

## sideline

### TODAY IN SPORTS

#### Florida coach rejects offer from Buccaneers

TAMPA, Fla. (AP) — Florida coach Steve Spurrier said today he rejected a lucrative offer to leave the school to coach the Tampa Bay Buccaneers.

"I am not leaving the University of Florida, and I never said I was leaving the University of Florida," Spurrier said at a news conference. "I did have some discussions with the management of the Tampa Bay Bucs, and I appreciate the interest from Rich McKay, the general manager, and Joel and Brian Glazer."

Spurrier, 50, had been wooed by the beleaguered Buccaneers after leading the Gators to within a victory of the national championship this season.

"Maybe this will end the speculation for years to come," Spurrier said. "I have talked, and I listened, and I think I am just a college ball coach. The University of Florida job is one of the best in the country, and it is awfully difficult to leave this job."

Spurrier said earlier that he ran "hot and cold" on whether or not to accept the Bucs offer, reportedly worth at least \$2 million a year.

#### Robinson earns award for weeks' 41-point effort

NEW YORK (AP) — Cliff Robinson of Portland was picked as NBA player of the week on Tuesday after leading the Trail Blazers to a 3-1 record.

Robinson averaged 28.8 points, 6.5 rebounds, and 2.8 assists last week. He scored a career-high 41 points on 17-for-27 shooting in a 113-97 victory over Minnesota.



### ON THE TUBE

January 10

- 4 p.m. ESPN  
NCAA Basketball, Wake Forest at Duke
- 4:30 p.m. PRIME  
NCAA Basketball, Virginia Tech at Duquesne
- 5 p.m. TBS  
NBA Basketball, Seattle at Chicago
- 6 p.m. ESPN  
NCAA Basketball, North Carolina at Georgia Tech
- 7:30 p.m. PRIME  
NCAA Basketball, Arizona St. at Arizona

EMERALD

## Oregon scores big with Cotton Bowl draw

■ **ATTENDANCE:** Oregon's fan contingency was a hit with Cotton Bowl reps

By Trevor Kearney  
Sports Editor

Although the Colorado Buffaloes won the battle on the field at the Jan. 1 Cotton Bowl Classic, the Oregon Ducks were quicker on the draw.

The draw of fans, that is. Oregon sold slightly more than 12,000 tickets, said Hunt Holsapple, director of ticket sales at Oregon, compared to a Colorado's offering of 6,000 to 7,000 tickets. Though exact numbers have not been calculated, Oregon was clearly a bigger draw than Colorado.

Because of inclement weather, however, Cotton Bowl officials estimated the total kickoff attendance was around 45,000, the lowest in-person attendance in 50 years. That crowd dwindled down to less than 40,000 by halftime. The television broadcast showed visibly empty end-zone sections.

"I don't think it enhances the image of the game when you have the end zones empty," John Crawford, president of the Cotton Bowl, said at halftime. "But the weather is one thing that we can't control."

Despite low in-state attendance, Oregon and Colorado fans made up some of the difference out of their own pockets. According to Crawford, the Dallas area made a substantial profit from



The number of Oregon fans that traveled to Dallas, Texas, despite bad weather to support the Oregon football team at the Cotton Bowl impressed the bowl representatives.

out-of-town Cotton Bowl-bound fans.

"The University folks had to come a long way, and so did Colorado, but we are very pleased with the turnout," Crawford said. "The economic impact on our community is over \$20 million because of the number of people that came to the game, the time that they have stayed here and the money that they spent. So we are very pleased with that aspect

of it, as far as the Dallas community is concerned.

"From that standpoint [the Cotton Bowl] is absolutely a success."

"We sent a great contingent to Dallas," Holsapple said. "Cotton Bowl officials were really impressed."

Possibly more impressive was the effort Oregon made to get people to the game. The University worked with Eugene radio station

KUGN and Dallas radio station KLIF to donate tickets to children's hospitals and women's shelters in order to give people who wouldn't otherwise get to go to the game the chance to see it.

According to Holsapple, the University distributed tickets to six Dallas area agencies, which included a Special Olympics outlet. Supporters of the program donated the tickets or money to buy extra tickets.

## Pac-10 may join alliance

■ **BOWLS:** The bowl alliance may gain control of the Rose Bowl, ensuring a championship game

DALLAS (AP) — The Big Ten and Pac-10 are having discussions about joining the bowl alliance, a move that would guarantee a national championship game every year in college football.

"Whether anything's going to happen or not, I don't know," Andy Geiger, athletic director at Ohio State said Tuesday during the NCAA's annual convention. "But ideas are being exchanged and the matter is under consideration."

"I would say we'll know by late spring or early summer if we have something that's viable," Big Ten commissioner Jim

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## Ducks finish winter break winningly

■ **WRESTLING:** The Ducks achieved several high-ranking wins during the winter break in Nebraska and Corvallis

By Pete Schneider  
Sports Reporter

The Oregon wrestling team launched into the second part of the 1995-96 dual-meet season with three impressive team performances during winter break.

The Ducks placed second at the Great Plains Invitational tournament in Lincoln, Neb., Saturday behind third-ranked Nebraska. Oregon took 11 wrestlers to the 22-team tournament and placed 10 in the individual standings.

"It was a very productive meet for us," Oregon head coach Ron Finley said. "We beat some really good wrestlers, Big Eight champs, and some other nationally ranked guys. We felt really good about that."

Two-time All-American Kevin Roberts led the way for the Ducks, winning the 118-pound weight class with a victory over Nebraska's Brad Canoyer. The match was evenly contested in the initial minutes, but Canoyer faltered as the match progressed.

"It was pretty close at first," Finley said. "Kevin put so much pressure on him and was so intense that he just wore him down by the end of the match. He was pretty much in complete control by the time the match ended."

Scott Norton also had a strong tournament in Lincoln for the Ducks. In his final against Nebraska's Jason Kraft, the 150-pound junior scored a fall and a major decision en route to Oregon's other win in the tournament. Norton was never seriously threatened throughout the Classic, dominating the 150-pound class.

The Ducks got support from the other lower

weights when John Taylor and Blake Tompkins placed second and Jeremy Ensrud, Rob Tanner, Royce Repenn and Nate Sullivan finished third in their respective weight classes.

"Johnny and Rob are just doing an outstanding job for us this year," Finley said. "They're new to the lineup this year and have stepped right up and have really taken over. I'm really pleased with them."

The Ducks were able to overcome serious jet lag to finish second in the tournament. Because of the harsh weather and numerous flight cancellations, it took the team more than 30 hours to fly to Lincoln.

Oregon's biggest win of the year came on December 29 at the Oregon Classic in Corvallis. The Ducks put seven wrestlers in the finals and beat 14th-ranked Oregon State to claim in-state bragging rights.

"I just felt like we were supposed to win, and our wrestlers felt like we were supposed to win," Finley said. "Oregon State was second in the nation last year, so it was very satisfying to beat them."

Oregon also looked good against 10th-ranked Cal State Bakersfield at MacArthur Court on December 16th. Roberts, Ensrud, Norton and Tanner scored victories, but the Roadrunners were too tough in the upper weights, winning the meet 21-13.

In all, Finley said he feels confident about how his team is performing as it gears up for the next part of the schedule. "I see improvements almost every week," he said. "Right now, we're wrestling pretty steady, and we don't seem to be having many highs or lows. We are all wrestling tougher and more intense with fewer mistakes all down the line."