

Pez Sez

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is the highest-ranked team in the conference right now.

Maybe the Huskies didn't beat two third-ranked teams in their preseason, but they have shown the ability to emerge victorious in tough games. The Dawgs bit then-No. 5 Miami 34-29, on Sept. 9, then silenced a hostile Colorado crowd to rally for a fourth-quarter win, 17-14, over head coach Rick Neuheisel's former team.

And unlike UCLA's McCann, Washington's senior quarterback Marques Tuiasosopo will not be rattled by any volume of crowd

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noise. A stop-the-run philosophy won't work against the Huskies' Heisman Trophy candidate, who terrorizes defenses with his ability to pass and run the football with the best of them.

Oregon's red-zone offense has also struggled this season. In a close contest, the difference between a touchdown and a field goal can decide the outcome of the game.

So, with that said, Washington will be tougher to beat than the Bruins.

That's just the half of it.

While the national spotlight was focused on Oregon last Saturday, the game by itself wasn't necessarily season-altering. Why? Because, as stated earlier, the Bruins were overrated. They won't go to the

Rose Bowl, and if the Ducks didn't beat them, somebody else would have.

Meanwhile, Washington is the Pac-10's most promising Rose Bowl contender. If the Ducks win on Saturday, then the Huskies can't go to Pasadena unless Oregon loses twice because of the tie-breaking edge. Same goes for Washington if the Ducks lose.

One can't disregard Southern California, ranked No. 7 in the nation after a 3-0 preseason, with wins over Penn State, Colorado and San Jose State. The first win was sensational at the time, but the Trojans nearly lost home games against Colorado and San Jose State.

If the Ducks beat the Huskies, Southern California could be nothing more than a speed bump on the schedule.

Think about it: Oregon pulls out an emotional win over Washington, reclaiming Northwest dominance for two full years because the teams don't play next season. That momentum pulls the Ducks through a bye-week, in which a bruised-up Maurice Morris and Joey Harrington get some valuable rest after the toughest two games of their season. Then, it's the Trojans in Los Angeles: Another close win, but the Ducks show they can win on the road, as they should have done in Wisconsin.

After winning those first three conference games, Oregon takes care of business the rest of the way, maybe getting upset once by a lesser opponent.

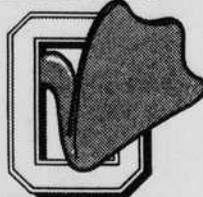
Then, with the tie-breaking edges over Washington and USC — the Pac-10's other Rose Bowl contenders — Oregon holds a deck with all the aces.

Dare it be said?

It could happen.

Scott Pesznecker is the assistant sports editor of the Emerald. He can be reached at JFlak1@aol.com

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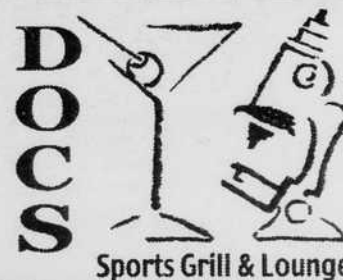
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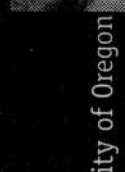
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Fall Term 2000

League	Manager Meetings	Location	Time
Flag Football	Oct. 2	*SRC Multipurpose 4	4:00P.M.
Indoor Soccer	Oct. 9	*SRC Ulrich Room	4:00P.M.
Volleyball	Oct. 10	*SRC Ulrich Room	4:00P.M.
3-on-3 Basketball	Oct. 18	*SRC Ulrich Room	4:00P.M.
Cross Country Meet	Nov. 1	Pioneer Cemetery	3:30P.M.

League	Playoff Meetings	Location	Time
Flag Football	Oct. 26	*SRC Multipurpose 4	4:00P.M.
Volleyball	Nov. 1	*SRC Ulrich Room	5:00P.M.
Indoor Soccer	Nov. 2	*SRC Ulrich Room	4:00P.M.
3-on-3 Basketball	Conducted via e-mail		

One-Day Events	Deadline	Dates	Location
Football Scramble	Oct. 2, 5P.M.	Oct. 3-4, 4-6P.M.	Grass IM Field
Indoor Soccer Scramble	Oct. 9, 5P.M.	Oct. 10-11, 7-9P.M.	*SRC Courts 4 & 5
Volleyball Scramble	Oct. 10, 5P.M.	Oct. 12, 7-9P.M.	B54 Gerling Annex
Cross Country Meet	Oct. 31, 5P.M.	Nov. 1, 3:30P.M.	Pioneer Cemetery
Raquetball Tournament	Nov. 2, 5P.M.	Nov. 4, 11A.M.	Raquetball Courts

Special Events	Deadline	Dates	Location
18-Hole Golf Scramble	Oct. 6	Oct. 15	Diamond Woods
Fall Tennis Classic	Oct. 24, 5P.M.	Oct. 27-29	Covered Courts
Fitness Week	Oct. 30-Nov. 3	Oct. 30-Nov. 3	*SRC

For more information, stop by 102 Esslinger Hall or call 346-4113. *Student Recreation Center
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