



Metro/Sports

Ducks, Beavers set to play most important Civil War in 35 years

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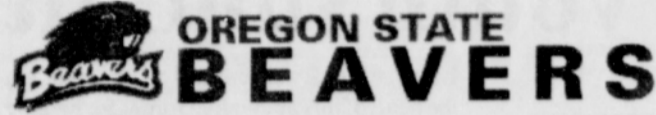
Oregon and Oregon State are breaking from their late-November tradition: For the first time in 35 years, both teams have more to lose in the Civil War than just pride. Oregon (7-3 overall, 5-2 Pac-10) and Oregon State (7-3, 4-

probably will end up going to Hawaii for either the Aloha or Oahu bowls on Christmas Day.

Of course, should Stanford lose and Washington win, the Huskies would get the Rose Bowl berth, and the Ducks would be in line for the Holiday Bowl. If both Stanford and Washington lose, the Civil War would take on monumental importance, as Oregon would be playing for a spot in the Rose Bowl, and Oregon State a spot in the Holiday.

"I have no idea," Beavers coach Dennis Erickson said when asked about the bowl possibilities. "I just coach. I just know we're at least in Hawaii for sure, and that's a pretty good deal."

The last time both the Ducks and Beavers both went to a



3) are both going to a bowl game, the first time that has happened since 1949. This Saturday's game at Autzen Stadium will be the most important in the series since 1964, when both teams needed the win to go to the Rose Bowl.

Oregon State won that day, 7-6. The Beavers later lost to Michigan 34-7, OSU's last trip to the postseason.

This time the Beavers need a victory to clinch at least third place in the Pac-10, an accomplishment that seemed years away at the beginning of the season, when OSU's primary goal was ending its 28-season streak of losing records. "I'm so excited for Oregon State," said Ducks defensive back Michael Fletcher. "I'm excited for the state of Oregon. Everything is on the line here — state bragging rights, bowl games, everything."

Stanford (6-1 Pac-10) can earn a berth in the Rose Bowl against Wisconsin if it beats California on Saturday. And Washington (5-2) will go to the Holiday Bowl if it defeats Washington State, as expected.

That leaves third place — and the Sun Bowl in El Paso, Texas — up for grabs. The winner between Oregon and Oregon State likely will go to that game, and the loser



bowl was Jan. 1, 1949, when Oregon lost in the Cotton Bowl to Southern Methodist 21-13, and Oregon State lost in the Pineapple Bowl to Hawaii 47-27.

Since 1974, Oregon has won 19 of 24 against the Beavers. The Ducks are 3-1 under coach Mike Bellotti, with the only loss coming last year in Corvallis, 44-41 in double overtime. Both teams have won four straight this season, but the Beavers might be the favorite, considering both their offense and defense has been better statistically than Oregon's. After 29 years of pent-up frustrations, OSU also might have the emotional edge.

"It's been a very important game for us every year for bowl aspirations, and it's not been that way for the Beavers," Bellotti said. "This year it is. You want to play somebody that is a worthy opponent, and Oregon State is a very worthy opponent."

Seahawks have 2-game division lead

ASSOCIATED PRESS

Joey Galloway has Mike Holmgren's attention.

With a four-catch, 88-yard performance in Seattle's victory over defending Super Bowl champion Denver, Galloway showed his coach and bargaining nemesis that he's a unique player.

Galloway's achievement came with three days of practice. He missed training camp, the exhibition season and the first eight games in his 100-day contract holdout.

"He made two great catches. They were important catches in the outcome

of the game," Holmgren said Monday after his Seahawks took a two-game lead in the AFC West with a 20-17 victory over the Broncos in the Kingdome.

Playing 22 plays, Galloway had catches of 39 and 28 yards to help set up a field goal and the winning touchdown in the fourth quarter as Seattle (7-2) won its fourth straight game. Not since 1984, when they won 12 of their first 14 games, have the Seahawks had such a good start.

Holmgren made a promise to the six teams left on Seattle's schedule; Kansas City (twice), Tampa Bay, Oakland, San Diego, Denver and the

New York Jets: They will see a lot more of Galloway.

For example, Holmgren anticipates Galloway to be in about 30 plays next Sunday in Kansas City. He said Galloway reported he was not sore Monday.

"We'll make a real concerted effort to use him in certain situations and do certain things with him," he said. "We couldn't do that last week."

Holmgren said he didn't make up his mind about using Galloway against Denver until Saturday, when he activated him. He was worried about getting Galloway injured in the game after the holdout.

Walsh, Blanchard in line for national football awards

CONTRIBUTED STORY FOR THE PORTLAND OBSERVER

On the strength of Portland State University's most successful football season since moving to the NCAA I-AA level in 1996, Head Coach Tim Walsh and quarterback Jimmy Blanchard have been named to their respective ballots for national honors. Walsh is a finalist for the Eddie Robinson I-AA Coach of the Year Award, while Blanchard is a candidate for the Walter Payton I-AA Player of the Year Award. Both names will be listed when the ballots are released to 85 voter next week. The winners will be announced Monday, Dec. 6.

Walsh has been the architect of the PSU's very successful building project at NCAA I-AA level. This season, he has led PSU to a ranking of 13th in the nation, and the Vikings are on the cusp of their first Big Sky Conference championship going into Saturday's game at Northern Arizona. A win would give PSU a share of the Big Sky title and an automatic berth into the NCAA playoffs. It would likely mean home-field advantage when the playoffs begin on Nov. 27, as well. All would be firsts for the Viking since moving to I-AA level, and would occur in just PSU's second year of playoff eligibility. In leading PSU at an 8-2 record this season, Walsh's Vikings are already guaranteed their best year since 1994. The seventh-year head coach has also moved up to number two on PSU's all-time coaching victory list with 45. Walsh has masterminded the building of programs that includes an extremely talented junior class, with All-American candidates in Blanchard, running back Charlie Dunn and wide receiver Terry Charles. Remarkably, Walsh has built the

program with far less than the NCAA I-AA limit of 63 scholarship number in the high 30's at the division II level 55 this season. Walsh has put the success of his program in the capable hands of Jimmy Blanchard. The junior quarterback has simply been the most accurate quarterback in the nation. This season he has set a new NCAA all-division record by throwing 310 passes without an interception. He has shattered the old I-AA mark by almost 100 and is still going. Overall, Blanchard has thrown 28 touchdowns and just one interception. He ranks fifth in the nation in passing efficiency after leading the nation in 1998. In the past

two years, he has 42 touchdowns and just two interceptions. Blanchard's 550-yard passing effort against Montana on Oct. 2 led the Vikings to a 51-48 win over the then-second ranked Grizzlies and set the stage for possible Big sky title Blanchard has completed more than 60% of his passes for 2,745 yards in an offense that is equally balanced run and passes. In fact, the Viking has called more running play (387) than Blanchard has thrown passes (315). Portland State concludes its regular season this Saturday at Northern Arizona. Game time is 5:05 p.m. PDT. The game can be heard on KFFX 910 AM- The Fan.

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Blazers, Heat to meet in clash of division leaders



Mike Dunleavy

ASSOCIATED PRESS

The calendar might only read November, but if early season play is any indication, Tuesday's meeting between the Portland Trail Blazers and Miami Heat could take place once again in June.

Steve Smith, Scottie Pippen and the rest of the new-look Blazers visit Miami Arena on Tuesday night in a possible NBA Finals preview between two of three teams that are off to a 6-1 start.

Portland warmed up for the clash of conference titans with a 131-95 thrashing of Atlanta on Saturday night. The game proved to be an exhibition of the Blazers' athleticism, depth and versatility that could lead them to a title.

"We weren't running it up, we were just playing basketball, and they happened to run into us on a bad night for them," Damon Stoudamire said. "This is the first time this year that we've really put a team away when we were supposed to."

The Blazers will be hard-pressed to match those gaudy numbers Tuesday night against a Pat Riley-led Heat

team that prides itself on in-your-face defense.

Miami has showed uncharacteristic offensive flair so far this season, disposing archrival New York 94-88 at Madison Square Garden on Sunday.

Unlike Portland, which made over its roster following a disappointing postseason run, the Heat have stuck to

their guns despite a pair of first-round playoff flops. As a result, they're off to their best start ever.

"We are a team that's maturing and playing together," Riley said. "We've been together three or four years now. We are getting to know each other."

Standings

Blazers — 1st place, Pacific Division.
 Heat — 1st place, Atlantic Division.

Hawks suspend Rider

ASSOCIATED PRESS

Isaiah Rider will miss tonight's game against the Charlotte Hornets because the Atlanta Hawks suspended him

for a series of violations that date back to the start of training camp.

Rider's one-game suspension was announced after he skipped practice Monday to take care of a personal problem.

"We felt J.R.'s conduct has been detrimental to team chemistry, not just to his checkbook. From Day 1, his

tardiness has been a problem, and the only step we have left is suspend him for a game," Hawks general manager Pete Babcock said. Rider will also be fined \$65,853.66, or 1-82nd of his \$5.4 million salary.

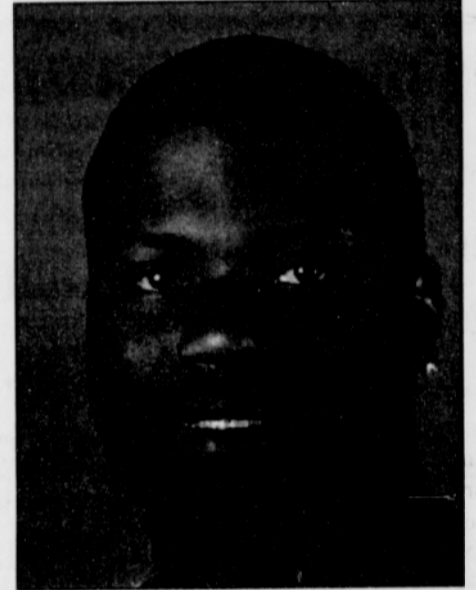
Rider said he notified the team at the start of practice he would not participate

because two of his three vehicles were damaged while parked in the Omni Hotel's valet parking, and items were missing from his room.

Rider came to the Hawks in August from the Portland Trail Blazers, saying he was looking forward to a new start in Atlanta, but began by missing the opening of training camp.

Rider, whose history of NBA offenses dates back to his first pro practice with the Minnesota Timberwolves in 1993, when he showed up late, has been adding to his list of offenses ever since. It includes feuds with coaches and convictions for marijuana possession and assault.

Babcock said he does not regret the deal that brought Rider to the Hawks. "We knew his history extremely well," Babcock said. "This isn't a surprise. We're disappointed."



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