

# FOOTBALL

OREGON VS ARIZONA STATE

## Holiday Bowl

■ **WHEN:** Dec. 29  
■ **WHERE:** San Diego



Big 8 #3 vs. WAC #1 or Pac-10 #2

The Holiday Bowl selects teams from the Western Athletic Conference, the Pacific-10 Conference and the Big Ten Conference. The projected team payout is \$1.35 million.

## Aloha Bowl

■ **WHEN:** Dec. 25  
■ **WHERE:** Honolulu



Big 8 #5 or 6 vs. Pac-10 #4

The Aloha Bowl was first hosted by Hawaii in 1982. It is one of the top five highest rated Bowl games. The first Aloha Bowl featured Pacific-10 Conference runner-up Washington, who beat Maryland 21-20.

## Future: Ducks have shot at five bowls

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According to Tom Starr, executive director of the Sun Bowl, officials will start scouting games next week. "At the end of October, we will see who our choices will be," Starr said.

The scouting has been held later this year because of the agreement they have with the two conferences.

"Obviously, you want an exciting team, perhaps with a star performer," Starr said. "Fan interest is also a factor. Good recent tradition is important, and the notoriety that a team has gotten helps."

And if the Ducks drop to fourth in the league, they are off to Honolulu on Dec. 25 for the Jeep Eagle Aloha Bowl, which pits the Pac-10's No. 4 team against the Big 8's No. 5 or 6 team, depending on where else the No. 5 team is invited.

For the Aloha Bowl, proximity is not as much of a factor as it is in other Bowl games, simply because Hawaii is outside of the continental U.S.

"Proximity is nice, but it is not generally something we have to have," said director of events Michael Story, citing Boston College's appearance last year as an example. More specifically, he said, Aloha Bowl representatives just want successful teams.

"Before the season starts, we have an idea of the teams that we want to come," Story said. "But as the season progresses, we get an idea of the teams that we don't want, the teams that are not having very good seasons. We also become aware of Cinderella teams, which are always appealing."

On a final note, if USC, Washington or Oregon wants to make it into the Bowl Alliance — still a distant possibility — they have got their work cut out for them. In order to gain the at-large berth (the top five ranked teams take the first five bowl berths), a team has to end the season ranked sixth in the nation and or have gained national prominence and the confidence of Bowl Alliance executives. And for any team to take that Bowl Alliance berth in the Sugar Bowl, Notre Dame cannot be ranked anywhere in the top 10 in either the CNN/USA Today poll or the Associated Press Top 25 poll, because if they are, they get the at-large berth automatically.

## Cotton Bowl

■ **WHEN:** Jan. 1  
■ **WHERE:** Dallas



Big 8 #2 vs. WAC #1 or Pac-10 #2

This year will mark the 60th anniversary of the Cotton Bowl. The game is played on natural grass. Tickets cost \$45 each, while the projected payout is \$2.5 million.

## Sun Bowl

■ **WHEN:** Dec. 29  
■ **WHERE:** El Paso

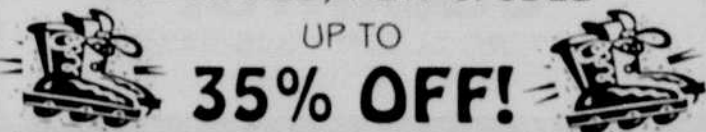


Pac-10 #3 vs. Big Ten #5

The Sun Bowl was first played in 1935 and has since been host to several of the nation's best football teams.

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## ASU: Unpredictable defense has led to several losses

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"The Ducks are pressuring quarterbacks more than they did last year," Snyder said. "They want to get you in third and long situations with the blitz. I think we may take advantage of that and be able to throw the ball on top with success."

Arizona State tailback Michael Martin made the most of his first career start against Brigham Young, rushing 24 times for 78 yards. The 6-foot-1-inch, 208 pound sophomore replaced Chris Hopkins for his lack of productivity. For the year, Martin is averaging 4.0 yards per carry and has three touchdowns.

As a result, the Sun Devils' rushers have yet to fumble through seven games. The seven-game streak without a fumble is the longest in school history. The Sun Devils are also averaging over 202 yards per game and 4.3 per carry. Arizona States 10 rushing touchdowns are three more than the team ran for all of last year.

The Arizona State defensive unit has been inconsistent this year. The BYU game is a good example. The Sun Devils' secondary went more than 14 quarters without an interception before picking off two against the Cougars. The unit also doubled their sack total with five in the game.

Furthermore, the Sun Devil defense was giving up almost 500 yards per game before stifling the high powered BYU attack.

Injuries have hampered the Sun Devils' defensive line this year, as Snyder has had to use seven linemen thus far. The secondary has been the bright spot for Arizona State. Redshirt freshman Mitchell "Fright Night" Freedman has made a major impact in the secondary at free safety and is considered to be among the nation's top hitters. He combines with strong safety Damien Richardson to form one of the league's top tandems. Freedman is second for the Sun Devils in tackles with 47.

"We find that every time Mitchell starts, he has a terrific game," Snyder said. "He's fearless."

Snyder is impressed with the Oregon's coach conversion from Rich Brooks to Mike Bellotti this year.

"They've done a real nice job up there this year," he said. "They have some weaknesses, but their schemes — both offensively and defensively — have really hidden those weaknesses and diminished their effects on their game."

Snyder relishes in the Sun Devils' roll this weekend as the underdog. He says his team draws its motivation from the 12-point spread. He has much respect for the Oregon squad.

"In all honesty, the Ducks should be 7-0," Snyder said. "I think we are a little bit better than the spread indicates and we're improving. Going into this game, we are loose because we have nothing to loose."

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