

Football: Fan following, rankings deciding factor in bowl bids

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and the projected payout to each team is nearly \$2.5 million.

"We feel very honored to have the opportunity to participate in the Cotton Bowl," said Bill Moos, Oregon athletics director. "To us and to many others it is one of the most prestigious bowls in the country. And to have back-to-back Jan. 1 bowls is a great step for our program."

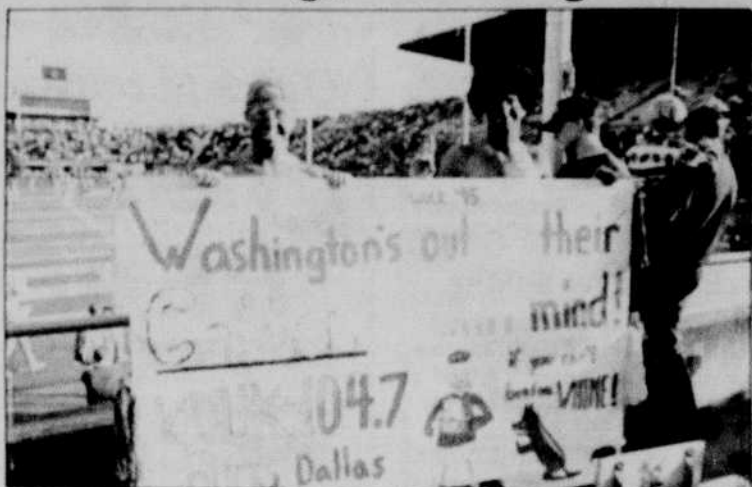
Saturday presented a new scenario in that Washington's 33-30 win over Washington State and USC's 24-20 loss to UCLA made the Huskies co-Pac-10 champions, but Cotton Bowl officials made good on a promise made last week that gave the Ducks the invitation if they beat Oregon State and finished with a 9-2 overall record.

That they did, and no matter what other factors could have played a role in deciding the bowl participants, Cotton Bowl President John Crawford said 12th-ranked Oregon was clear-and-away the choice.

"We basically looked at the head-to-head match up between Oregon and Washington, and the fact that Oregon was ranked higher in the polls relating to Washington," Crawford said in a teleconference on Sunday.

That ranking, Cotton Bowl executive director Rick Baker said, was one of the major factors why Oregon got the nod.

"Oregon is the highest ranked Pac-10 team there is," Baker said on Sunday. "Obviously the Cotton Bowl feels very fortunate and



Fans hold a sign in hopes that the Ducks would make it to the Cotton Bowl. Crowd attendance reached more than 45,000 people Saturday.

very lucky to have the highest ranked Pac-10 team in our football game."

The last time the Ducks compiled a 9-2 record was the 1948-49 season when, strangely enough, they went to the Cotton Bowl on New Year's Day, but lost to Southern Methodist 21-13.

This year the Ducks will face No. 8 Colorado State, who also has a 9-2 overall record and clinched their spot in the game by defeating No. 7 Kansas State 27-17 on Saturday. Both teams, Cotton Bowl officials said, had what bowl officials look for in terms of fan following.

"That was one of the things that we were looking for, a team that brings a lot of their fans," said Jim Ray Smith, the chairman for the Cotton Bowl's team selection committee.

"We feel good about the attendance of this year's Cotton Bowl," Crawford said. "We are expecting the school's to bring a large contingent of fans but conversely I think the folks in Dallas will turn out as well to see two great colleges down here playing what bowl games are all about: traditional, hard-knocking football."

And not only do the two teams have fan following, but they also have extracurricular appeal as well. Since it is the Oregon football team's 100th anniversary, Moos said that he plans to bring members of past teams, particularly those that played in the 1949 Cotton Bowl.

"We think it will make it that much more exciting, to celebrate the anniversary and have all those [past] players down here," Crawford said.

Cotton Bowl ticket availability could be announced today

■ COTTON BOWL: Tickets for the Ducks' post-season appearance may be available this Wednesday

By Trevor Kearney
Sports Editor

Oregon football fans could know as soon as today how and when to get their Cotton Bowl tickets.

While tickets have not yet been received by the University and no particulars have been determined about when the tickets will be made available, exact ticket availability could be announced today, said Hunt Holsapple, director of ticket sales.

"As soon as we get them in hand we will start selling them," Holsapple said, estimating that they could go on sale as soon as Wednesday but definitely by Nov. 27, the day students get back from Thanksgiving break.

The ticket office will not hand out vouchers for tickets, as they did last year for the Rose Bowl. Instead, Holsapple said, tickets will be given out directly to paying customers and will all be \$45.

Because the Cotton Bowl is

a corporate bowl sponsored by Mobile, fewer tickets will be given out to the University than were given out by the Rose Bowl last year. But Holsapple estimated that nearly 20,000 tickets will still be allotted to the University this year.

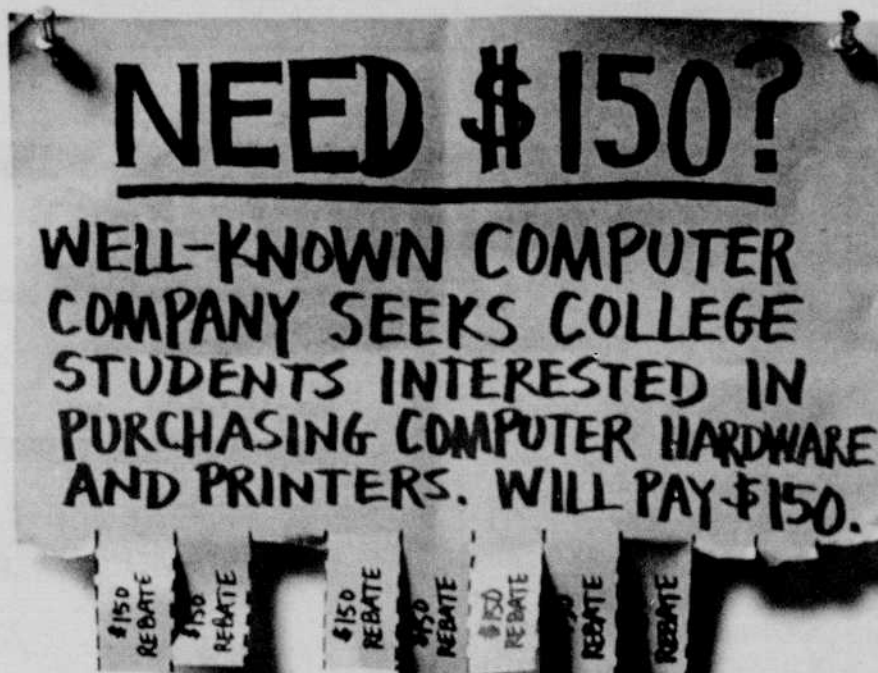
The order in which those tickets are given out, however, is a bit complicated.

"What we are going to do is prioritize it, so that the people who have supported us all year get tickets first," Holsapple said.

Season ticket holders, Duck Athletic Fund members, Oregon letter winners and University students will get first crack at tickets, in that order. After that, tickets will go on sale to the public.

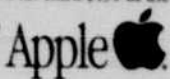
Holsapple said if things go as planned, mail orders will be taken starting Wednesday for season ticket holders, Duck Athletic Fund members and letter winners, while student tickets will be available soon afterwards.

Last season, 6,000 student tickets were allotted for the Rose Bowl, most of which were bought in the first week of availability.



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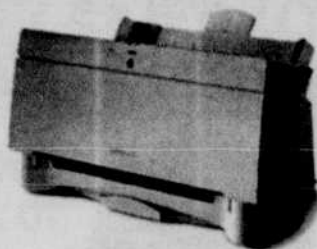
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