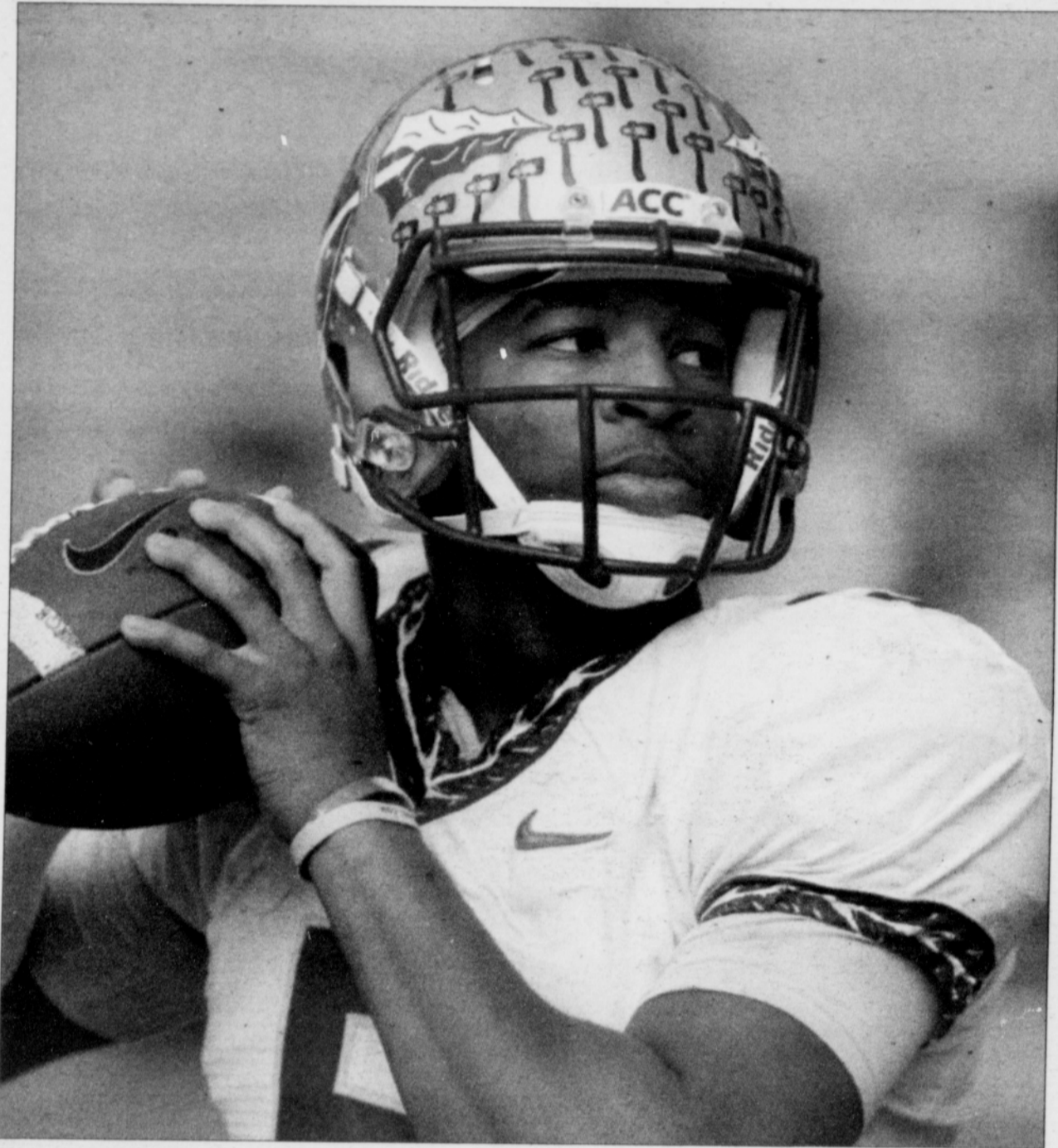
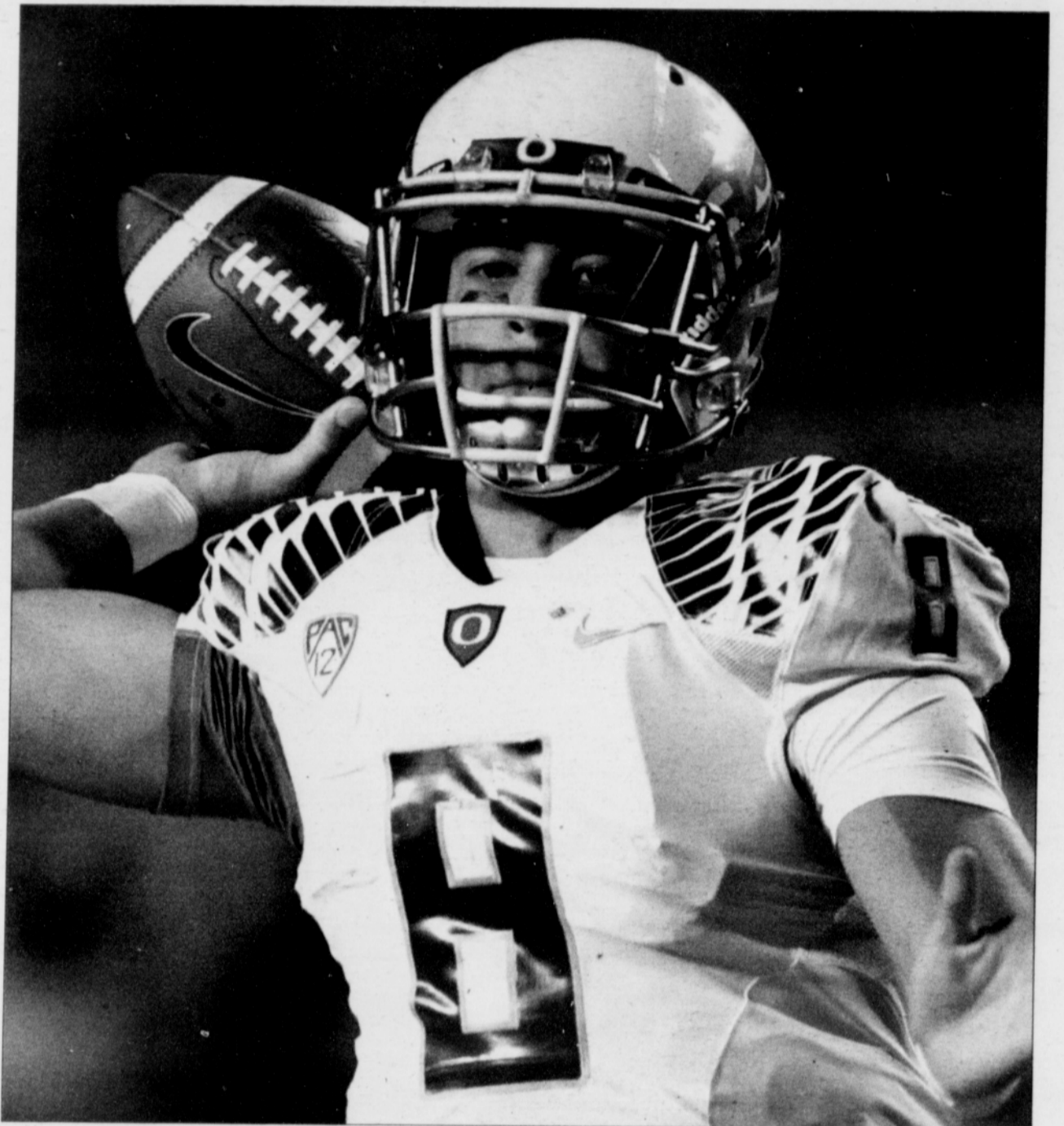


## SPORTS



Florida State quarterback Jameis Winston, the 2014 Heisman winner.



Oregon quarterback Marcus Mariota, the 2015 Heisman winner

# New Year's Day Big Matchup

## Oregon Ducks and Florida State face off in Rose Bowl

(AP) — College football has never had a quarterback matchup quite like Jameis Winston and Marcus Mariota.

When Mariota and second-seeded Oregon face Winston and third-seeded Florida State in the College Football Playoff semifinal at the Rose Bowl on Thursday Jan. 1, (TV coverage at 2 p.m. on ESPN) it will be the third time Heisman Trophy winners have met in a postseason

game.

Southern California's Matt Leinart and Oklahoma's Jason White were the first to do it at the 2005 Orange Bowl with the BCS championship on the line. Florida's Tim Tebow and Oklahoma's Sam Bradford did it at the 2008 BCS title game.

This is different, though. Potentially, this could be the start of a long rivalry between Mariota and Winston that goes from Pasadena, Calif., to the NFL for years to come.

Here's how they compare:

Mariota is a 6 foot-4 junior at 219 pounds. His record for 39 starts at Oregon is 35-4. Coming out of high school, he didn't start

until his senior year at Saint Louis High School in Honolulu.

As a redshirt freshman, he quickly showed what he could do, going 18 of 22 for 200 yards and three TDs against Arkansas State. The first nine drives of his college career resulted in touchdowns.

Mariota has had 101 career touchdown passes and 12 interceptions, going 38-2 this season. He has big-time speed. Whether it's running the read option or escaping a collapsing pocket, Mariota can gash a defense with long, demoralizing runs.

Winston is a 6 foot 4 sophomore at 235 pounds. His record for 26 starts at Florida State is 26-0.

Coming out of high school from Bessemer, Ala., he was one of the most highly sought after players in the country.

On his first start, he went 25 for 27 for 256 yards and four TDs in a victory against Pittsburgh.

When Florida State is trailing by 8-14 points, Winston is 22 for 33 (69 percent) for 327 yards with three touchdowns and four interceptions. When Florida State is trailing by 15 points or more, Winston is 16 for 22 (73 percent) for 279 yards with a TD and no interceptions.

The winner of the Rose Bowl will advance to the national championship game on Monday, Jan. 12.



## Charles Washington

Former Publisher of the Portland Observer

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