



Oregon senior defensive end Saul Patu (48) gets a lift up from a teammate Saturday night as linebacker Kevin Mitchell (39) looks on. *Erin Swanson-Davies Emerald*

Football

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color photo of receiver Marshaun Tucker celebrating his second touchdown of the game.

The story's opening sentence read, "You don't hear them mentioned as a national championship contender, but perhaps the 10th-ranked Ducks should start quacking."

On collegebcs.com, an online fan poll asked which team should win the national championship. The eight choices were Clemson, Florida, Florida State, Miami, Nebraska, Oklahoma, Virginia Tech or someone else.

The Huskers led with 24 percent of the vote, followed by the Sooners (22 percent) and the Hokies (14). "Someone else" was in fourth place with 12 percent of the vote. Who could that someone else be?

Even the national media is suggesting Oregon may be Miami-bound.

"I don't have any thoughts on that; my thoughts are on Arizona State," Bellotti said. "For us, the one thing I do know is that if we win out we control our opportunity to go to the Rose Bowl. We're becoming a good football team, we've got the attention of people, but we have to continue to prove that."

With the right losses in the upper echelon of the NCAA, the Ducks could be going somewhere besides Pasadena this winter.

Three teams in the Associated Press poll's top six will lose at least once in the coming weeks. Top-ranked Nebraska and No. 3 Oklahoma, both undefeated, face each other Saturday, and the Huskers later play No. 10 Kansas State. Second-ranked Virginia Tech, also un-

defeated, battles No. 4 Miami. Undefeated Clemson, ranked fifth, has to play No. 6 Florida State and No. 8 Florida.

The most likely outcome of all those top-six matchups is that Nebraska will probably be the only undefeated team in the NCAA by season's end, possibly leaving the BCS standings' No. 2 spot up for grabs.

The Ducks will need help to have a shot at the national title. Nebraska must blow out Oklahoma to push the Sooners down in the polls. Miami must beat Virginia Tech. Clemson must lose a game but beat either Florida State or Florida, or both.

"They talk about it, but with things like that we've really got to stay focused on the season," Tucker said. "Once you start thinking about those teams, you get relaxed on different teams during the week. It doesn't matter. Wherever God blesses us with, that's where we're going to go."

Oregon could have been a solid Orange Bowl candidate this season, had a few things worked out differently.

What if the Ducks weren't snubbed behind Washington in the coaches' poll? What if Notre Dame had beaten Nebraska on Sept. 9, instead of losing in overtime? Or, the big question: Where would the BCS rank Oregon if it had beaten Wisconsin?

Perhaps CNN.com said it best in an article by staff writer Stewart Mandel.

"Moral of the story, for all you nervous Florida and Oregon fans out there, is this," he writes. "It's fun to speculate, it's great to dream, but the mind is a terrible thing to waste — on math."

ARE YOU SCARED OF WHAT'S ON YOUR BALLOT THIS HALLOWEEN?

Everyone on campus be ware this Halloween season of 3 scary ballot measures brought to you by Bill Sizemore and Don McIntire; Measures 8, 91 and 93. These spooky measures will butcher, axe, and slash our university budgets. But, don't be scared of this nightmare — wake up and vote NO on Measures 8, 91, and 93!

MEASURE 8: COSTLY AND UNNECESSARY.

- This arbitrary spending limit would cut the state budget by 18%, and with it the funding of our state universities. It is loaded with unintended consequences, such as requiring the return of federal matching funds (up to 3.8 \$Billion), and even private donations, if they would push the state over the limit. Both sources are critical to state universities.

MEASURE 91: A TAX CUT YOU WON'T SEE AND SERVICES YOU WON'T GET!

- The majority of Oregon taxpayers would see no savings under this Bill Sizemore measure. It would give an unfair break to the wealthy, at the expense of Oregon state universities. Assuming an across the board cut in state budgets, the Oregon University System would face a 20% cut this budget cycle resulting major tuition hikes.

MEASURE 93: UNNECESSARY AND BUREAUCRATIC NIGHTMARE.

- Under Measure 93, voters would be forced to approve hundreds of state and local taxes and fees every election cycle. Every general election the ballots would be crowded with votes on everything from hairdresser license fees to egg breaker permit fees.

VOTE NO ON MEASURE 8, 91, & 93:

TOO LITTLE TO GAIN; TOO MUCH TO LOSE!

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