

Smith: Oregon appears to be a true team

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"They're a terrific team," George Washington head coach Joe McKeown said. "I think that Kraayeveld's return made a big difference. Last year we blew them out, and this year they did it to us, and her return was the major factor."

Even though Kraayeveld only scored five points, she collected a game-high 10 rebounds and found other ways to contribute to the team.

Because in the end, a true team is the one that gets it done. A true team has the ability to adapt to off nights, injuries and suspensions.

Last year: I don't think that happened.

This year: I think this team can do anything.

So congrats Oregon, Saturday was a true team victory.

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IN BRIEF

Auburn, Cal latest victims of annual BCS headache

Now Auburn knows what it's like to be the odd team out — a feeling Southern California knew only too well last year.

This year, though, the Trojans have no complaints.

USC and Oklahoma finished atop the final Bowl Championship Series standings Sunday and will meet in the Orange Bowl on Jan. 4 in a title game that — again — might not end the argument over who is No. 1.

Auburn, 12-0, finished third in the BCS points system that relies on The Associated Press and coaches polls, plus computer ratings. So the Tigers will have to settle for a Sugar Bowl berth against Virginia Tech on Jan. 3.

The Sooners and Trojans bring a total of 11 AP national titles into the game.

USC finished with .9770 in the standings, and Oklahoma had .9681. Auburn's grade was .9331.

"It's not a perfect system, and if it was we'd all be happy today," Auburn head coach Tommy Tuberville said during ABC's broadcast of the BCS pairings.

For the first time since the BCS was implemented in 1998, there were more than two unbeaten teams from major conferences.

"The bottom line is whatever formula we have is going to be the target of some significant criticism at the end of the day," BCS coordinator and Big 12 Conference commissioner Kevin Weiberg said.

California was left out of the BCS altogether after Texas passed the Golden Bears and moved into fourth in the final standings. The Longhorns (10-1) will play Big Ten Conference co-champion Michigan (9-2) in the Rose Bowl.

Utah (11-0), which officially became the first team from a non-BCS conference to receive a bid to one of the four \$14 million bowl games, earning a spot in the Fiesta Bowl against Big East Conference representative Pittsburgh (8-3).

— The Associated Press

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