

McTyre: Ranking jinxes No. 12 teams

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Every team that has earned the No. 12 ranking this season has responded with a big check in the loss column in its following game. The Bruins lost five weeks ago, we lost the following week. Penn State lost two weeks ago and Alabama got thumped by Tennessee at home last Saturday, just to name a few of the unfortunate schools. It's not like these teams haven't deserved the high ranking. Each have had to play top-notch teams to get to that plateau in the Associated Press top 25 poll. So what is causing the jinx at No. 12?

I'm pretty sure it has nothing to do with the alignment of the sun and moon with the earth, or not being prepared for the following game.

Maybe it has to do with where the game is being played.

No, that can't be it, because the Bruins, Ducks, Nittany Lions and the Crimson Tide all played their respective jinxed game on their own turf in front of their own fans.

I don't think there is any logical answer to why these teams lost when they did — it just happened.

With five days remaining before the Ducks game against visiting Washington State, the players and staff of the Oregon football team probably have no clue about the No. 12 jinx — which

could be for the best or the worst.

Today, the Ducks are going through their plays that they plan to use in their upcoming efforts to defeat the Cougars. Many of the play calls will be going to No. 14 Ricky Whittle, while others will go from No. 10 Tony Graziani to No. 90 Josh Wilcox or to No. 6 Cristin McLemore.

If these players — who make up much of the starting lineup — can't get the job done, maybe head coach Mike Bellotti — whose birthday, by the way, is on 12/21 — will add the numbers of the four above players together and then divide them by 10 to give the nod to No. 12 Jason Maas. That is, if Graziani doesn't get it done as quarterback.

I know, I know. Right now you're thinking "Is this guy a numbers cruncher?" or "Does this guy have a life?" Well, I can tell you right now, math isn't my favorite subject and I'm pretty sure I have a life.

To end the story of No. 12, I'll tell you that I don't believe a game can be jinxed, only won or lost, and the only way the Cougars are going to down the Ducks is if they put 12 players on the field. But of course that would be illegal.

Ducks 36, Cougars 12.

Mark McTyre is the assistant sports editor for the Emerald

Jumphead: Raiders net just 169 yards

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fourth-down pass in the left flat.

The Broncos scored the only touchdown of the half with 3:10 left on Elway's 33-yard pass to Miller, capping an 84-yard drive. Elway's 19-yard pass to Vance Johnson moved Denver past midfield, and he hit Miller in stride in the end zone after the receiver had beaten Bruce Pickens down the left sideline. Elway passed to Ed McCaffrey for the 2-point conversion and a 14-0 lead.

Elway appeared headed for another touchdown in the clos-

ing seconds of the half but inexplicably fumbled. Scrambling from the 19, he fumbled as he approached the goal line, but before he was pulled down from behind by Anthony Smith, and the Raiders recovered with 28 seconds to go.

The Broncos had 281 yards in the half to the Raiders' 111.

Besides Elway's gaffe, the Broncos had a touchdown nullified by a penalty in the third quarter. Miller's apparent 68-yard reception was wiped out by a holding penalty against Broderick Thompson.

While the Raiders were managing only two first downs in the second and third quarters — one by penalty — Denver was building its lead.

Elam kicked a 33-yarder midway through the third period for a 17-0 advantage.

Three plays later, Hostetler was sacked and fumbled when hit by Simon Fletcher, and Denver recovered at the Oakland 25. After a holding penalty, Elway, limping on a twisted left ankle, found Miller again for a 36-yard TD pass with 3:27 left in the quarter.

MONDAY'S TRANSACTIONS

BASEBALL

■ CHICAGO WHITE SOX—Acquired Jeff Darwin, pitcher, from Seattle to complete the July 18 trade that sent Warren Newsom, outfielder, to the Mariners.

NL

■ FLORIDA MARLINS—Reinstated Bryan Harvey, John Johnstone and Vic Darensbourg, pitchers, and Darrell Whitmore, outfielder, from the 60-day disabled list.

BASKETBALL

NBA

■ NEW YORK KNICKS—Waived Greg Butler, center; Jamal Faulkner, forward; and Herman Alston, guard.

HOCKEY

AHL

■ BINGHAMTON RANGERS—Announced Eric Flint, left wing, was recalled by the New York Rangers and loaned to Charlotte of the ECHL.

■ CAPE BRETON OILERS—Released Steve Gibson, left wing, and Ole Kjenstad, center.

■ WORCESTER ICECATS—Received Jamie Rivers, defense-

man, on loan from the St. Louis Blues.

EAST COAST LEAGUE

■ JOHNSTOWN CHIEFS—Waived Matt Yingst, Brad Turcotte, Jake Mueller, Rob Mencunas, Andy MacIntosh, Paul Lambolt and Mike DeGurse, forwards; Rob Milliken, defenseman; and Tim Bacik and Kevin Kelly, goalies.

■ ROANOKE EXPRESS—Waived Scott Barber, goalie; Colin Anders, defenseman; and Brett Dunleavy and Andrew Sherman, forwards.

■ TALLAHASSEE TIGER SHARKS—Waived Josh Singewald, goalie; Andy Stewart, defenseman; and Eric Brown and Shayne LeBretton, forwards.

HORSE RACING

■ KENTUCKY OFF-TRACK BETTING—Named Scott Owens president.

ROWING

■ U.S. ROWING—Named Curtis Jordan and Mike Teti men's assistant coaches for the 1996 Olympic team.

SOCCER

MAJOR LEAGUE SOCCER

■ MLS—Named Jim Trecker special advisor for communications. Announced that Dean Linke, director of communications, will become vice president of operations for the Denver franchise.

COLLEGE

■ ARKANSAS-LITTLE ROCK—Promoted Gary Hogan, baseball coach, to associate athletic director.

■ COLLEGE FOOTBALL ASSOCIATION—Announced the entry of Northeast Louisiana, UNLV and San Jose State as associate members.

■ CALIFORNIA—Named Karen Rosenzweig assistant media relations director.

■ DARTMOUTH—Named Guy Peron and Rob Abel men's assistant hockey coaches.

■ FAIRLEIGH DICKINSON—Named Pete Squires men's and women's track and field and cross-country coach.

■ LONG ISLAND UNIVERSITY—Named Gregory Fox sports information director.

■ SOUTHWEST TEXAS STATE—Named Jim Elgas men's full-time assistant basketball coach.

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Horoscope by Frances Drake

For Tuesday, Oct. 17, 1995
ARIES
(March 21 to April 19)

You're especially close with that someone special. It's a favored time for achievements of an intellectual nature. In fact, success comes through creativity.

TAURUS
(April 20 to May 20)

You're tempted to be extravagant. At work, you are asked to step in for a co-worker on a project. Your judgment is good.

GEMINI
(May 21 to June 20)

Shopping for a big ticket item is possible, but don't break the budget. If you wait, extra funds become available soon. At work, you are at your efficient and productive best.

CANCER
(June 21 to July 22)

It's a good time to put any new business ideas into action. Make appointments to meet people who can help you attain your goals. In the evening, the key to romance is privacy.

LEO
(July 23 to Aug. 22)

Some are asked to take a business trip out of the blue. Negotiations with others are favored. However, in order to be successful, you must exercise diplomacy and avoid being overly persistent.

VIRGO
(Aug. 23 to Sept. 22)

Although work is enjoyable, don't let that cause you to fall behind. When dealing with a miffed family member, be tactful. Social life is a plus.

LIBRA
(Sept. 23 to Oct. 22)

Feel free to combine business and pleasure, even though you might be loath to do so. Analyze a perplexing financial situation one more time. Doing so could help you find a satisfactory solution.

SCORPIO

(Oct. 23 to Nov. 21)

Opportunities arise in connection with work that lead to increased wealth. You are able to concentrate well and should take advantage of the situation. Research and study mark evening hours.

SAGITTARIUS
(Nov. 22 to Dec. 21)

The assignment you receive at work is one that really appeals to you. You can show off what you can do. An important decision about real estate is made.

CAPRICORN
(Dec. 22 to Jan. 19)

You are quite the silver-tongued devil and can say nothing wrong. Thus, this is a good time to go after what you want. You encounter a new opportunity while socializing.

AQUARIUS
(Jan. 20 to Feb. 18)

You'd love to shuck your duties and play, but it's not a good time. If you put things off, you'll be putting in extra hours to catch up. Guard against procrastination.

PISCES
(Feb. 19 to March 20)

You're in the mood to invite friends over. However, your significant other is not on the same wavelength. If you try to force the issue, nothing is accomplished but hurt feelings all around.

YOU BORN TODAY have a sharp business mind, yet you favor a career in the arts since this is what truly nourishes your soul. You are sensitive and dreamy, and some consider you to be somewhat flaky. Those whom you befriend know there's a genius behind all those radical thoughts and ideas. You have a strong sense of what's just and right, and you do anything in your power to ensure that your private world is one where justice always prevails.

Birthdate of: Jimmy Breslin, writer; Arthur Miller, playwright; Beverly Garland, actress.

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