

SPORTS

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Best bet
NCAA Basketball:
Virginia at Michigan State
6 p.m., ESPN

Wednesday, December 4, 2002

Seattle, San Jose bowls will take place

The NCAA approves finances for Seattle and Silicon Valley bowls

Football notes

Adam Jude
Senior Sports Reporter

Bowl bound? Yes, you can remove the question mark. The Ducks will definitely be bowling soon.

After a brief scare Monday, when the Seattle Bowl and the Silicon Valley Classic again missed the deadline to submit to the NCAA the required \$1.5 million letters of credit, the two bowls provided bank statements Tuesday that guarantee payouts for participating teams.

"It was just a formality that you have to go through, and it's taken a little bit longer for us," Seattle Bowl president Jim Haugh said Tuesday.

Both bowls were granted an extended deadline by the NCAA after missing the original date on Nov. 1. Neither bowl has a title sponsor, but both have guaranteed that the participating teams will receive \$750,000 each.

"We are 100 percent on schedule to kick off at 12:30 on Dec. 31," said Karin Mast, a spokeswoman for the Silicon Valley Classic.

So the bowl games will go on, but where will Oregon go? The Ducks will have to wait and see what happens with the Washington State-UCLA game Saturday and for the final Bowl Championship Series poll to be released Sunday. USC, ranked No. 4 in the BCS, is rooting for UCLA, which could give the rival Trojans the outright Pacific-10 Conference title and a trip to the Rose Bowl.

If WSU wins, though, the Cougars go to the Rose Bowl and USC would hold out for a trip to the Orange Bowl. In that sce-

nario, Oregon would likely be eligible for the Silicon Valley bowl in San Jose.

But the Seattle Bowl — to be played on Dec. 30 at the new Seahawks Stadium — is hoping to land the Ducks and their large Northwest fan base. Haugh said about 13,000 Oregon alumni reside in the Seattle area.

"My understanding is that there's been some discussion with the San Jose group to keep the Ducks here in the Northwest," Haugh said. "Oregon's just ecstatic about coming here. It's like staying home for Christmas. Having a bowl in your back yard is a dream."

Haugh said the Seattle Bowl has narrowed its choices from the Atlantic Coast Conference to Virginia (8-5) and Georgia Tech (7-5), which defeated Stanford in the inaugural Seattle Bowl last year. The Ducks have never played either team.

Oregon seems to be the only other possibility for the Seattle Bowl. If the Ducks go to San Jose, the Seattle group would have slim pickings on the remaining at-large teams eligible for a bowl game.

But the Silicon Valley Classic also has great interest in the Ducks.

"Oregon, despite what some would call a bad season, is doing just fine and has great fans and we would love to have them here," Mast said.

Fresno State (7-5) has already accepted a bid to play in the Silicon Valley Bowl at San Jose Spartan Stadium. The Ducks (7-5) have already played the Bulldogs this season — they needed a fourth-quarter comeback at Autzen Stadium on Sept. 7 for the 28-24 win — prompting Haugh to say that Oregon-Fresno State "is not a good matchup."

"The idea is to meet the needs for both sides," Haugh said.

Meanwhile, after a week break, the

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Mark McCambridge Emerald

Keenan Howry and the Ducks are bowl-bound this season, but they don't know yet where they'll go.

UO has not forgotten Portland

Oregon looks to avenge last year's shocking loss in Portland tonight at home

Men's basketball

Adam Jude
Senior Sports Reporter

The Oregon men's basketball team is in a jam — but they're not quite ready for the Papé Jam.

The No. 7 Ducks have two choices when Portland visits McArthur Court at 7 p.m. tonight: Either beat the wings off the Pilots or give them some cookies and a "thank you" card.

You see, Oregon has reason to credit Portland for its Pacific-10 Conference championship and NCAA Tournament run that ended in the Elite Eight last season. Yet the Ducks are still sour about a stunning 79-78 loss in the Rose City on Dec. 2, 2001.

"The good part about it is it gave us a wake-up call last year," Oregon head coach Ernie Kent said. "Losses to Minnesota, UMass and Portland gave us a chance to grow through adversity and show our character."

"The bad part about it is we don't want to go through that again."

In other words, no cookies for Portland.

Ranked No. 6 in the ESPN/USA Today coaches' poll and No. 7 in The Associated Press poll — their highest ranking ever in that poll — the Ducks (3-0) hope to extend their home winning streak to 20, the second longest in school history, with a win over Portland (3-0).

"It really hurt," Oregon guard Luke Ridnour, the Pac-10 Player of the Week,



Jeremy Forrest Emerald

Luke Jackson (with ball) scored 28 points in Oregon's 79-78 loss to Portland last season.

said of last year's loss. "We're definitely thinking about it. They took it to us last year, but we're going to be ready for 'em."

Though it has a rematch of the Elite Eight loss to Kansas looming Saturday in the Papé Jam at Portland's Rose Garden — which has sold more than 16,000 tickets and will be televised on CBS at 12:30 p.m. — Oregon is careful not to look past Portland.

"It would be crazy to think these young kids are thinking about Kansas and national TV, of course they are,"

Kent said. "But at the same time, they know they have work to do (against Portland)."

Unfinished work. At the Chiles Center in Portland last season, Luke Jackson scored 28 points, then a career high, to lead the Ducks, while Ridnour chipped in 17 points and seven assists. But guard James Davis, who was held scoreless in 11 minutes, missed a desperation three-pointer at the buzzer.

"Portland played very hard and very well, and we didn't respond to the

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Women rebound, turn over ideas for losing streak

Rebounds and turnovers have hurt the Ducks in their three straight losses

Women's basketball

Jesse Thomas
Sports Reporter

With three straight losses under its belt, the Oregon women's basketball team is in unfamiliar territory. The Ducks haven't seen a 1-3 record in more than 15 years.

And the answers are just a quick glance away, on the statistic sheet.

Turnovers and rebounding margin have impaired the Ducks in their three losses. In the three matchups, Oregon has turned the ball over 69 times. The Ducks have lost in that category, as Boston College, South Carolina and Wisconsin-Green Bay gave up the ball just 49 times.

"We played really hard in those games; we just did some things that we usually don't do, like turnovers," junior forward Cathrine Kraayeveld said. "We just don't turn over the ball that much, but we just didn't play well as a team."

Kraayeveld has been the top rebounder in each Oregon game, yet it hasn't been enough as her team has been beaten consistently on the boards.

Oregon's last few opponents have been able to dominate in rebounding and it has hindered the Ducks' performance, especially in second-chance shots.

Oregon has averaged less than 10 offensive rebounds in its past three games and has averaged less than 30 rebounds per game total. Boston College and South Carolina accounted for 40 rebounds apiece, beating Oregon by a 29 combined boards.

"It's important for me to make sure that I go for the rebound every time, because that is going to initiate others to go hard too," Kraayeveld said, who has averaged more

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