

Thomas

continued from page 5

Hurricane's record of 35-2 over the last three seasons leads Division I football.

The Big East got the blunt end in every aspect of the deal, plain and simple. Not only did its two best teams leave faster than an Andy Roddick serve, but the Big East's relationship with the BCS is in jeopardy.

And as for the ACC? It is no longer considered just a basketball conference because of Duke, Maryland and N.C., and I can finally hear news from a football school other than Florida State.

The beauty of this mess is that there should be no doubt the ACC will go after a 12th team — as was the original plan of Syracuse, Boston College and Miami — to allow for a championship game.

Kirk Herbstreit of ESPN.com said "Such a game would bring significant revenue and give the league tremendous stability, both in terms of money-making potential and recognition as the best conference in football."

Whether it gets to such a high stature will remain unanswered for a year or two, and I still wouldn't count out the Big 12 Conference by any means. Herbstreit also noted "The Pac-10 will even-

tually get on board to join the fun."

So how much fun is the Pac-10 willing to have? Is there a possibility that the Conference of Champions will invite two teams to allow for a championship game?

Russ Thorson of Riverside, Calif., believes so. Thorson wrote me an e-mail a week ago during the heat of the Miami deal, talking about the moves the Pac-10 should take to become a stronger conference.

Thorson began, "Please pardon the crude expression, but Pac-10 football is like sex without climax ... a whole lot of shakin' goin' on, and then nothin'!"

Thorson believes that by adding San Diego State and Hawaii to the Pac-10, the conference would be "combining the strength of unity with the stimulation of diversity."

San Diego State finished 4-9 in the 2002-03 season and finished fourth out of the eight teams in the Mountain West Conference. In the past two seasons, SDSU has competed against Pac-10 schools four times — against UCLA, Arizona and Arizona State twice — and lost every time.

I'm doubtful if this school could stand up to the Pac-10 competition.

Hawaii on the other hand went 10-4

last season and finished in the runner-up spot of the Western Athletic Conference standings. Hawaii, which defeated SDSU 41-40 last season, has not played a Pac-10 team in the past two years.

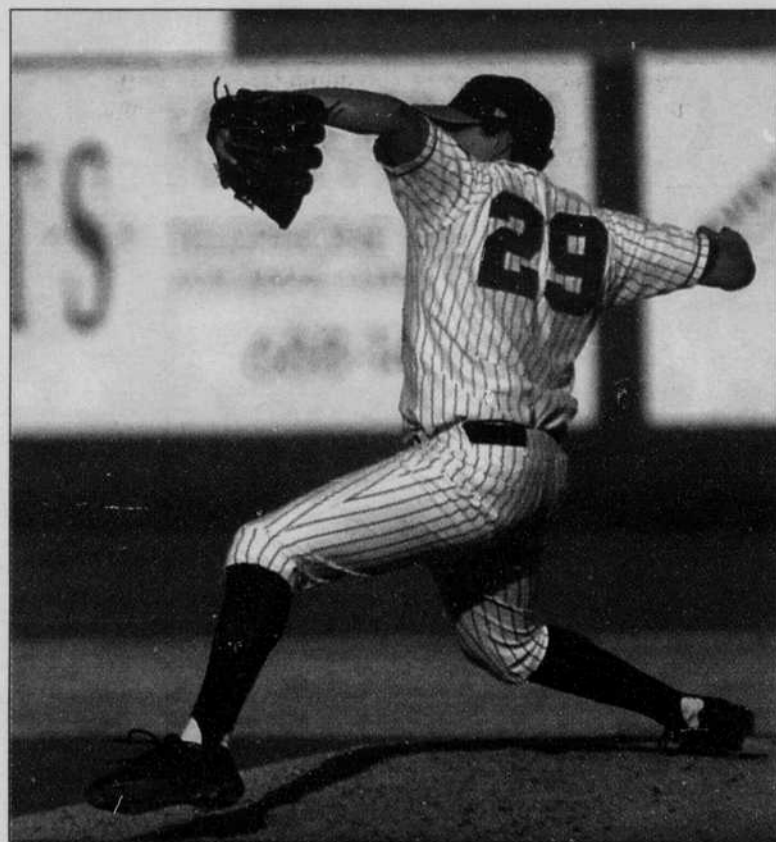
Although the ideas that Thorson brings to the table are compelling — and if the Pac-10 had a championship game it would be great for its reputation — I worry whether SDSU or Hawaii could make the cut in this conference.

Yet, Thorson firmly believes in the possibilities of such a plan. He concludes by saying, "The competitive dynamics generated by such a plan would drive the championship game, including fans and media, sky-high."

It is easy to see that the ACC was an entrepreneur of becoming bigger and better without any thought of leaving others left out to dry. Can I blame them? No.

But the ACC could also very well become the catalyst to several actions that could shake up the conferences of college football and basketball. Will the Pac-10 join the fun? Lets hope so. But SDSU and Hawaii just won't cut it.

Contact the sports editor at jessethomas@dailyemerald.com. His opinions do not necessarily represent those of the Emerald.



Jessica Waters Emerald

Eugene Emeralds pitcher Leo Rosales pitched two innings of game two in the first series against the Volcanoes and struck out two batters to help the Ems to the win.

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Emeralds

continued from page 5

Ems allowed the Bears to score more than 10 runs for the third night in a row.

After trailing 5-1 entering the fifth inning, the Bears got help from the Ems' five errors of the inning and led 6-5 heading into the sixth. Yakima's Brian Rose hit a three-run homer down the left field line to increase the lead to 9-5 and leave the Ems out of reach.

The two rivals concluded the five-game series Monday evening in Yakima, but results were not available at press time.

The series had been a downward spiral for the Ems after the conclusion

of game one. The Ems came out gunning after winning five games against Tri-City and scored seven runs in the third inning to win 14-3 and extend the win streak to six games.

Prior to Yakima, the Ems easily finished their series with the Tri-City Dust Devils by winning the final two contests to sweep the five-game series. At that time the Ems moved to 7-1 on the season.

The Ems will try and get things back on the right track and have the same success against the Volcanoes as they did at the beginning of the season beginning at 7:05 p.m. today at Civic Stadium.

Contact the sports editor at jessethomas@dailyemerald.com.

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