

Rivalry week ends season

■ The Pac-10's final week includes rivalries in every region, and final bowl invitations will be written

By Peter Hockaday
Oregon Daily Emerald

The Apple Cup. The Big Game. The Civil War.

Yes, it is rivalry week in the Pacific-10 Conference, and more than a few Pac-10 teams will be looking to extend their seasons to a bowl game.

Arizona and Arizona State will square off next Friday in a game both teams need to win. Washington State will try to spoil Washington's Rose Bowl aspirations in the

Apple Cup and UCLA will make a push for a respectable bowl berth against Southern California. Stanford and California will meet in the Big Game, with a lot of pride, but no bowls at stake.

Then there is the granddaddy rivalry game of them all, the Civil War, where for the first time in recent history, the nation's eyes will focus on a football game featuring two teams from Oregon. The Civil War will be a high-stakes poker game, and if the Cougars upset the Huskies, then the Rose Bowl will be the prize.

USC at UCLA

UCLA (6-4, 3-4) is the prime candidate for the Pac-10's fourth

bowl berth, but it won't be playing in the Rose Bowl after this Saturday. The Bruins already have the six wins necessary for a bowl trip, and will most likely head to Hawaii for either the Jeep Oahu Bowl or the Jeep Aloha Bowl.

But more could be at stake for

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Arizona head coach

UCLA Saturday. There is an outside possibility that the Bruins could earn a berth in the higher-profile Sun Bowl in El Paso, Texas, if Oregon gets blown out by Oregon State. The Sun Bowl, which is likely to feature Wisconsin as its Big 10 representative, may pass on a Ducks-Badgers rematch and select UCLA if the Bruins beat USC (4-6, 1-6) Saturday.

“There is none better than the UCLA vs. USC rivalry,” Bruins coach Bob Toledo said. “It's the city of Los Angeles and the city championship.”

USC is just looking for a shred of respect in a disastrous season and still has No. 11 Notre Dame to look forward to next Saturday.

Arizona at Arizona State

The game may be next Friday, but Arizona and Arizona State may as well play this Saturday.

The rivalry game without a name will have little impact on other Pac-10 teams, but it will have all the importance in the world to the Sun Devils and the Wildcats.

Friday's winner will get an airplane ticket to Hawaii from Santa Claus and will play in either the Jeep Oahu Bowl Christmas Eve or the Jeep Aloha Bowl Christmas Day. The loser gets coal in its stocking and watches those bowl games — and the rest of the post-season festivities — from home.

“You have two teams coming from similar places,” Arizona head coach Dick Tomey said. “You have the chance to get out there and go for it against your rival. That's a terrific way to end the season.”

Arizona and Arizona State have identical overall records (5-5), almost-identical losing streaks (the Wildcats have lost four in a row, the Sun Devils three) and identical postseason aspirations.

The beauty of college football is that one of them has to win.

Stanford at Cal

California (3-7, 2-5) and Stanford (4-6, 3-4) will meet in the least important game on the Pac-10 slate this week. But the Big Game is always one of the most heated rivalry games, and this year's matchup should be no different.

Cal's defense, led by defensive end Andre Carter, will try to stop Stanford's Randy Fasani to DeRonnie Pitts connection.

But Stanford has had Cal's number in recent years, and a sixth-straight Cardinal win would break the record for the longest Big Game winning streak by either team.

Washington will play for Apples and Roses

■ The Cougars and the Huskies will meet in Pullman for their rivalry game, and Washington will have everything to lose

By Peter Hockaday
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The Apple Cup between Washington and Washington State has traditionally been a Husky affair. Washington leads the all-time Apple Cup series, 59-27-6.

This Saturday, Washington will be the team with everything on the line, while Washington State will be looking to finally break through and beat a top Pacific-10 Conference team.

Washington State (4-6, 2-5 Pac-10) has been slapped around all season but is still one of the most dangerous teams in the Pac-10 when its passing game works.

The Huskies (9-1, 6-1), meanwhile, have turned into a puzzle in recent weeks, letting teams get close before putting them away, then accrediting their emotional play to injured safety Curtis Williams.

Neither team will have a problem getting up for this game.

“It's what you dream about when you play college football — that you can have a chance on the last Saturday to accomplish all your goals,” Washington head coach Rick Neuheisel said. “It won't come easy because Washington State is playing very in-

spired football.”

The Huskies' goal is the Rose Bowl. If Washington wins, it will achieve nothing worse than a Holi-

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Washington head coach

day Bowl berth, and if Oregon State beats Oregon, then the Huskies will be headed to Pasadena.

Washington has won big games this year, but most of those big wins have come at home — a 34-29 win against Miami, a 33-30 shoot-out with Oregon State, a 35-32 thriller against Arizona and a 35-28 victory against UCLA.

The Huskies' two road tests against Colorado and Oregon yielded a 17-14 win in Boulder and a 23-16 loss in Eugene.

In the war for the apples, and possibly the roses, Washington State will try to reverse history and spoil Washington's chance for a premier bowl.



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