

# Oregon looks to improve bowl record on Christmas Day

*The Ducks have recorded half of their all-time bowl wins in the last 10 years*

By Scott Pesznecker  
*Oregon Daily Emerald*

If history plays any part in how well a team will fare in a bowl game at the end of the season, the Ducks could be in for a wild ride at the Aloha Bowl on Dec. 25.

Oregon is 2-4 in bowl games in the 1990s. If the Ducks can avoid defeat against Colorado, it will be the first time in school history that Oregon has been able to win back-to-back bowl games. One thing is for sure: Win or lose, the Ducks will add another exciting chapter in the long, storied history of Oregon bowl games.

Here is a quick recap of Oregon's past bowl triumphs and failures this decade.

**Las Vegas Bowl: Dec. 20, 1997**

Las Vegas

**Oregon 41, Air Force 13**

To say that Oregon was sharp on offense would be a terrible understatement. The Ducks took no longer than one minute to score each of their five touchdowns as they shot down No. 23 Air Force.

The victory, which fell one point short of tying the Ducks' record margin of victory of 29 set in the 1960 Liberty Bowl, gave Oregon its first postseason win since the Independence Bowl in 1989.

Oregon's defense was a key fac-

tor as well. The Ducks limited Air Force to only three first downs and 92 yards of total offense in the second half.

**Cotton Bowl: Jan. 1, 1996**

Dallas

**Colorado 38, Oregon 6**

Colorado took advantage of five Oregon turnovers and a defensive lapse in the third quarter to drop Oregon to its fourth consecutive bowl game defeat.

While the Duck defense kept Oregon to within a touchdown at halftime, Colorado terrorized the Ducks for 19 points in less than eight minutes to start the third quarter.

Oregon's only points came off two first-quarter field goals by Joshua Smith as the Ducks were held to just 267 yards of total offense — 139 yards below its season average.

**Rose Bowl: Jan. 2, 1995**

Pasadena, Calif.

**Penn State 38, Oregon 20**

The Ducks' smothering Gang Green defense and a Rose Bowl record 456 yards passing by quarterback Danny O'Neil were not enough to rally Oregon past unbeaten and then-No. 2 Penn State in the Ducks' first Rose Bowl berth since 1958.

Penn State jumped out to an early 7-0 first-quarter lead when all-American tailback Ki-Jana Carter broke free for an 83-yard touchdown run on the Nittany Lions' first possession. Oregon responded by tying the game at 14 early in

the third quarter before Penn State and the nation's No. 1 offense outscored the Ducks 17-6 down the home stretch.

Oregon's defense did hold the Nittany Lions' offense to 90 yards short of its per-game average during the regular season, but the Ducks' running game rushed for only 45 yards.

**Independence Bowl: Dec. 31, 1992**

Shreveport, La.

**Wake Forest 39, Oregon 35**

The Ducks built a comfortable 19-point lead midway through the third quarter, capped by an eight-yard interception touchdown return by Oregon cornerback Alex Molden. However, the Demon Deacons took control of the game late in the second half and scored on four straight possessions to end the game.

Wake Forest out-rushed the Ducks 193 yards to 112 in the game and passed for more than 320 yards to edge the Ducks 39-35, despite losing three fumbles to Oregon.

**Freedom Bowl: Dec. 29, 1990**

Anaheim, Calif.

**Colorado State 32, Oregon 31**

With just more than one minute remaining in regulation, Colorado State stopped Oregon's two-point conversion attempt just inches short of the goal line to hand the Ducks a heartbreaking loss in front of a crowd of 41,450 at Anaheim Stadium.

Oregon senior quarterback Bill Musgrave passed for 392 yards,

the second-highest total in the Freedom Bowl's seven-year history at that time, and he tied the record for completions with 29.

However, the Ducks running game was non-existent. Oregon rushed for just seven yards on 26 carries and the offense committed five fumbles, three of which resulted in points for Colorado State. A muffed punt and a costly penalty for roughing the passer by Oregon led to 25 of the Rams' 32 points and helped erase a three-point Colorado State halftime deficit.

**Independence Bowl: Dec. 16, 1989:**

Shreveport, La.

**Oregon 27, Tulsa 24**

Trailing 24-10 late in the third quarter, Musgrave led the Ducks' offense to two touchdowns and a field goal in the final 18 minutes of play as Oregon posted just its second bowl-game victory in its history.

The Ducks held Tulsa scoreless in the fourth quarter and tied the game when Musgrave scored the first rushing touchdown of his career. Kicker Gregg McCallum clinched the Oregon victory with a 20-yard field goal with three minutes, seven seconds left to play.

Musgrave connected on 23-of-40 passes for 320 yards, while the Ducks' offense rushed for 140 yards to seal the win. Oregon's defense held the Golden Hurricanes to just 102 yards and one touchdown in the second half, and 253 yards of total offense for the game.

## UO Bowl History

A look at the scores and stars from the Ducks' 12 previous postseason bowl appearances:

**1997 Las Vegas Bowl:**

Oregon 41, Air Force 13

Johnson, UO 5 rec, 169 yd, 2 td

**1996 Cotton Bowl:**

Colorado 38, Oregon 6

Troutman, CU 13 rsh, 100 yd, 1 td

**1995 Rose Bowl:**

Penn State 38, Oregon 20

O'Neil, UO 41-61, 456 yd, 2 td

**1992 Independence Bowl:**

Wake Forest 39, Oregon 35

Dixon, WF 5 rec, 166 yd, 2 td

**1990 Freedom Bowl:**

Colorado State 32, Oregon 31

Musgrave, UO 29-47, 392 yd, 3 td

**1989 Independence Bowl:**

Oregon 27, Tulsa 24

Musgrave, UO 22-39, 320 yd, 2 td

**1963 Sun Bowl:**

Oregon 21, SMU 14

Berry, UO 11-26, 146 yd, 2 td

**1960 Liberty Bowl:**

Penn State 41, Oregon 12

Hoak, PSU 9 rsh, 61 yd, 2 td

**1958 Rose Bowl:**

Ohio State 10, Oregon 7

White, OSU 25 rsh, 93 yd

**1949 Cotton Bowl:**

SMU 21, Oregon 13

Walker, SMU 14 rsh, 66 yd 1 td

**1920 Rose Bowl:**

Harvard 7, Oregon 6

H. Huntington, UO 29 rsh, 122 yd

**1917 Rose Bowl:**

Oregon 14, Pennsylvania 0

S. Huntington, UO 3 int, 2 exp, 1 td

pass, 17 rsh, 69 yd, 1 td rsh



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