

■ In my opinion



BRIAN SMITH  
LEFTY SPECIALIST

## Washington loss doesn't tantamount to Kerry win

John Kerry will win the presidential election. Forget votes. Forget the electoral college. The election has already been decided. Just thank a certain Washington D.C. National Football League franchise. Well, that is if you want to believe in superstition and coincidence.

Since the presidential election of 1936, the outcome of the final Washington D.C. home game before the election has correctly predicted the next president elected.

Washington D.C. wins: The incumbent remains president. Washington D.C. loses: The challenger wins.

Not exactly the Gallup poll, but hey, whatever works.

Then again, because this seems to be holding consistent, I have a brilliant idea. Maybe we get rid of the entire campaign process, gather the candidates together for the final Washington D.C. home game and solve ten months of uncertainty in three and a half hours.

How cool would that be? Let's just use our imagination...

President: Damn, these pretzels are good. Too bad Laura won't let me have more than one at a time. Go Cowboys!

Edwards: Um, John could you move over a bit? I can't see the television.

Kerry (sitting in a brown cloth La-Z-Boy): Sure, John. I need a beer anyway. Anybody else want something? W? Cheney?

Something? Sure. Got to wash these pretzels down.

Cheney: No, thanks.

President: Go Washington!

How American is that? Democratic elections with beer, pretzels and a big screen?

Imagine how cool it would be to watch the game as a nation and then immediately witness the inauguration of the next president of the United States of America?

No time taken to vote?  
Hell yeah.

This new political process already has some converts.

"I don't have to vote now," Green Bay Packer safety Darren Sharper said after their defeat of Washington D.C. on Sunday. "Don't even have to go to the polls. Saved me a trip on Tuesday."

This idea got me thinking. In what ways could we accurately predict other elections?

What if the Senate races were decided by the final count of chicken eggs laid on the day of election. Odd: Challenging Party. Even: Incumbent. None: The Green Party.

What if city council positions were decided by the choice of the local school principal's color of tie?

The fact that so much emphasis is placed on events that are arbitrary in nature is slightly worrisome.

Ask the Chicago Cubs: 59 years without a World Series because a billy goat, owned by William Slansky, was denied entrance into Game 4 of the 1945 World Series due to hygiene issues.

So if the goat had been hosed down before the game, the Cubs would be the modern day

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■ Duck hockey

## Oregon rolls over challenger Huskies

Oregon will take its winning streak into co-conference leader California this weekend

BY BEAU EASTES  
FREELANCE REPORTER

The Oregon Club hockey team embarked on new territory this weekend, defeating Washington twice for the first time since the introduction of the I-5 Cup in 2000. Oregon dominated the Huskies 7-2 Friday night and then won a thriller 3-2 Saturday evening. The Cup, modeled after UCLA and USC's Crosstown Cup, is a best-of-four game series between the two Northwest rivals. Just as important as winning in the Cup, the Ducks are now 6-0 overall and 4-0 in the Pacific-8.

"It feels great," senior Justin Keeland said. Keeland scored the game-winning goal in Saturday's contest with 14:25 left in the game.

"They tried to dump it in the zone," said Keeland, a defenseman from Portland. "I stopped it with my skate."

Keeland sent the puck down the rink toward Washington goalie Matt Hazzow, hoping that a teammate could get a quick deflection into the net.

"It went through (Hazzow's) legs. I didn't even see it," Keeland said.

After Keeland's score, the Ducks kept defensive pressure on the Huskies, sealing Oregon's victory.

Washington started the scoring on a goal by Jamie O'Brien with 3:14 left in the first period. Oregon then opened the second period with goals by defenseman Whit Ackerman and wing Ryan Jones to make the score 2-1 in favor of the Ducks at the 9:06 mark.

The Huskies tied the contest when Conor Foley found the net five minutes later, setting the stage for Keeland's game winner.

Defensively, freshman Matt Nuernberg



ERIK R. BISHOFF | PHOTOGRAPHER

The Club hockey team celebrates an early goal on its way to a 7-2 win against Washington on Friday. Oregon's Mike Roley led the team with two goals and two assists.

had 26 saves on 28 shots, shutting down an always-competitive Husky squad.

"The level of play really stepped up the last 14 minutes," Nuernberg said about the game following Keeland's goal.

In Friday night's contest, sophomore Mike Roley led the Ducks with two goals and two assists. Washington took an early lead at the 14:24 mark in the first period to go up 1-0 on an O'Brien goal. Roley answered by scoring with 4:42 left in the period, and the Ducks never looked back.

"(The goal) really got us going," Roley said.

Oregon scored the next six goals of the game, going up 7-1 before allowing a last minute shot with less than two minutes to play. Left wing Sam Driver, center Mike Tornabene, Jones, wing Dorian Dolinajec and wing Scott Tedrick all tallied one goal each for the Ducks during the offensive outburst.

Nuernberg started his stellar weekend with 12 saves on 14 shots during Friday's blowout. Oregon's defenses completely shut down the Huskies' offense, spending almost the entire game on Washington's side of the ice.

"Defense has been playing strong all year," Nuernberg said. "They make my job that much easier. The few shots they allow are bad-angle shots."

Oregon will take its winning streak to Berkeley, Calif., this weekend to face California, the Pac-8 co-leader with the Ducks.

"These are the games we have to win," Keeland said. "Everyone's very excited after this weekend. These upcoming games are the toughest of the year."

Cal, the pre-season Pac-8 favorite and defending conference champion, is the first major hurdle in the Ducks' quest for the Pac-8 championships.

"Having four wins already is a great step towards making the Pac-8 tournament," Keeland said.

Roley was equally excited about the Ducks' postseason aspirations.

"We've got a chance of winning the Pac-8 and going to nationals," Roley said.

Beau Estes is a freelance reporter for the Daily Emerald

## Gilbertson to end run as UW head coach

Keith Gilbertson will no longer coach the Huskies' football team, which has gone 0-5 in the Pac-10, after this season

BY TIM KORTE  
THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

SEATTLE — Washington coach Keith Gilbertson will step down at the end of the season, ending a difficult two years as Rick Neuheisel's replacement.

"Coach Gilbertson and I have talked for several weeks about the football program, and we mutually agreed that it needs an immediate boost," Washington athletic director Todd Turner said Monday. "Keith will finish this season as our head coach and has agreed to assist me beyond that time to develop a strategy for reinvestment by our university in its football program."

The Huskies lost 31-6 at Oregon on Saturday, dropping to 1-7 overall and 0-5 in the Pac-10. This is the worst season in 35 years for a school that shared the 1991 national title.

Gilbertson, 56, a Washington native, is 7-13 in his second season at Washington.

"I want to see this program succeed and

get rolling again. Whatever I can do to help, I'll do," he said. "Sure I wish we had been more successful and won more games. But there was never a day I didn't enjoy coaching over the past two years."

Turner said the search for Gilbertson's successor would begin immediately.

Gilbertson took over the Huskies six weeks before the start of fall camp in 2003 under tough circumstances.

Neuheisel was fired in July 2003 for gambling on NCAA basketball, leaving then-athletic director Barbara Hedges little time or options to fill the job.

Hedges said at the time that Gilbertson was chosen because he was the only member of the staff with head coaching experience.

Gilbertson previously coached Idaho (1986-88) and California (1992-95) and is 55-48 overall in nine seasons as a head coach.

The Huskies went 6-6 last season and 4-4 in the Pac-10, barely avoiding the school's

first losing season since 1976. Washington lost at home to Nevada and was blown out by California and UCLA.

The only win this season was over San Jose State, and Washington is winless in the Pac-10. The last time the Huskies went without a league victory was 1973, when they were 0-7 in the old Pac-8.

This year's squad was hit hard by injuries, and the team's struggles on offense have been frustrating for Gilbertson, who was the offensive coordinator under Neuheisel and coach Don James on Washington's 1991 title team.

"Keith came into a difficult situation and worked hard to turn the program around, but obviously things went in a different direction," Washington president Mark Emmert said. "His relationship to this institution goes back many years and includes the glory days of Washington football. We are grateful for his years of service."

Only four years ago, the Huskies were 11-1 and beat Purdue in the Rose Bowl.

Washington plays Saturday against visiting Arizona. The Huskies face No. 4 California in Seattle on Nov. 13, then finish the season Nov. 20 at rival Washington State.