

# Bowl appearance improves recruiting

By Cam Sivesind  
Emerald Sports Reporter

Tomorrow is the day when collegiate football teams find out if their recruiting efforts

Oregon can thank its best season since 1963 and a victory in the Independence Bowl for this year's recruiting successes. It's got to be a lot easier to recruit a player when the Ducks have a bowl win in their portfolio.

The Ducks finished with an 8-4 overall record and defeated Tulsa 27-24 in the Independence Bowl.

Oregon has some big people set to sign a letter-of-intent.

The most notable home-grown possible recruit is Heath Howington, an offensive lineman from Roseburg High School.

The 6-5, 310-pound Howington chose Oregon, but not until the Ducks won a hard-fought battle with Washington, Tennessee and Southern Cal recruiters.

The Ducks have also got verbal commitments from junior college linemen. Jeff Cummins from El Camino College in Torrance, Calif. is a 6-foot-6, 245-pounder who was the defensive player of the year in the Mission Valley Conference.

Other sizable recruits with verbal agreements with the Ducks include:

- Steve Hardin, a 6-foot-6, 285-pounder from Snohomish, Wash.
- Brooks Chapman, a 6-4, 260-pounder from Vista, Calif. Chapman reportedly turned down offers from Washington and Nebraska.
- David Cuttrell, a 6-5, 245-pound offensive lineman from El Toro, Calif., who also declined other offers from Cal, Southern Cal and Iowa.
- Leif Jacobsen, a 6-7, 270-pound offensive tackle from Palmer, Alaska.
- D.J. Cabrera, a 6-4, 245-

pound all-state defensive lineman from St. Louis High School in Honolulu.

The list goes on and on. Oregon will definitely not be short on size next year.

The list of examples is lengthy, and much too long for this column, but that is exactly the point of this column.

After a successful season and bowl appearance last year, the Ducks are now reaping the rewards through a phenomenal recruiting season.

There are those who believe the cost for Oregon to get into the Independence Bowl (about \$350,000) was too much, and it is hard not to agree with them. But the investment is beginning to pay off.

Losing money on one bowl may lead to money-making bowls down the road. In the long run, Duck fans will be glad Oregon bought itself a bowl appearance.



## From the Sidelines

will pay off.

Oregon football recruiters must feel a lot better this year about letter-of-intent day.

With a number of junior college transfers giving verbal commitments for tomorrow's signing, and a host of prep stars on their heels, Oregon recruiters must be feeling as if they have the inside scoop on Wednesday's Lotto America numbers.

## Softballers drop two

The Oregon softball team lost to two of the nation's top teams Sunday, dropping an 8-0 decision to No. 2 Fresno State and a 5-2 verdict to 11th-ranked Cal Poly-Pomona.

The losses came in the second day of the Pac-10/Big West Cross Conference Tournament in Los Angeles.

Fresno scored five runs off starter Katie Wiese (2-1) in the first inning and cruised to the shutout win. Jan Larson (0-2) took the loss against Cal Poly as the Broncos scored all five of their runs in the first inning.

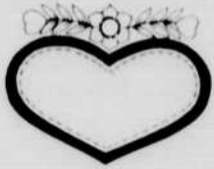
Oregon scored in the first and fourth innings.

Sophomore Danny Senner and junior Julie Cavanaugh were named to the all-tournament team for Oregon.

The Ducks, 2-3 on the season, take on Arizona State Monday in a Pac-10 double header and continue a 12-day road trip with another double header at Arizona Tuesday.

Oregon will participate in the Arizona Tournament in Tucson later this week. The tourney begins Thursday and runs through Sunday.

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