

## SPORTS

Best bet  
Monday Night Football:  
NY Jets at Oakland  
6 p.m., ABC

Monday, December 2, 2002

## Oregon's bowl picture clouded by USC

The Ducks will wait to see where the Trojans go before making their bowl plans

## Football notes

Peter Hockaday  
Sports Editor

If Oregon's bowl picture was abstract before, it's now a Picasso.

When now-No. 5 Southern California crushed now-No. 11 Notre Dame 44-13 Saturday night, it threw Oregon's bowl picture — and the national bowl picture — into disarray. The Ducks will now wait on two different factors before booking their flight to either Seattle or San Francisco.

Oregon currently has two bowl options: the Silicon Valley Bowl on

Dec. 31 in San Jose, Calif., or the Seattle Bowl at Seahawks Stadium on Dec. 30.

The Ducks' determining factor No. 1 will be the outcome of Saturday's contest between No. 7 Washington State and UCLA at the Rose Bowl. The Cougars will be playing for the Pacific-10 Conference title and a trip back to the Rose Bowl on Jan. 1. If UCLA wins that game, USC would win the Pac-10 title, earn a trip to the Rose Bowl and tip the rest of the conference down a notch, dominoes-style, and the Ducks would likely be headed to Seattle.

But if Washington State wins, USC's fate will be in the hands of the Bowl Championship Series computers and bowl executives, which is Oregon's factor No. 2. If the Trojans finish in the top four of the BCS standings, they will automatically qualify for a BCS bowl, ei-

ther the Orange Bowl or Sugar Bowl. When Oklahoma — formerly third in the BCS standings — lost to Oklahoma State on Saturday, it paved the way for USC to break the BCS top 5, but probably wasn't enough to move them past Georgia or Iowa for the fourth spot.

Georgia and Miami, both ahead of USC in the BCS standings, each have a game remaining. If Miami loses to Virginia Tech on Saturday, it likely wouldn't be a big enough blow to drop the Hurricanes out of the top 5. In fact, Miami still could go to the national championship game even if it loses. But if Georgia loses the Southeastern Conference Championship to Arkansas on Saturday, the Bulldogs likely would drop from the top 5 and open a spot for USC.

If USC does get pulled into a BCS bowl, that would bring everybody in the Pac-10 up a slot — reverse

dominoes — and the Ducks would likely be headed to the Silicon Valley Bowl.

The USC debate is quickly turning into a national issue. The Trojans played the most difficult sched-

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ule in the nation this year according to the BCS computers, playing eight teams ranked in the top 25 at the time they faced USC. The Trojans' only losses came to No. 6 Kansas

State, by seven points, and Washington State in overtime.

Since that loss to the Cougars, USC has gone 7-0 and outscored its opponents by an average of 21 points per contest. Senior quarterback Carson Palmer has developed into a legitimate Heisman Trophy candidate, putting an exclamation point on his file by throwing for 425 yards and four touchdowns against Notre Dame.

Still, if USC doesn't get a guaranteed BCS berth by finishing in the top 4, Notre Dame could get selected to a BCS bowl because it has a bigger national following than USC. The Irish have an identical record to the Trojans, 10-2 overall, but have the BCS' 29th-ranked schedule.

In the end, USC could be the latest victim of the young BCS system, Turn to **Bowls**, page 10



Jeremy Forrest Emerald

Ian Crosswhite (11) had the best night of his young Oregon career with 12 points in 20 minutes against Pacific.

## Oregon rolls over not-so-tough Tigers

Pacific can't capitalize on Oregon's sub-par shooting, and the Ducks pull off an 88-69 win at Mac Court

## Men's basketball

Peter Hockaday  
Sports Editor

When Pacific's Miah Davis launched a half-court shot that bounced off the backboard and through the hoop at the buzzer, it put an exclamation point on a game that didn't deserve one.

The No. 9 Oregon men's basketball team rolled through another game Saturday night, moving to 3-0 on the season by beating up on Pacific, 88-69, in front of 8,834 fans at McArthur Court. The Ducks shot less than 47 percent from the floor, but the Tigers didn't have the firepower to make the game close like California-State Northridge did Monday, and Oregon pulled away from Pacific in the second half for the victory.

"It says a lot about our team, that we can have an off night shooting and still score 80 points," Oregon head coach Ernie Kent said.

It does, indeed, show a lot about the offensive powerhouse that Oregon has become. Point guard Luke Ridnour led all scorers with 24 points, and added seven as-

sists. Forward Luke Jackson went only 2-for-14 from the floor but notched 12 rebounds and five steals one game after he had no rebounds against Northridge.

"We challenged him, and we're pleased with how he responded," Kent said of Jackson.

After a forgettable first half in which the Ducks scored 39 points and led the Tigers by six as the teams headed into the locker rooms, Oregon came out fired up and on fire in the second. The Ducks went on a 17-3 run to open up the second frame, and later went on a 9-1 run to put the game out of reach.

Oregon was helped by an emotional play early in the second half, a hard foul by Ridnour on Pacific's Demetrius Jackson that got both teams up and jawing at each other.

"That was just my competitive nature," Ridnour said. "It got us going a little bit."

Minutes after that tussle, the teams poured their emotion onto the court in a battle for a loose ball that lasted several seconds and had bodies from both teams flying across Mac Court. The home crowd gave both teams a rousing round of applause.

For the third time in the Oregon's three games, at least four Ducks scored in double figures. James Davis had 14 points, and newcomers Ian Crosswhite and Andre Joseph — who scored a combined

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## Oregon shut out in Paradise

The Ducks lose two of two games in the Virgin Islands over the break

## Women's basketball

Hank Hager  
Sports Reporter

There must be no better way to spend the Thanksgiving holiday than in the Virgin Islands.

Unless of course, you're the Oregon women's basketball team.

The Ducks, coming off a tough loss to Wisconsin-Green Bay early last week, lost 67-40 Thursday to South Carolina in the first game of the Paradise Jam Tournament in St. Thomas.

Then, on Friday, the Ducks (1-3 overall) fell again, this time to No. 18 Boston College, 64-47.

"We didn't do the little things well," Oregon junior forward Cathrine Kraayeveld said after Oregon's loss

to Boston College. "Our passes to the post need to be crisper. But I still think we've come a long way in these last three games."

Against the Eagles (3-1), the Ducks failed to compete on the boards, garnering just 23 rebounds to Boston College's 40.

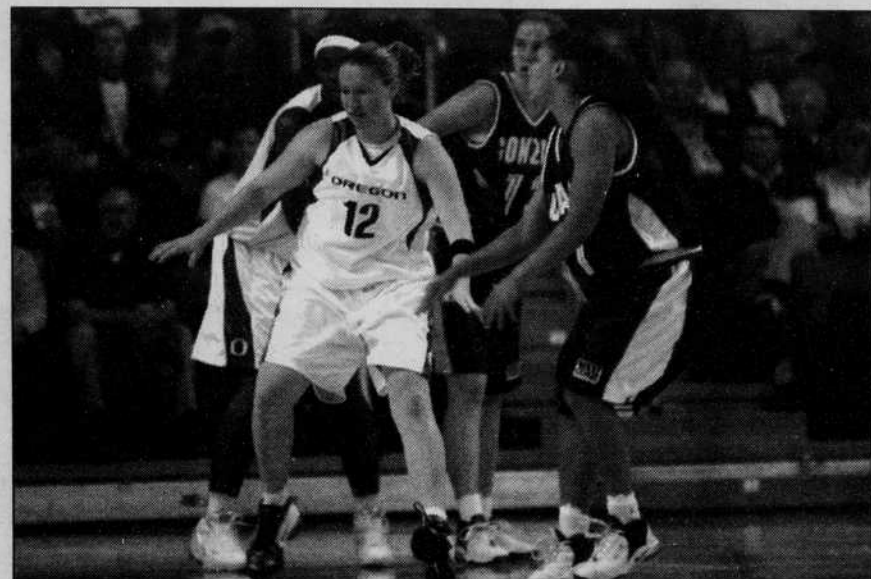
Kraayeveld led Oregon with nine rebounds, including two of the Ducks' five offensive boards. However, Boston College was that much better on the offensive boards, grabbing 15.

Kraayeveld led Oregon with 12 points, while senior Shaquala Williams — who shot just 2-of-9 against South Carolina — pitched in with 11 points on 5-of-12 shooting.

Defensively, senior Alissa Edwards was solid, limiting Boston College's Brianne Stepherson to three points. On the offensive side of the ball, Edwards was 3-of-5 for seven points.

"Alissa did a great job tonight," Oregon head coach

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Mark McCambridge Emerald

Alissa Edwards (12) was one of few Oregon players to have a good weekend at the Paradise Jam.