsa was able to move the ball effectively on the ground for most of the season. Fullback Brett Adams led the attack with 1,102 yards on 224 carries for a fine 4.8 average. Tailback Mark Brus, an Edmonton, Alberta native, added 451 yards on 110 carries.

Loville rebounded from a horrible start this season to rack up 877 yards rushing. Berry chipped in 530 yards despite mid-season injuries. The Ducks discovered depth in the offensive backfield this season in senior Dondre Bausley and Ngalu Kelemeni, who combined for 366 yards.

Oregon has the advantage at running back because of superior depth and because they have faced better competition this season.

"They put a lot of pressure on you with Musgrave and Obee, and then they come at

you with Loville on the ground," Rader said. "That makes it really tough for any defense to stop them."

Oregon's strength on defense is in the backfield. Senior cornerback Chris Oldham — a second team all-American pick — leads a strong secondary, which also features senior free safety Derek Horton. Oldham and Horton led the Ducks in interceptions with six and five, respectively.

Linebacker Mark Kearns led the team in tackles with 120 total stops on the season. Senior nose tackle David Cusano was second on the team with 79 total tackles, including four quarterback sacks.

Linebacker Peter Brantley led Oregon with 10 1/2 sacks followed by Andre Williams with six and Matt LaBounty with 5 1/2.

Again, it gets back to competition. Oregon has spent the season facing the Pac-10 while Tulsa has been busy achieving mediocrity against a questionable schedule. They should have a hard time moving the ball consistently against the Duck defense.

Common opponents don't mean much. But it should be noted that Tulsa lost to Iowa 30-22. That's the same Iowa Oregon crushed 44-6 in September in Kinnick Stadium in Iowa City.

This should be an easy win for the Ducks. And it needs to be a big win, too. After all the lobbying that was done to get the bid, anything less than a blowout over a team like Tulsa would do more harm than good to a program begging for national exposure.

## SEASON RECORDS

TU	OPP
23	at Texas-El Paso
20	OKLAHOMA STATE
7	at Arkansas
35	NEW MEXICO
22	at Iowa
13	at SW Louisiana
34	NEW MEXICO STATE
31	LOUISVILLE
31	at Louisiana Tech
17	at Wake Forest
45	BOWLING GREEN

UO	OPP
35	CALIFORNIA
44	at Iowa
17	at Stanford
16	ARIZONA
38	WASHINGTON STATE
14	at Washington
27	at Arizona State
52	LONG BEACH STATE
41	at BRIGHAM YOUNG
38	at UCLA
30	OREGON STATE

1989 Independence Bowl  
Oregon Ducks vs. Tulsa Golden Hurricane  
Saturday, Dec. 16, 5:00 p.m. (PST)  
Independence Stadium  
Shreveport, Louisiana

Bowl Games	Rose Michigan vs USC	Independence Oregon vs Tulsa	Copper Arizona vs NC State	Freedom Washington vs Florida
	T. Sumner	Michigan +3	Oregon +17	Arizona +7
A. Conklin	Michigan +4	Oregon +10	Arizona +1	Florida +4
C. Sivesind	Michigan +1	Oregon +9	Arizona +6	Florida +3
C. Blair	USC +3	Oregon +14	NC State +3	Florida +7

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# GO DUCKS!!



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