



Sports/METRO

SPORTS briefs

Judge to Assign Bonds HR No. 73

SAN FRANCISCO—A trial will decide who owns the baseball Barry Bonds hit for his record-setting 73rd homer, the fan who appeared to catch it (eatery owner Alex Popov) or the man who took it home after a tussle (electrical engineer Patrick Hayashi). The ball could be worth more than \$1 million. The trial probably won't begin before next season, lawyers for both sides said.

Tennessee, Colorado Move Up Coaches' Poll

McLEAN, Va.—Colorado's 39-37 victory over Texas was enough to propel the Buffaloes into the top five of this week's USA TODAY/ESPN Top 25 Coaches' Poll. Tennessee's 34-32 win over Florida earned the Volunteers the No. 2 ranking. Miami remained No. 1.

Big Payday for Sergio Garcia

SUN CITY, South Africa—Sergio Garcia made a 20-foot chip shot from the fringe on the first playoff hole to beat Ernie Els and win the Nedbank Golf Challenge. Garcia forced the playoff by shooting a 9-under-par 63 after starting the day six strokes behind Els, the third-round leader. Garcia won a first prize of \$2 million in the \$4.06 million tournament, the richest in golf.

Boxer Suspended for Post-Fight Punch

ALBANY, N.Y.—A middleweight boxer who punched his opponent after their fight ended has been suspended indefinitely by the New York State Athletic Commission. James Butler, 28, of New York, also faces a second-degree assault charge for the short hook with gloves off that dropped Richard Grant long after the final bell. Grant had just won a 10-round decision televised by ESPN.

Davie Out as Notre Dame Football Coach

SOUTH BEND, Ind.—Notre Dame football coach Bob Davie and his staff were fired. Davie was Notre Dame coach for five years and posted the third worst winning percentage in Irish history. The firing comes a year after Davie signed a five-year contract after the Irish posted a 9-2 regular-season record. But the Irish, who started the season 0-3 for the first time in school history, finished 5-6, their second losing season in three years.

Contraction Hits Snag In Minnesota Courts

ST. PAUL, Minn.—The Minnesota Supreme Court refused to hear a speedy appeal by the Twins and major league baseball to lift the injunction that forces the team to play next season. In its decision, the Supreme Court did order the Court of Appeals to speed up its hearing of the case, which has tied up baseball's plan to eliminate two teams before next season. There was no immediate word when the Court of Appeals would listen to arguments in the dispute, leaving contraction still on hold for now.

Lakers Win Battle of NBA's Best

LOS ANGELES—Kobe Bryant scored 33 points and the Los Angeles Lakers beat the Milwaukee Bucks 104-85 in a showdown of teams with the NBA's two best records. The Lakers pulled away in the second half and improved to 9-0 at Staples Center while the Bucks lost for the first time in five road games.

Ducks Settle For Fiesta Bowl



OSU tailback Ken Simington fell 29 yards short of his 4th consecutive 1,000 yard rushing season as the ducks defense held Simington to 84 yards on 24 carries in Saturday's Civil War contest.

PHOTOS BY DAVE GIEZYNG/THE PORTLAND OBSERVER

Oregon will have to settle for the Fiesta Bowl after all.

A series of major upsets in college football the past two weekends, combined with Oregon's 17-14 win over Oregon State in the Civil War on Saturday, wasn't enough to propel the Ducks from No. 5 to the doorstep of the national title game.

The new Bowl Championship Series rankings, released Monday, had Oregon (10-1, 7-1 Pac-10) staying put at fifth. Miami remained No. 1, followed by Tennessee, Nebraska and Colorado.

Oregon will play in the Fiesta Bowl on New Year's Day, a game the Ducks had secured last week by earning a share of the Pac-10 title. The Civil War helped Oregon clinch its first outright conference title in seven years.

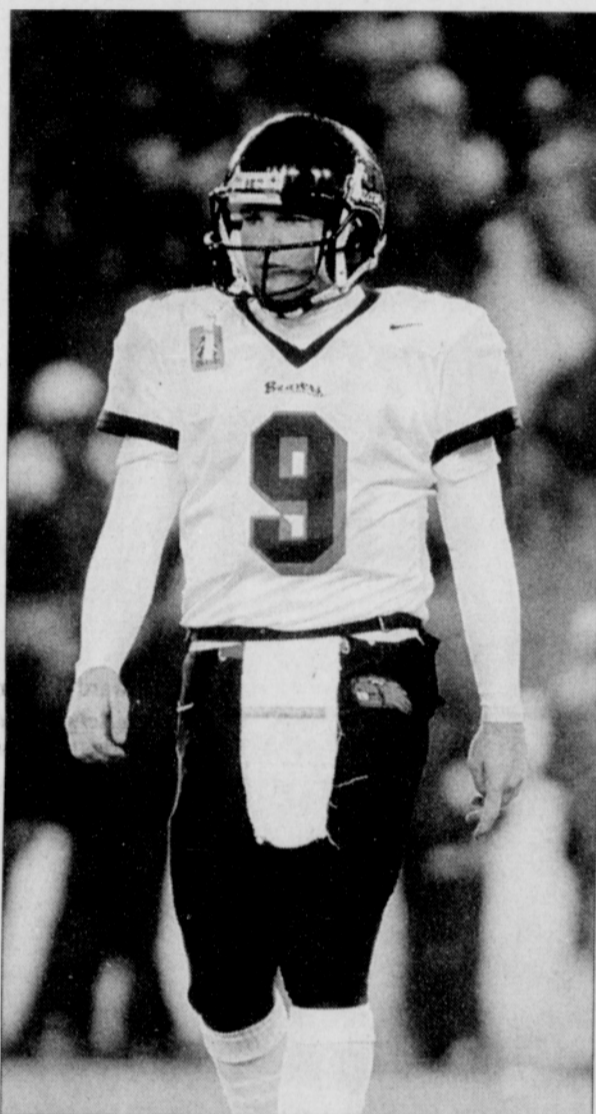
Oregon likely will play Big 12 champion Colorado on New Year's Day, meaning the teams could face each other in the postseason for the third time in seven years.

The Ducks were hoping that losses by two teams ahead of them—Florida and Texas—would push them up to No. 3. That would hang Oregon's Rose Bowl hopes on this Saturday's SEC title game between Tennessee and LSU. A loss by the Volunteers would move Oregon to No. 2, sending them to the Rose Bowl to play for the national title against Miami.

Those hopes were quickly dashed Monday by the BCS computer, which apparently wasn't impressed by the Ducks' narrow victory over the 5-6 Beavers.

Last week, Nebraska was fourth, just .39 points ahead of the Ducks. Nebraska didn't play Saturday but still jumped to third, increasing its lead over Oregon to 2.05 points.

Nebraska also was helped by Saturday's upsets, and by Colorado's



Jonathan Smith, quarterback for OSU watches his last college career pass drift into the hands of Oregon's Rashad Bauman with 52 seconds left in the game. The interception cost Oregon State their Bowl hopes and the game, 17-14.

39-37 win over Texas. The Cornhuskers were No. 1 in the BCS standings when they were trounced by the Buffaloes 62-36 two weekends ago, but that defeat looked a little better in the eyes of the computer because of Colorado's latest win.

The BCS standings are based on a formula that incorporates the AP media and coaches' polls, eight computer polls, strength of schedule, won-lost record and bonus points for wins over top teams.

Blazers, Fans Give to Needy During Holiday Season

As Oregon and the nation slip into recession, more Oregonians are in need during the upcoming holiday season. Donations to the various Sept. 11 funds also mean less money going to local charities. This all could add up to a bleak holiday season for those in the most need in Oregon and Southwest Washington. The Blazers are providing several opportunities in the coming weeks for fans to help those in need during the holiday season.

The Blazers teamed up with Central City Concern to help clients in need of

warm clothing during the winter months. Fans can bring gloves, hats, coats, blankets and other warm clothing to the games through Dec. 8. They can also stop by the Rose Quarter offices, Campus Store, and Action Sports Cable Network to drop off donations until Dec. 13.

Fans are asked to bring a new, unwrapped toy for a child in need for the Dec. 6 game vs. the Charlotte Hornets. Fans not attending the game can drop a toy off at any Les Schwab Tire Center.

A Night to Remember Oregon's Minority Athletes



Gathering together for the 2nd annual Multicultural Sports Hall of Fame for their athletic achievements are boxer Thad Spencer (from left), former Trailblazer Maurice Lucas and boxing legend Ken Norton.

The Multicultural Sports Hall of Fame held its second annual dinner to recognize Oregon's great minority athletes at the Governor Hotel in Portland. About 100 guests attended the gala event that included dinner, musical entertainment and an awards ceremony to induct six new members into the league.

A special guest appearance was by former heavyweight Ken Norton who once beat Muhammad Ali for the world title.

Thad Spencer, the founder of the Multicultural Sports Hall of Fame, recently left for a trip to Canada to start up a chapter of the organization in Vancouver, B.C. Their first fund-raiser is in the works and is tentatively scheduled for March or earlier.

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