

Pac-10 to nation: The Pac is back

■ The Pacific-10 Conference is out to prove that they're no patsies in this year's bowl schedule

By Robbie McCallum
Oregon Daily Emerald

Pathetic-10.

The term was coined in reference to Pacific-10 Conference football after a dismal 1999 season.

Now, all of that has changed. The conference has three teams in the top eight of the Associated Press poll — more than any other conference in the nation — two teams in Bowl Championship Series bowl games and a whole lot more respect.

Rose Bowl

No. 4 Washington (10-1, 7-1)
vs. No. 14 Purdue (8-3, 6-2)

For the first time in four years, a Pac-10 team will march into Pasadena as the favorite. For years, the Big-10 has had the upper hand in the Rose Bowl. Big-10 schools have won seven of the last eight Rose Bowls, including four straight titles.

Washington is hoping to end all of that against Purdue on Jan. 1, 2001.

The game will be marked by a quarterbacks duel between the Huskies' Marques Tuiasosopo and the Boilermakers' Drew Brees.

Tuiasosopo and crew are heavy favorites, ranked fourth in the na-

tion with a seven game win streak dating back to September. Purdue won the Big-10 championship despite two conference losses to Penn State and Michigan State. Wins over co-champions Michigan and Northwestern gave Purdue the nod.

Washington had to deal with a three-way tie of its own out West. The Huskies broke away from co-champions Oregon and Oregon State with a 3-0 non-conference record and a tougher schedule.

The Huskies have big wins against No. 2 Miami and No. 5 Oregon State. Purdue plays in the Rose Bowl for the first time since 1966.

Fiesta Bowl

No. 5 Oregon State (10-1, 7-1)
vs. No. 11 Notre Dame (9-2)

The respect that the Pac-10 has earned this season was made evident when the Bowl Championship Series selected Oregon State for the Tostitos Fiesta Bowl over Virginia Tech. The selection marked the first time that a Pac-10 school had been selected to a major BCS bowl outside of the Rose Bowl.

The Beavers and the rest of the conference will have a chance to earn more respect against No. 10 Notre Dame.

The Fiesta Bowl will feature the ultimate battle between a traditional football powerhouse and an upstart Cinderella team. Notre Dame, which has one of the most hallowed and revered programs in college football history, is led by freshmen sensation Matt LoVec-

chio at quarterback.

The Beavers counter with a powerful offense led by quarterback Jonathan Smith and tailback Ken Simonton.

Sun Bowl

UCLA (6-5, 3-5) vs. Wisconsin (7-4, 4-4)



Both teams were contenders to win their respective conference titles until the Badgers and Bruins both racked up losses to conference contenders.

Consecutive losses to Northwestern, Michigan and Ohio State put Wisconsin out of the Big-10 chase. UCLA's season was equally disappointing with losses to conference leaders Oregon, Oregon State and Washington. The Bruins' postseason hopes were put in jeopardy with a 38-35 loss to cross-town rival Southern California.

Now both teams have dusted themselves off and head to El Paso, Texas, for a chance to end their respective seasons on a high note.

UCLA's Freddie Mitchell has broken school and conference receiving records on his way to All-American honors. The Badgers counter with explosive tailback Michael Bennett, who led the Big-10 in rushing with 1,672 yards and an average of 159.8 a game.

Championship

continued from page 6B

had nothing to do with it. The facts were fed in during the season and it came out ranking us second. We will accept that. I'm not turning it down."

Head to head, the Sooners and Seminoles are matched to the tooth.

At quarterback, Florida State's Chris Weinke and Oklahoma's Josh Heupel both have thrown for over 3,000 yards with less than 14 interceptions.

Each team has a strong receiving corps, each with three receivers who average more than 14 yards per reception. The Seminoles' Marvin Minnis recorded 1,340 yards on 63 catches this season for 11 touchdowns while the Sooners'

Curtis Fagan scored seven touchdowns this season while receiving 14.8 yards per game.

Both teams prefer the pass but both have rushers who have ran for more than 800 yards this season and are deep in the backfield.

On the other side of the field, both teams have at least two players with more than 100 tackles and three with more than two interceptions.

There is nothing lost on special teams, where Oklahoma and Florida State both have excellent kicking and returning teams.

Both teams cruised through their non-conference schedules, and recorded convincing double-digit wins against top-10 rivals Florida, Nebraska and Kansas State.

The comparisons go beyond

the 2000 season as well. Florida State, which is considered by many as the team of the '90s, never finished lower than fourth in the national polls through the past decade and never won fewer than 10 games in a season.

Likewise, Oklahoma dominated the '80s and won a national championship to go along with 100-plus victories in the decade.

While this year's national championship game shapes up to be a close, evenly matched one, it may not decide the 2001 champion. If the Sooners triumph, they are the national champs. If Florida State wins and Miami beats Florida in the Sugar Bowl, then the Hurricanes would have a legitimate case for the No. 1 spot. In any case, the BCS will find a national champion.

PIZZA

PAPA JOHN'S

We Bake. We Deliver

South Eugene and U of O
484-PAPA (7272)

Santa Clara/River Road
461-PAPA (7272)

Springfield, Duck's Village, Chase Village and University Commons
746-PAPA (7272)

PICK 3

LARGE PIZZA
WITH UP TO 3 TOPPINGS

\$9.99

just expires 12/31/00

COMPLETE MEAL DEAL

LARGE TWO-TOPPING PIZZA,
One order of breadsticks,
and a 2-liter of Coca-Cola

\$13.99

only expires 12/31/00

Not valid with any other offer or special. Limited delivery area.

Steak is GOOD.

SPRINGFIELD

(You know the Gateway Mall? We're right in the parking lot.)
3018 Gateway Street.
Home grown in Oregon—also in Salem, Medford and Gresham

Heated outdoor patio now available

Goodwrench Service Plus

SERVICE WHILE YOU WAIT

- Lube, oil & filter • Vehicle Inspections • Tires Rotated • Wheel Pack • 39 Point Safety Inspection • Transmission Fluid & Service • Wiper Inspection & Replacement • Differential Service • Radiator Inspection Service • Lighting System Check & Bulb Replacement

Goodwrench Service close to campus, can leave your car there when in class, hit us at Lunch time... we're that quick!

LIFETIME GUARANTEE** on parts and labor. Plus competitive up-front pricing and courtesy Transportation.

No Appointment Needed!

We'll give you more than just an OIL CHANGE

Includes up to 5 quarts of GM Goodwrench Motor oil, a new AC Delco Oil Filter, Chassis lube and ten-point maintenance check, all in 29 minutes or less! Restrictions may apply to some vehicles.

\$19.95

originally \$24.95!
NO COUPON NEEDED!
Everyday low price.

**See dealer for details. On most vehicles. ** See us for guarantee details

2020 Franklin Blvd., Eugene • 465-3588 • Open Mon-Fri 7:30-5:30

Tail Gate for away games.

Join the party!

You could jump in your car after the game but where's the fun in that?

Come to THE COOLER with pool, food, drink & full lottery services. We guarantee more fun than traffic gridlock.

20% OFF FOOD WITH SPORTS TICKET

Oh yeah, being 21 is good, too.