



Bowl offer expected no later than Tuesday

The Las Vegas Bowl is impressed with what Oregon has to offer, Oregon Athletic Director Bill Moos said

By Ryan Frank
Sports Editor

Despite lengthy discussions, the Oregon Ducks were without an invitation to any bowl game as of late Sunday.

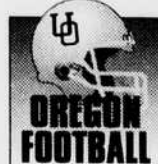
Oregon athletic director Bill Moos spoke with officials from both the Las Vegas Bowl and the Sports Humanitarian Bowl on Sunday, but no offer has been extended the Ducks' way, Moos said.

An offer is expected to come today and would not come any later than Tuesday.

Moos addressed the Las Vegas Bowl selection committee through a teleconference call on Sunday and said they were "extremely interested." One member of the committee went as far as to call Moos after

the teleconference call to express their interest a second time, Moos said.

"We made our case," Moos said. "We've highlighted what we bring and they were quite impressed."



Oregon must agree to a \$255,000 entrance fee to gain a spot in the Las Vegas Bowl, which Moos said is no problem.

The Las Vegas Bowl selection committee is discussing one team other than Oregon: Iowa, which finished tied for sixth place in the Big Ten with a 7-4 record, 4-4 in conference play.

The Las Vegas Bowl is just 20 days away, but Moos said that also would not be a prob-

lem.

Moos also spoke with Steve Schmader, the president of the Dec. 29 Sports Humanitarian Bowl in Boise, Idaho, and said they are "getting anxious," but that they are "allowing us an opportunity to visit with the Las Vegas Bowl."

Officials from the Humanitarian Bowl appear to also be very interested in Oregon, especially considering 7-4 Rice and 7-4 Cincinnati have both made aggressive proposals.

No. 23 Air Force from the Western Athletic conference has already been selected to play in the Las Vegas Bowl, and Utah State 6-5 won the Big West title to earn a spot in the Humanitarian Bowl.

Las Vegas

■ WHEN: Dec. 20
■ WHERE: Las Vegas
■ TEAM: No. 23 Air Force

Sports Humanitarian

■ WHEN: Dec. 29
■ WHERE: Boise, Idaho
■ TEAM: Utah State

Ducks claim Shootout title

Despite a slow start, the women were able to edge Portland State 64-60 for their third straight Pepsi Shootout title

By Ryan Frank
Sports Editor

It certainly wasn't the way the Ducks would have drawn it up, but they'll take it.

The Oregon women's basketball team struggled mightily against a scrappy Portland State team in its second season as a Division I program, but came

away with a 64-60 victory in the championship game of the fourth annual Pepsi Shootout in front of 2,932 at McArthur Court on Saturday night.

The win gave Oregon its third straight Pepsi Shootout title and pushed its record to 2-1 overall and dropped Portland State, one night removed from a two-point overtime upset of San Diego State, to 2-2.

After taking care of the Portland Saints 76-

60 in its first-round game Friday, Oregon was heavily favored to repeat as the Shootout champion, but at the halftime Saturday, it looked as though the Ducks' title run was in danger.

They admittedly came out flat to start the game and trailed the Vikings 33-24 at the half.

"I thought we played pretty poor," said Oregon center Jenny Mowe, who finished with 12 points, 11 rebounds and four blocks. "I thought we came out really flat, and just kind of took it for granted that they were Portland State."

Oregon shot 34.8 percent in the first half, turned the ball over 14 times and converted on only six of 12 free-throw attempts. Meanwhile, Portland State hit five of nine three-point attempts to open up the nine-point lead, a lead that did nothing to please Ore-



Point guard Natalie Hughes drives against Portland State's Monique Zampera during the Ducks' second-half comeback win over the Vikings.

CHAD PATTESON/Emerald

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Natalie Hughes leads Oregon second-half comeback

The point guard scored 12 of her team-high 16 points in the second half against the Vikings

By Alex Pond
Sports Reporter

Just when it looked like Portland State would stroll out of McArthur Court with the Pepsi Shootout championship trophy and an upset of Oregon Saturday night, Natalie Hughes came to the rescue.

Oregon head coach Jody Runge verbally ripped her team at halftime for a lack of focus and intensity as the fiery and feisty Vikings rolled to a 33-24 lead.

Hughes, for one, responded.

Playing with the aggressiveness and tenacity that was desperately lacking in the first half, the senior point guard scored 12 of her team-high 16 points after halftime as the Ducks rallied for the victory.

"She was the spark," Hughes' backcourt mate Lisa

Bowyer said. "She knew that she had to step up. We wanted someone to step up and she was the one. They couldn't stop her. They couldn't stop the drive, and that's Natalie's game — to drive and shoot."

As was the case for most of the Ducks in the first half, Hughes played lackadaisical and seemed rather disinterested against an inferior opponent, at least on paper. She scored just four points on one for six shooting from the field and was just one for two at the free-throw line.

Then came Runge's halftime tongue lashing, of which Hughes was at least one of the targets.

Hughes was fired up in the second half, hitting on

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Inexperience continues to haunt men

Oregon's top scorers Henry Madden and Terik Brown combine for just five points in the Ducks' loss to Santa Clara

By Chris Hansen
Assistant Sports Editor

As a general rule, there are no moral victories to be had in losses, coaches like to say.

But when a team is struggling to succeed for reasons that primarily have to do with youth and inexperience, you take all the positives you can get.

That was the approach the Oregon men's basketball team took following Saturday afternoon's 67-58 loss to nonconference opponent Santa Clara at McArthur Court in front of a crowd of 5,954.

The Ducks (1-2), shaking off their lackluster performance in a loss to Portland State last Tuesday, played with as much intensity and effort as they had all season and got standout performances underneath the basket from their big men.

Led by center Mike Carson and forward Jonathan Nelson, Oregon scratched and clawed its way back into the game after being down by six points at halftime. But every time the Ducks would get close, the Broncos (2-1) were able to hit a big basket to pull just out of reach, including Brian Jones' three-pointer with 36 seconds remaining in the game to give Santa Clara a six-point lead.

"I was just proud of our effort and the way we bounced back," Oregon head coach Ernie Kent said. "We played hard, and we played tough and unfortunately we didn't win the ballgame. But we were playing a mentally tougher ballclub down the stretch. I was very, very proud of our big guys."

Despite Carson's team-high 15 points on six-for-11 shooting, point guard Mike McShane going four for five for 12 points and Nelson going three for five for 10 points, the Ducks shot an icy 36.5 percent from the field as a team, including two for 15 from the three-point line.

Oregon remained close despite getting little production from its top two scorers.



■ POINTS:
Carson, UO 15
Johnson, SC 18
■ REBOUNDS:
Carson, UO 7
Holmes, SC 7
Wushnig, SC 7
■ ASSISTS:
McShane, UO 3
Jones, SC 5

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