

"In general, I am a risk-taker. We've gone down that road. I probably have a propensity to try and make things work."

Dallas owner Jerry Jones when asked whether the Cowboys would be interested in Terrell Owens

■ In my opinion



SHAWN MILLER
FULL-COURT PRESS

Irish do not deserve to be considered for BCS

At the risk of sounding like "Rain Man," the only way I can answer the question of whether Notre Dame belongs in a Bowl Championship Series game is: No, no, definitely not.

There is no way that Notre Dame should be one of the two at-large teams chosen for the BCS! This was further proved Saturday as the Irish barely hung on to beat a five-win Stanford team.

That win was Notre Dame's ninth, making it BCS eligible. Well, nine wins is respectable, but let's examine those victories.

Notre Dame's "biggest" wins on a scale of toughness were over currently twentieth-ranked Michigan at the beginning of the season and Tennessee at the end of the season; both opponents were playing at their worst. In fact, only three of Notre Dame's wins came against teams with an above .500 record, and those teams' combined for a 19-13 record.

Common opponents between Notre Dame and oh, Oregon. Both have played three other Pacific-10 Conference schools: top-ranked USC, Washington and Stanford.

Notre Dame nearly beat USC, while Oregon lost by 32. However, had Oregon played USC later in the season, perhaps when Notre Dame did, the score might have been different.

Both teams beat Washington — Notre Dame 36-17 and Oregon 45-21. The same with Stanford, but the difference was that it took until the final minute for Notre Dame to pull off the seven-point win, while Oregon won 44-20.

It will likely come down to Notre Dame, Ohio State, Auburn and Oregon for the two at-large bids. Each of those teams has two losses, except Oregon.

Everyone wants to watch a great matchup, which will happen if any two of those teams are pitted against each other. However, the likely scenario is that because Notre Dame has great "appeal," it will be chosen. That leaves Ohio State, Auburn and Oregon hoping for a chance.

Auburn probably is too far back in the standings, so toss them out of the mix. Nobody can deny that a Notre Dame/Ohio State game would bring in great ratings. However, so would a matchup of Notre Dame/Oregon or Ohio State/Oregon.

If the Ducks aren't selected, it will mark the second time that they have been snubbed by the BCS (2001 when Nebraska was picked over Oregon to play in the championship game) and the second year in a row that the Pac-10 has been slighted.

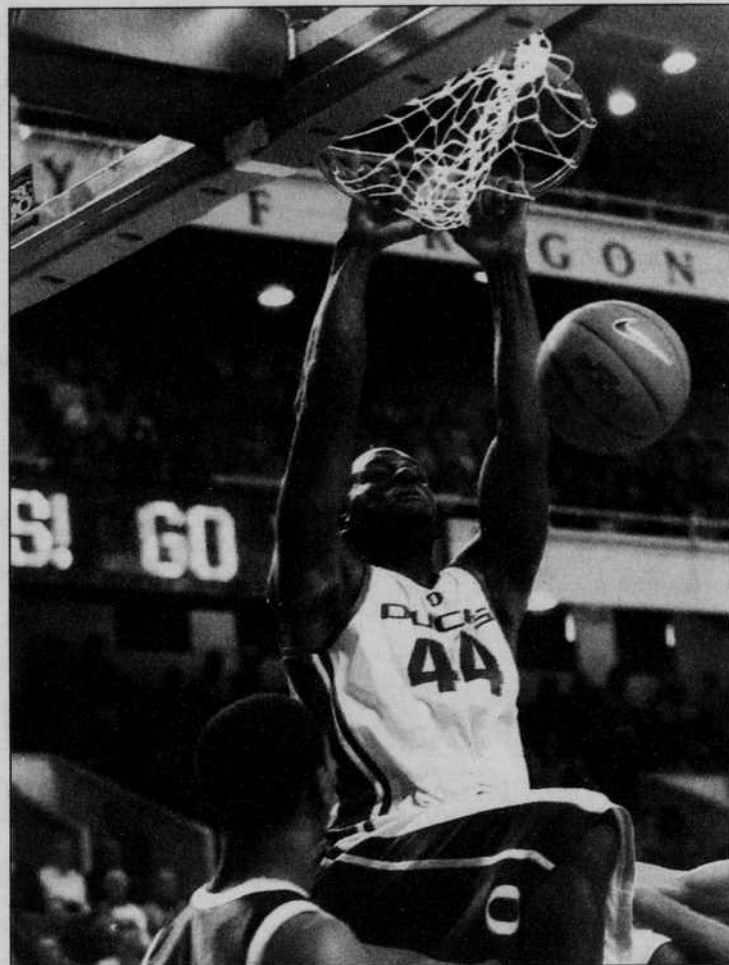
The bottom line is that of any of the two-loss teams, Notre Dame deserves a bid the least. It had a weak schedule, has lost to an under-.500 opponent in Michigan State (5-6) and the Irish are more known for their past than their present success.

The BCS has a new low or controversy each year and this season won't be any different. Regardless of whether Notre Dame is selected, I just hope that this time it isn't Oregon being screwed ... again.

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■ Men's basketball

Owls suffer Duck drubbing 84-60



KATE HORTON | PHOTOGRAPHER

Ivan Johnson slams two of his 10 points Saturday during an 84-60 Oregon win over Rice. Johnson was one of five Ducks to score in double figures, and he also grabbed seven rebounds.

Five Duck players score in the double-digits as Oregon records its fourth win of the season

BY SHAWN MILLER
SPORTS EDITOR

Saturday's match-up with Rice (1-3) resulted in another "routine" victory, according to Oregon coach Ernie Kent after the Ducks' 84-60 triumph.

"This became another routine win for us," Kent said. "Our numbers are almost identical in all of the games. It's been a pretty good start to the season, but yet we need to see the consistency now when these teams step up the competition."

The Ducks (4-0) remain undefeated at McArthur Court this season, where 7,481 watched Oregon run its way to an early double-digit lead that it didn't relinquish Saturday.

Five Oregon players scored in double figures, while Adam Zahn added nine points. It wasn't only on the offensive end of the floor that the Ducks picked up the intensity; Oregon outrebounded Rice 44-31.

"One of my jobs on the team is to get rebounds, so I've got to make that a focus too," said Oregon's Maarty Leunen, who grabbed a career-high 13 rebounds.

Malik Hairston scored six of his team-high 14 points in the first half, which Oregon led 42-25

at the break.

"We're just playing as a team. We're communicating a lot better. We're understanding our positioning. We're just locking up," Hairston said.

Offensively, Oregon made 13 three-pointers with a 46.4 percent average. Prior to the game, the Ducks averaged 5.3 three-pointers made and a 33 percent average from outside. Chamberlain Oguchi and Aaron Brooks keyed a deep attack as both made four three-pointers. Oguchi and Brooks scored 14 and 13 points, respectively.

"Personally, I'm not the biggest on threes because I think you can live or die by them," Hairston said. "I think you use the three to get in the lane. Basketball is played inside-out. It's a matter of using the three to get in the lane, or get in the paint. The guys made them tonight."

Overall, Oregon made 48.3 percent from the floor, while Rice struggled, connecting on only 36.4 percent.

"We missed shots that we have normally been making," Rice coach Willis Wilson said.

Early in the game, the Ducks led 5-4 before using a 10-0 run, most of which came in transition.

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■ Duck volleyball

Three Oregon careers come to a close

Oregon closes out its season with two four-match losses at home against Arizona and Arizona State

BY JEFFREY DRANSFELDT
SPORTS REPORTER

By the time the match ended, emotions were in full force as senior Kelly Russell reflected on her completed Oregon career. The Oregon program made progress in 2005, but as shown Saturday night against Arizona State, the Ducks have a long way to go.

"I wanted the program to change," Russell said. "But I got to play in the best conference in the nation, and I held my own and made the top five (in kills) at Oregon. That is something to be proud of."

Losing the match in four games one night after extending No. 6 Arizona to four games overshadowed the final appearances for Russell, Jaclyn Jones and Kim McNally in an Oregon uniform.

Any momentum leading into the match seemed to disappear in the senior presentation beforehand. Oregon (12-18 overall, 1-17 Pacific-10 Conference) appeared lifeless in losing the first two games. Energy finally rose with five consecutive points for a 28-26 Oregon lead and eventual game-three win on an Erin Little kill.

"I didn't want to stop playing," Russell said.

Oregon traded points with Arizona State (8-20, 3-15) in game four. Arizona State led 18-17, extended it to 24-18 and survived three consecutive Oregon points

to win the match when the Sun Devils' final kill glanced off Russell's hands.

Russell, libero Katie Swoboda and Mira Djuric all finished with individual accomplishments in the loss.

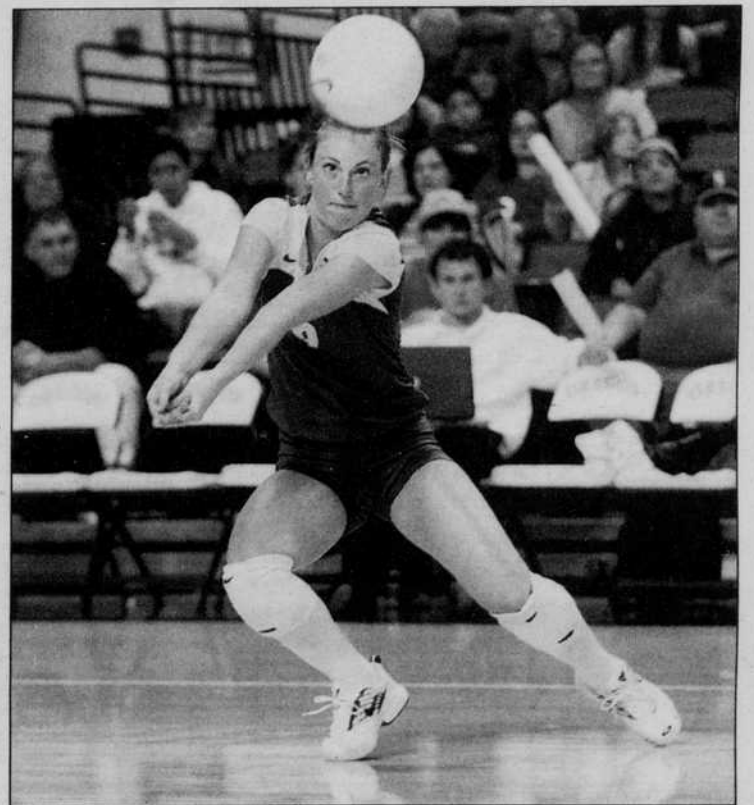
With a team-high 15 kills, Russell moved to fifth on Oregon's career list with 1,283. Swoboda finished in second place for single season digs with a season-high 33 and completed the season with 448. Djuric tied for fourth on Oregon's single season list for service aces at 59 with one Saturday.

Swoboda, along with Djuric, Kristen Bitter and Heather Madison join a strong returning cast for next season. Djuric and Bitter posted 12 kills each. Madison had 11 digs and 30 assists.

The Arizona State match followed a strong performance against Arizona (22-5, 14-4) with Oregon pushing the Wildcats to four games. Oregon took game three 31-29 and nearly forced game five, losing game four 30-26. Swoboda had 15 digs and four service aces. Djuric slammed 16 kills as Russell had 14 and Jones 13.

"You got to start somewhere, and we're building our program, and I think this is a great start for us," Swoboda said. "We'll only get better in the following years."

The season's end marked mixed feelings for Oregon coach Jim Moore. Ready and eager to start



MARCUS LARSON | FOR THE EMERALD

Oregon libero Katie Swoboda lunges for one of her 15 digs Friday against No. 6 Arizona. Swoboda had 33 digs Saturday against Arizona State to finish with 448 this season, second most in school history.

work on next season, he also acknowledged he needs a break after a difficult season and lengthy travel schedule since becoming coach in January.

"Sometimes you have to adapt," Moore said. "I will go in with the same philosophy and the same way, but I'm going to have to really change things if we start down the

same path."

The success Oregon had in non-conference play, 10-1, disappeared with two sweeps on Oregon's opening road trip to ASU and Arizona. Where Moore said he initially thought six to nine wins were possible, chances

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