

# Pac-10 teams race for bowl bids

With the Rose Bowl race all but over, the Pacific-10 Conference enters this weekend's competition with teams scrambling to boost their chances of playing in a bowl game. This weekend's schedule is one of the most competitive in recent memory, with all five games matching teams no more than one game apart in the standings.

**Arizona at Washington:** The Huskies are 5-0 in the conference and can just about clinch their third consecutive trip to Pasadena with a victory. But it won't be as easy as some might expect. The Wildcats, 4-1-1, have won four in a row, including victories at Stanford and California, and have a legitimate shot at the Rose Bowl.

This game is also important in the race for No. 1, because Arizona is the only common opponent for Washington and Miami this year. The Wildcats, who lost to Washington State and tied Oregon State early in the year, began to turn their season around when they played tough against Miami before losing 8-7.

This contest features two of the best defenses in the conference, if not the country. Expect Arizona to keep the Huskies' offense to a low score, in part because of the recent distractions surrounding part-time quarterback Billy Joe Hobert and his financial problems. Due to the controversy, senior Mark Brunell should see most of the

time at quarterback.

**Pick:** Washington 17, Arizona 9.

**USC at Stanford:** Stanford probably eliminated itself from the Rose Bowl race with a 41-7 defeat against the Huskies. After looking like a strong bowl contender early in the season, Stanford has fallen to 6-3, 3-2 in the conference. USC has rebounded from a tough start to win four in a row and still has the chance to be playing on New Year's Day, although it probably won't be in Pasadena. The Trojans are 5-1-1 on the season, but with his team's back against the wall, expect Cardinal coach Bill Walsh to find a way to win.

**Pick:** Stanford 27, USC 17.

**Arizona State at Washington State:** After beginning the season at 6-0, the Cougars have lost two in a row, and their postseason hopes are beginning to shrink. With their two final games against Stanford and Washington, the Cougars need a win this weekend if they want to play in a bowl game. After talking a lot of trash before their loss to the Ducks, the Cougars have been awfully quiet this week. Arizona State has been one of the Pac-10's most consistent teams this year, consistently mediocre, and it is doubtful that will change this weekend.

**Pick:** Washington State 31, Arizona State 14.

**Oregon State at UCLA:** This is the battle for last place in the

Pac-10, and after holding down the basement for two straight years, the Beavers may throw the game to make it a hat trick. This is a matchup of two teams that have seen a combined six quarterbacks get injured to ruin what was once an optimistic season. Despite having little to play for, the tradition-rich Bruins should be able to get fired up enough to beat the lowly Beavers.

**Pick:** UCLA 17, Oregon State 6.

**California at Oregon:** Both teams are 4-4, 2-3 in the conference, and need to win their final three games in order to have a chance at a bowl game. With their final two games against lowly UCLA and Oregon State, this week is the Ducks' toughest game remaining.

Cal has struggled at times this year, but has two of the most dangerous offensive weapons in the Pac-10 in running back Russell White and wide receiver Sean Dawkins. If the Ducks' defense falls asleep at all during the game, either one of those guys can break a long touchdown.

This could be one of the best of the year, as two even teams battle with a lot on the line. As their careers near an end, expect Oregon defensive seniors Joe Farwell, Eric Castle and Jeff Cummins to lead a strong and emotional defensive effort.

**Pick:** Oregon 24, California 21.

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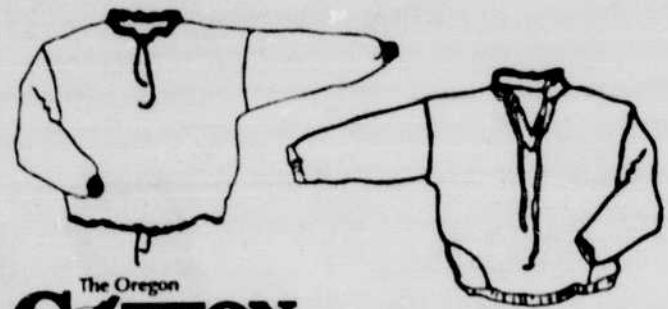


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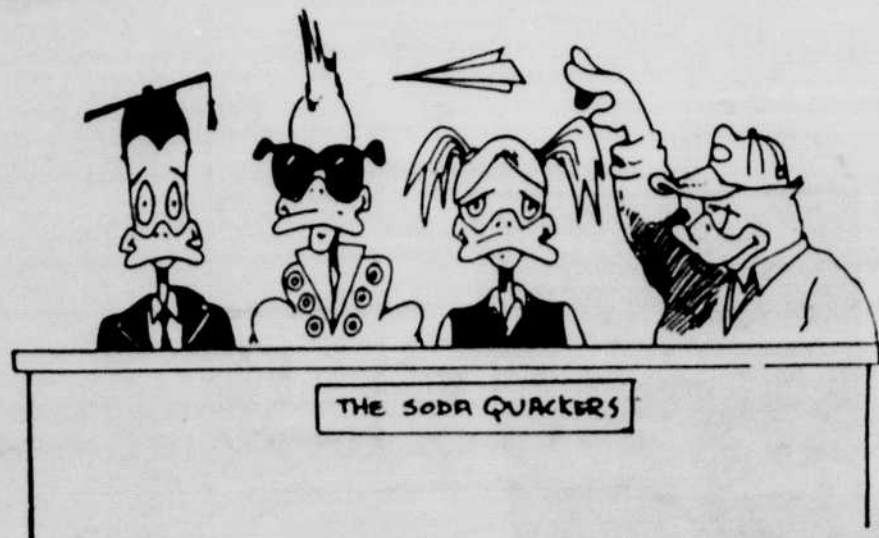
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**Register:** November 2 - 6. All dormitory residents please sign up with your RA, everyone else at the EMU Recreation Center, or call 346-3711.

**Games Start:** 6:30 p.m., Wednesday, November 11

**Finals:** November 18.

**Cost:** \$3 per person or \$12 per team.