

## Sideline

### TODAY IN SPORTS

#### Bench and Rose can't 'kiss and make up'

CINCINNATI (AP) — Former teammates Johnny Bench and Pete Rose are at odds over whether Rose should be allowed into the Hall of Fame, where Bench already has been admitted.

Bench said Tuesday he thinks that Rose bet on baseball and should be kept out of the Hall of Fame until he admits guilt and apologizes.

That prompted an angry response from Rose that Bench didn't know the facts and should keep quiet. Both men, who were teammates on Cincinnati's "Big Red Machine" teams of the mid-1970s, made their comments in separate interviews Tuesday with Cincinnati radio station WLW-AM, which broadcasts Reds' games.

"Johnny's an intelligent guy, I thought, but he just doesn't think before he talks," Rose said.

#### Women's basketball drops opener to Utah

SALT LAKE CITY — The Oregon women's basketball team, looking to reach their third NCAA tournament in as many years, stumbled in its first outing of the season, falling to Utah 73-61 in the first round of the Preseason Women's National Invitational Tournament Wednesday night.

"We didn't appear ready to play yet," Oregon head coach Jody Runge said. "We shot ourselves in the by letting their big kids have a good night. We did more damage to ourselves by not doing our jobs."

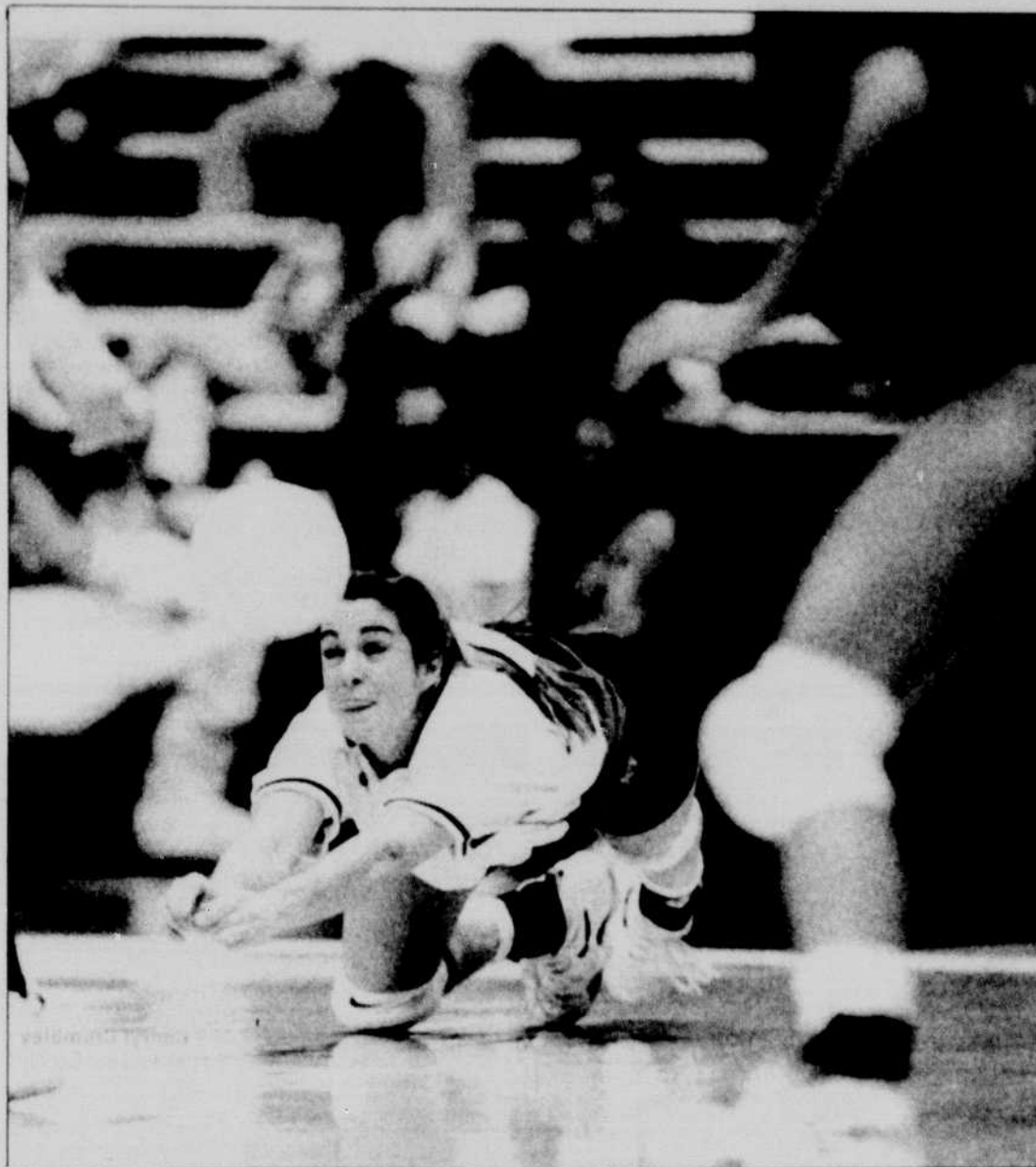
#### BUTKUS CANDIDATES

Semifinalists for the Butkus Award, the nation's outstanding collegiate football linebacker:

- Greg Bellisari, jr.**  
Ohio State
- Daryl Bush, so.**  
Florida State
- Dwayne Curry, jr.**  
Mississippi State
- Percell Gaskins, sr.**  
Kansas State
- Kevin Hardy, sr.**  
Illinois
- Jarrett Irons, sr.**  
Michigan
- Ray Lewis, jr.**  
Miami
- Simeon Rice, sr.**  
Illinois
- Matt Russell, jr.**  
Colorado
- Zach Thomas, sr.**  
Texas Tech

Three finalists will be announced on Nov. 16 and the winner on Dec. 9.

EMERALD



MARK McTYRE/ Emerald

Sophomore outside hitter Allison Pepe and the rest of the Ducks have been unsuccessful at digging their way out of the Pacific-10 basement. Tonight the team hopes to hit higher ground against California.

## Ducks hunt for second Pac-10 win

■ **VOLLEYBALL:** The final homestand of the volleyball season will begin tonight

By **Andrea DeYoung**  
Sports Reporter

The Oregon volleyball team is still looking for its second Pacific-10 Conference win of the season and tonight may be its last realistic try.

California comes into McArthur Court ranked ninth in the Pac-10 with a record of 4-12 in the conference and 12-14 overall. Oregon is still stuck in the basement in the standings with a conference record of 1-15 and an overall record of 8-19. Although the Ducks will finish the season at No. 10, they want to better their 1-17 record from last season.

In September when the Ducks traveled to Berkeley, the match went five tough games, and the Golden Bears came out on top. The games went back and fourth as Oregon won the first game 15-7 and the third game 15-10 but dropped the second game 15-11, the fourth game 15-12 and the deciding game 15-10.

In the loss to the Bears, junior outside hitter Amy McNeel had a great night. She had a Pac-10 record 50 digs. She also posted a career-high 20 kills and ended up

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## Larkin is named NL MVP

■ **AWARD:** Shortstop upsets a strong field of candidates

NEW YORK (AP) — Barry Larkin was the surprise choice as National League Most Valuable Player on Wednesday, beating out Dante Bichette and Greg Maddux to become the first shortstop to win the award in 33 years.

Maddux, who won his fourth straight Cy Young Award this week, and Bichette, who led the league in home runs and RBIs, were considered the leading candidates.

But rather than pitching or power, voters clearly looked at the all-around contributions Larkin made on and off the field to the NL Central champion Cincinnati Reds, and made him a convincing choice.

Larkin hit .319 with 66 RBIs and 51 steals, is like-

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## OSU playbook filled with surprises

Last Saturday, two esteemed colleagues of mine and I traveled to Corvallis, entered Parker Stadium and cheered for the Oregon State Beavers. Well, actually we went to cheer for the last possible chance the Oregon football team had to go to the Rose Bowl, but it just so happened that to do that we had to root for the Beavers.

In doing that, the Beavers proved something to me once and for all: The Oregon State football team is garbage.

After losing to the Pacific Tigers, I still thought the Beavers had some wins left in them. Everybody has bad games, right?

After losing to the North Texas Eagles, I had thought the Beavers were a pathetic excuse for a Division I football team, but a pathetic Division I excuse nonetheless. An upset or two might bring the old Beavs back, right?

But after going into their stadium, after seeing them play in person, I have seen the light.

It wasn't the fact that they played horribly — although

they did that, too — as much as the fact that nothing about that football program seems to have any ounce of life. They played as if they were tired, and the fans cheered as if they were tired. Even the hotdogs were tired. The cheerleading squad was hiding behind the players; the scoreboard was almost never right, and the game tickets were those little generic tickets they used to give out at movies before I was born.

With USC up 7-0, the Beavers mounted what at first glance appeared to be a valiant drive. First and goal at the one-yard line, you say? No worries. The Beavers fumbled on the next play and never again threatened the Trojans' bid for the Pacific-10 Conference title.

Almost as if he were addressing us — the full-blown, decked-out Oregon Duck fans sitting in the cheap seats — and almost as if he were telling USC not to gloat, one "faithful" Oregon State fan yelled after the pathetic attempt at a one-yard conversion, "That one is in the playbook!"

And considering the Beavers don't have a Division I win this year and barely beat the dangerous Idaho Vandals, I believe him.

That sarcastic comment was just about the only ounce of support that the fans gave their

Beavers. No practiced cheers echoed through the stadium, and no waves were performed in an attempt to keep the team's spirits up.

Rather, under-the-breath, anti-Beaver sentiments were the only evidence I heard to make me believe that the people in the stands were even watching the game. As my friend and I tried our best to get the "Let's go Beavs" chant going, we were met with looks of surprise.

At halftime, many Beaver fans left the wet conditions of Parker Stadium to go home and watch the game on TV, said one passerby as he glared at my Oregon sweatshirt and Ducks scarf.

The highlight of the game was not a USC 50-yard run or leaping catch or any comical attempt by the Beavers to thwart the Trojans' bid for the Rose Bowl, but rather one misplaced Duck fan hidden among the Beaver alums. This particular fan was quite spectacular, dressed in a No. 32 Oregon jersey and green sweats with yellow shorts tucked over them. He had a green scarf that he swung around in an attempt to get Oregon State fans excited.

But to no avail. The only thing that cheering for the Beavers got him was kicked out

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#### OPINION



**Tom Kearney**