

# Seven Pac-10 programs bound for bowls

The Pacific-10 Conference teams are congregating in one region for bowl games

## Pac-10 bowl games

### Mindi Rice

Freelance Sports Reporter

For the first time in Pacific-10 Conference history, seven teams will represent the Pac-10 at bowl games this winter.

While USC travels east to the Orange Bowl and Oregon jogs north on Interstate-5 to Seattle, the other five teams will be in the Southwest and on the West Coast. These five will take on two teams from the Big 12, one from the Big East, one from the Big Ten and one Mountain West representative.

### Rose Bowl: Washington State vs. Oklahoma

Adding a twist to this year's Rose Bowl, the Pac-10 co-champion Cougars battle the Big 12 champion Sooners in Pasadena, Calif. The Jan. 1 game is back to having a Pac-10 representative after a year as the BCS Championship game.

No. 7 Washington State (7-1 conference, 10-2 overall) went 2-0 to start the season before losing to Ohio State. The Cougars came back from the loss to win seven straight with the help of quarterback Jason Gesser.

In the Apple Cup against Washington, Gesser suffered an injury, and the Cougars lost in triple overtime. Gesser played through his injury two weeks later, as Washington State claimed the Rose Bowl berth by beating UCLA on Saturday.

No. 8 Oklahoma (6-2, 11-2) started the season with eight wins before losing to Texas A&M. The Sooners won two more, then lost to Oklahoma State. They pulled back together and beat Colorado for the Big 12 Championship.

### Holiday Bowl: Arizona State vs. Kansas State

The San Diego-hosted Holiday Bowl pits early-blooming Arizona State (5-3, 8-5) against No. 6 Kansas State (6-2, 10-2).

The Sun Devils started the season by losing to Nebraska, but surprised everyone by winning their next four games. Arizona State lost four Pac-10 games in the second half of the season but ended with a win over Arizona and took third place in the conference.

Kansas State won four games to start on a high note, then lost to Colorado. The Wildcats beat Oklahoma State, but lost to Texas the next week. They finished the season winning their last five games.

### Las Vegas Bowl: UCLA vs. New Mexico

UCLA (4-4, 7-5) and New Mexico (5-2, 7-6) face off in a Christmas Day bowl game hosted in Sin City.

The Bruins had a back-and-forth season of wins and losses, finally resting at fourth in the Pac-10. Among UCLA's losses were USC, Oregon and Washington State, while the Bruins pulled out wins over Washington and Oregon State.

New Mexico flopped around throughout the season. The Lobos beat Baylor, San Diego State and Brigham Young during the season, while losing to Air Force and Texas Tech.

### Insight Bowl: Oregon State vs. Pittsburgh

While some people open presents on Dec. 25, the Beavers and No. 24 Panthers have to make sure they're ready for their game in Phoenix the next day.

Oregon State (4-4, 8-4) won four games to start the season, then hit a brick wall when USC shut it out in Corvallis. The Beavers also lost to UCLA, Washington and Arizona State, but pulled out wins over Stanford and Oregon. They finished fifth in the Pac-10.

Pittsburgh (5-2, 8-4) started the season with a win and followed it with a loss. The Panthers lost to Notre Dame and Miami during the season and beat Virginia Tech.

### Sun Bowl: Washington vs. Purdue

When the clock strikes midnight on New Year's Eve, the Huskies and Boilermakers will be in El Paso, Texas, either dreaming of a win or wishing for a new season to start.



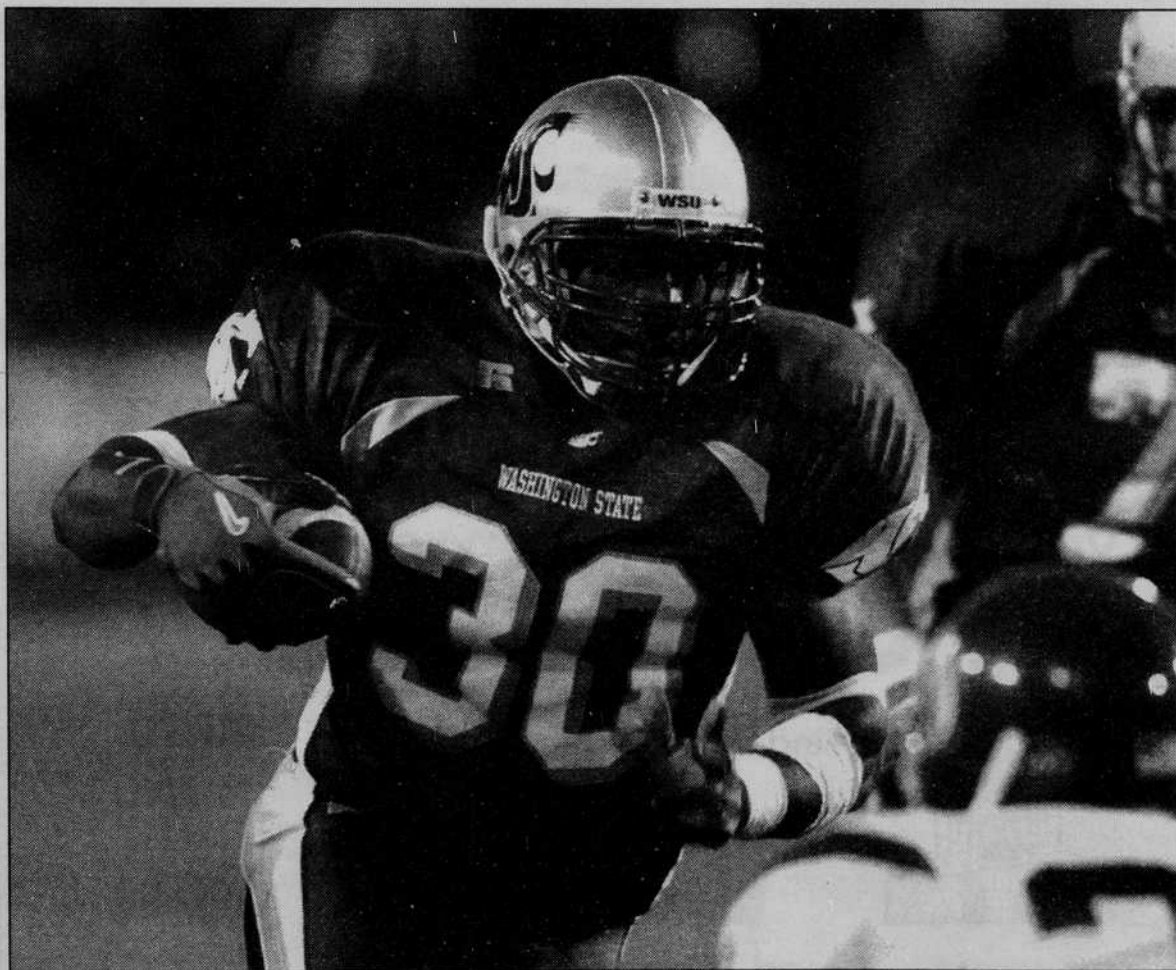
Jeremy Forrest Emerald

Oregon linebacker Kevin Mitchell and the Ducks head to Seattle, while Mike Pinkard and the Sun Devils play in the Holiday Bowl.

Washington (4-4, 7-5) lost to Michigan on a penalty at the end of the game to start the season, then came back and won three games. They ended the season with a triple-overtime win over rival Washington State, and finished in sixth place in the conference.

Purdue (4-4, 6-6) earned a 1-0 mark before losing to Notre Dame at the opening of the season. The Boilermakers never won more than one game in a row, until finishing the season with two wins.

Mindi Rice is a freelance writer for the Emerald.



Courtesy Washington State Media Services

Washington State's Jermaine Green and the Cougars clinched a Rose Bowl berth and will face Oklahoma on Jan. 1.

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