

Ducks opener with Georgia sold out

By **ANTWAN STALEY**
Eugene Register-Guard

EUGENE — One of the biggest Week 1 matchups no longer has tickets available to the general public.

The anticipated Sept. 3 game between the Oregon Ducks and the Georgia Bulldogs, which will take place at Mercedes-Benz Stadium in Atlanta, has officially sold out, according to officials.

Oregon and Georgia will likely be the highest-ranked neutral-site game of Labor Day weekend as both teams are expected to be ranked inside the top 15.

According to Bovada, an online gambling site (<https://www.bovada.lv/>), the Bulldogs are 17.5-point favorites to win the game.

Since the creation of the series in 2008, the Chick-fil-A Kickoff Game has sold out 14 of 18 games. This year's game was also one of the most in-demand tickets in the series' history.

"This has already proven to be one of the toughest tickets we've ever seen for the Chick-fil-A Kickoff Game," Gary Stokan, Peach Bowl, Inc. CEO and president, said in a statement.

"You have the defending National Champions squaring off with arguably the most successful Pac-12 team in the CFP era. With two passionate fan bases and the best neutral-site matchup on opening weekend, it's no surprise we've seen such a strong demand for tickets," Stokan continued.

The Oregon vs. Georgia Chick-fil-A Kickoff Game will kick off at 12:30 p.m. Sept. 3 and will air on ABC.

This year's matchup marks only the second meeting between the teams and the first time since Georgia's 27-16 win at Sanford Stadium.

Georgia is making its third appearance in the Chick-fil-A Kickoff Game after defeating North Carolina 33-24 in 2016. Oregon will play in the Chick-fil-A Kickoff Game for the first time.

This year's matchup is only the second meeting between Pac-12 and SEC teams in the game, with Auburn defeating Washington 21-16 in 2018.

Since 2008, the Chick-fil-A Kickoff Game has averaged 67,064 fans — higher than the attendance of 43 bowl games last year — and has an average payout of \$5.96 million, which is higher than 30 bowl games from the 2021-22 bowl season.

"This is going to be a tremendous matchup between two of college football's premier programs," Oregon coach Dan Lanning said. "The game being sold out already speaks to the power of these two brands and the national buzz around this matchup, and we look forward to seeing Duck fans out in full force in Atlanta."

"Our offseason has been all about focusing on our DNA traits as a team and coming together as one unit, and our student-athletes are working incredibly hard to create a really solid foundation for the season," added Lanning. "We can't wait for the opportunity to put that hard work on display against an elite opponent on Sept. 3."

76th annual Chief Joseph Days Rodeo ready to roll

Wallowa County Chieftain

JOSEPH — The Chief Joseph Days Rodeo in Joseph, scheduled for July 27-31, will feature famous rodeo clown John Harrison.

Harrison has made 10 appearances at the Wrangler's National Finals Rodeo in Las Vegas, won Comedy Act of the Year five times and is a four-time winner of the prestigious Coors Man in the Can award.

Voted a Top-10 Must See Rodeo, a 25 Best Fests of the West and winner of multiple best small rodeo awards, Chief Joseph Days features four nights of Professional Rodeo Cowboys Association rodeos and six days of Western entertainment in the scenic hamlet in Northeastern Oregon.

The festivities kick off Tuesday, July 26, with the Bucking Horse Stampede down Main Street. July 27 is the first of four PRCA rodeos, with Family Night, which features youngsters trying their hand at mutton bustin', a crowd favorite. Up-and-coming cowboys also compete, along with top competitors who hope to improve their standings and make it all the way to the Wrangler's National Finals Rodeo in Las Vegas in December.

Tough Enough to Wear Pink, where attendees and contestants wear pink to support breast cancer awareness, is July 28.



Bill Bradshaw/Wallowa County Chieftain, File
The Temple Ranch team of, from left, Tristin Bales, Joshua Bales and Brian Temple direct a calf into a pen during the team sorting event Saturday, June 25, 2022, of the Chief Joseph Days Ranch Rodeo in Joseph.



Ellen Bishop/Contributed Photo, File
A cowboy competes in the saddle bronc competition at the 2021 Chief Joseph Days Rodeo.

Miles for Mammograms, a fun walk to raise money for local cancer screenings, starts at 9 a.m. at the Thunder Room, adjacent to the arena. Whiskey Creek is

back this year by popular demand to play live music at the Thunder Room right after the rodeo, where revellers can party and dance the night away. Safe buses are provided so no one has

to worry about drinking and driving.

Rodeos start at 7 p.m. each night, and take place at the Harley Tucker Memorial Arena just west of Main Street in Joseph. Each rodeo starts with the Tuckerettes, six fast-flying cowgirls who thrill with their daring riding patterns at breakneck speed, while carrying sponsor flags.

Other festivities for Chief Joseph Days include the junior parade on Friday, July 29, at 10 a.m. down Main Street, and the Grand Parade on July 30 at 10 a.m. down Main Street. Shopping vendors will line Main Street offering Western accessories.

A reenactment of the infamous 1896 robbery of the First Bank of Joseph will not take place following the Grand Parade as it did last year, said Jude Graham, curator

of the Wallowa County Museum, which sponsors the reenactment. She said some of the reenactors come from as far away as Portland and it's difficult to get them to come every year. She said the museum will probably host the reenactment every other year.

Chief Joseph Days is named in honor of the famous Chief Joseph of the Nez Perce tribe. Wallowa County — and particularly Joseph — is the ancestral homeland of the Nez Perce. Chief Joseph was lauded for his skills as a peace chief leading his people away from the U.S. Army and for his eloquence, when he surrendered in 1877 with the famous words, "From where the sun now stands, I will fight no more forever."

The Nez Perce host the annual Friendship Feast on July 30, at the tent encampment adjacent to the Harley Tucker Memorial Arena. All are welcome to attend to enjoy traditional dancing and food. The Nez Perce provide buffalo and salmon; guests are asked to bring side dishes to share. Nez Perce tribal members participate in the Grand Parade on July 30.

Chief Joseph Days was founded in 1946 by stock contractor Harley Tucker. The tradition celebrates the sport of rodeo, and honors the Western heritage of the Wallowa Valley.

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