

Washington State drops to 15th in BCS

Oregon's postseason bowl plans were narrowed by the outcome of Saturday's Apple Cup in Seattle

By Mindi Rice
Senior Sports Reporter

The Ducks may have won the war Saturday, but Washington State likely won the holiday in the sun by taking a 27-19 loss to Washington.

The defeat dropped the Cougars to No. 15 in Monday's Bowl Championship Series standings, putting

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them three spots out of the running for an "at-large" bid to the Rose Bowl and likely into the Holiday Bowl.

"It would be nice to win a bowl and be the, whatever, Little Brown Shoe Bowl champions," Washington State head coach Bill Doba told the Seattle Post-Intelligencer. "It sounds like it might be the Holiday

Bowl, and that's a great bowl. It's a lot of fun down in San Diego, and our team will have a good time."

The Cougars are staying positive after their sixth-consecutive Apple Cup loss to Washington. The win allowed the Huskies to become bowl eligible, and they are tied with UCLA for sixth in the conference with a 4-4 Pacific-10 Conference record and 6-6 overall.

The victory also kept Washington from its first losing season since 1976.

"I don't know if this saves our season," Huskies head coach Keith Gilbertson told The (Tacoma) News Tribune. "It's a marvelous moment. Then again, when you coach Washington your first job is to beat WSU. All that matters right now is that for the next 24 hours I get to be the happiest guy on the planet."

Washington State got an early lead on Saturday with a field goal four minutes into the game. The Cougars were ahead, 16-7, at the beginning of the fourth quarter until Washington put together a 20-3 run for the 27-19 win.

With one minute and 10 seconds

remaining in the game, Husky quarterback Cody Pickett found freshman Corey Williams for a 21-yard touchdown pass to take a 20-19 lead.

The two-point conversion failed, but 36 seconds later Washington linebacker Marquis Cooper intercepted a pass by Josh Swogger and returned it 38 yards for a touchdown, putting the Huskies up for good, 27-19.

"Every win is good," Gilbertson said. "It's like pizza."

Although the Cougars were likely booted from contention for the Rose Bowl, not all of the players are taking it hard.

"We're going to another great bowl," Cougar senior Erik Coleman said. "When I first got here, a bowl was kind of a far shot, and now we're competing for BCS bowls and (Pacific-10 Conference) titles. This program is on the rise. We're getting good guys in, and good coaches. We have a good foundation. And we're still going to a good bowl and there are a lot of things looking up here."

Bowl bids for Pac-10 schools will

most likely be handed out after the outcome of the Dec. 6 Oregon State at USC game.

Oregon's schedule

The Ducks get some well-deserved days off this week as the team breaks from practice so that players can join their families for the Thanksgiving holiday.

"We'll take three or four days off now, and come back the Monday after Thanksgiving and have a real generic practice since we most likely won't know who we're playing," Oregon head coach Mike Bellotti said after Saturday's win. "We'll try to keep in running shape, rehab some injuries and keep the competitive edge there."

Parting shot

After the Civil War victory Saturday, senior Keith Lewis was again allowed to talk to the media.

"You've got to have respect for them for just lining up and believing in their system," Lewis said.

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our team all year," head coach Martin Smith said. "We've had some strong runners up front, but then have had problems with our remaining scorers. We were less than 50 points out of 13th place, so we could have taken a noticeable jump with another solid body in the top 150."

However, it was both the Stanford men and women who stole the show again for the second time in as many years.

The top-ranked Stanford men ran away with the title with four of its runners finishing in the top six.

The Stanford women, ranked No. 2 entering the meet, finished with four of their runners in the top 23. Stanford beat out defending champion BYU by eight points for first.

Meanwhile, the Oregon women's lone representative was Magdalena Sandoval, who finished the race in 21:18, which was good for 105th overall.

But that doesn't tell the whole story.

The senior, who finished in the top 10 of every race she has competed in this season, fell in the first 300 meters of the race. Sandoval found herself dead last among the 255 runners in the field and 20 meters behind the nearest runner.

"I went down hard and hit my head pretty hard, so it took me a few seconds to figure out how I felt," Sandoval said. "I came into the season hoping to be an All-America, and I felt before the race that I was still on course. Nobody ever expects something like this to happen, so it's a shock."

Her most recent finish in a 6,000-meter race was in the NCAA Western Regional where she finished with a time of 20:48. Sandoval probably would have beat that time if she hadn't fell, and can now only wonder what could have been.

"Magdalena did the best she could in an awful situation," head coach Marnie Mason said. "She showed some amazing resolve to react like she did in a really hard fall, and I told her she has nothing to be ashamed of. She represented the team and herself like a soldier."

Despite the fall, Sandoval quickly outpaced the 150 people ahead of her, including former teammate, Colorado State's Nicole Feest, who transferred during the off season.

Feest finished 106th.

Scott Archer is a freelance sports reporter for the Emerald.

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