

College Football

# Idaho reaches bowl as it gets ready for farewell FBS season

By **NICHOLAS GERANIOS**  
Associated Press

It's been a rough year for the Idaho football program, but the Vandals are ending it on a high note.

Idaho (8-4) has qualified for a bowl game in what is its second-to-last year playing major college football.

The Vandals were unceremoniously kicked out of the Sun Belt Conference earlier this year, and the administration decided it had

had enough of FBS football and chose to become the first program in modern times to voluntarily drop to the FCS ranks.

In two decades as an FBS program, Idaho has qualified for a bowl only three times. The Vandals will face Colorado State on Dec. 22 at the Famous Idaho Potato Bowl in Boise, Idaho. Their other bowl appearances have been in Boise as well.

Coach Paul Petrino acknowledged it is sweet

vindication to reach the postseason.

"It was a great feeling," Petrino said. "That's one reason I'm so proud of our players. They've been kicked out of a conference and told they were going to change divisions. They never worried about that. They worried about playing one game at a time."

Idaho won six of its final seven games to finish with a 6-2 mark in the Sun Belt, a collection of teams in the

southeastern U.S. whose closest member is 2,000 miles from the Vandals' campus in tiny Moscow, Idaho.

The Sun Belt found that it didn't need Idaho or New Mexico State any longer in order to host a conference championship game and gave both the boot earlier this year.

Idaho President Chuck Staben decided the two-decade experiment as an FBS program was producing only

high expenses, with few wins and few fans to compensate. The Vandals averaged fewer than three wins per season as an FBS program since 1996, with eight 10-loss seasons.

Crowds were sparse in the 16,000-seat Kibbiedome, a giant wooden stadium built in the shape of a Quonset hut.

After next season, the Vandals will return to the FCS Big Sky Conference, a league they dominated in the 1980s and early 1990s.

That will mean lower

overall costs, especially with 22 fewer scholarships to provide, and lower travel costs.

Staben said there was no chance the decision will be revisited now.

"In the long term, this well-deserved bowl invitation does not change factors that informed our decision to join the Big Sky after the 2017-2018 season, versus pursuing an unsustainable future as an FBS independent team," Staben said.

## SCOREBOARD

### Local Slate

#### PREP BOYS BASKETBALL

##### Today's Games

Stanfield vs. Grant Union (at Columbia River Clash, Umatilla), 2 p.m.

Pilot Rock vs. Arlington (at Columbia River Clash, Umatilla), 3:30 p.m.

Condon/Wheeler at Heppner, 5 p.m.

Echo vs. Union (at Columbia River Clash, Umatilla), 5:30 p.m.

Umatilla vs. Mac-Hi (at Columbia River Clash, Umatilla), 7 p.m.

Irrigon vs. Crane (at Heppner Kick Off), 3 p.m.

Ione vs. Prairie City (at Condon Christmas Tournament), 4:30 p.m.

Helix at College Place (WA), 5:30 p.m.

Walla Walla (WA) at Pendleton, 7 p.m.

Condon/Wheeler vs. McKenzie (at Condon Christmas Tournament), 7:30 p.m.

Toledo at Heppner (at Heppner Kick Off), 7:30 p.m.

Weston-McEwen at Kennedy (at Kennedy Classic), 7:30 p.m.

Tri-Cities Prep at Riverside, 7:30 p.m.

Hermiston at Chiawana (WA), 7:30 p.m.

Arlington vs. TBD (at Columbia River Clash, Umatilla), TBD

Pilot Rock vs. TBD (at Columbia River Clash, Umatilla), TBD

Mac-Hi vs. TBD (at Columbia River Clash, Umatilla), TBD

Umatilla vs. TBD (at Columbia River Clash, Umatilla), TBD

Stanfield vs. TBD (at Columbia River Clash, Umatilla), TBD

Echo vs. TBD (at Columbia River Clash, Umatilla), TBD

Umatilla vs. TBD (at Columbia River Clash, Umatilla), TBD

#### PREP GIRLS BASKETBALL

##### Today's Games

Arlington vs. Pilot Rock (Columbia River Clash, Umatilla), 2 p.m.

Stanfield vs. Grant Union (Columbia River Clash, Umatilla), 3:30 p.m.

Mac-Hi at Umatilla (Columbia River Clash, Umatilla), 5:30 p.m.

Condon/Wheeler at Heppner, 6:30 p.m.

Echo vs. Union (Columbia River Clash, Umatilla), 7 p.m.

Friday's Games

Ione vs. Prairie City (at Condon Christmas Tournament), 3 p.m.

Irrigon vs. Crane (at Heppner Kick Off), 3 p.m.

Hermiston at Chiawana (WA), 5:45 p.m.

Helix at College Place (WA), 6 p.m.

Condon/Wheeler vs. McKenzie (at Condon Christmas Tournament), 6 p.m.

Toledo at Heppner (at Heppner Kick Off), 6 p.m.

Weston-McEwen at Kennedy (at Kennedy Classic), 6 p.m.

Tri-Cities Prep at Riverside, 6 p.m.

Pendleton at Walla Walla (WA), 7 p.m.

Arlington vs. TBD (at Columbia River Clash, Umatilla), TBD

Pilot Rock vs. TBD (at Columbia River Clash, Umatilla), TBD

Mac-Hi vs. TBD (at Columbia River Clash, Umatilla), TBD

Umatilla vs. TBD (at Columbia River Clash, Umatilla), TBD

Umatilla), TBD

Stanfield vs. TBD (at Columbia River Clash, Umatilla), TBD

Echo vs. TBD (at Columbia River Clash, Umatilla), TBD

Umatilla), TBD

#### PREP WRESTLING

Friday

Riverside at Culver Invitational, 2 p.m.

Irrigon, Echo at Calhoun Classic (at Nyssa), 3 p.m.

Pendleton, Mac-Hi Heppner at Muellenburg Invite (La Grande), 3 p.m.

Post Falls (ID) at Hermiston, 7 p.m.

Saturday

Irrigon, Echo at Calhoun Classic (at Nyssa), 10 a.m.

Pendleton, Mac-Hi, Heppner at Muellenburg Invite (La Grande), 10 a.m.

Riverside at Culver Invitational, 10 a.m.

#### PREP SWIMMING

Saturday

Pendleton, Hermiston at Baker meet, Noon

#### COLLEGE MEN'S BASKETBALL

Saturday's Games

Blue Mountain at Edmonds, 6 p.m.

Eastern Oregon at Walla Walla, 8 p.m.

Sunday's Game

Blue Mountain vs. Peninsula (at Edmonds), Noon

#### COLLEGE WOMEN'S BASKETBALL

Friday's Games

Blue Mountain at S. Puget Sound, 6 p.m.

Saturday's Games

Eastern Oregon at Walla Walla, 6 p.m.

Blue Mountain at Centralia, 7 p.m.

Sunday's Game

Blue Mountain vs. Tacoma (at Centralia), Noon

#### COLLEGE MEN'S WRESTLING

Friday

Eastern Oregon at North Idaho, 7 p.m.

#### COLLEGE WOMEN'S WRESTLING

Saturday-Sunday

Eastern Oregon at SW Oregon C.C., TBA

### Football

#### AMERICAN CONFERENCE

East

New England 10 2 0.833 319 207

Miami 7 5 0.583 255 278

Buffalo 6 6 0.500 305 274

N.Y. Jets 3 9 0.250 206 307

South

Houston 6 6 0.500 207 257

Indianapolis 6 6 0.500 311 311

Tennessee 6 6 0.500 308 296

Jacksonville 2 10 0.167 224 313

North

Baltimore 7 5 0.583 256 207

Pittsburgh 7 5 0.583 290 236

Cincinnati 4 7 1.375 245 259

Cleveland 0 12 0.000 197 352

West

W

Oakland 10 2 0.833 345 299

Kansas City 9 3 0.750 281 242

Denver 8 4 0.667 286 229

San Diego 5 7 0.417 334 319

#### NATIONAL CONFERENCE

East

x-Dallas 11 1 0.917 333 228

N.Y. Giants 8 4 0.667 245 237

Washington 6 5 1.542 303 295

Philadelphia 5 7 0.417 268 245

South

Atlanta 7 5 0.583 386 331

Tampa Bay 7 5 0.583 277 285

New Orleans 5 7 0.417 347 335

Carolina 4 8 0.333 283 321

North

Detroit 7 5 0.625 275 251

Green Bay 6 6 0.500 295 302

Minnesota 6 6 0.500 233 209

Chicago 3 9 0.250 204 270

West

Seattle 8 3 1.708 264 194

Arizona 5 6 1.458 276 251

Los Angeles 4 8 0.333 180 262

San Francisco 1 11 0.083 234 370

x-clinched playoff spot

#### Thursday's Game

Oakland at Kansas City, 5:25 p.m.

#### Sunday's Games

Denver at Tennessee, 10 a.m.

Cincinnati at Cleveland, 10 a.m.

Minnesota at Jacksonville, 10 a.m.

Arizona at Miami, 10 a.m.

Houston at Indianapolis, 10 a.m.

Washington at Philadelphia, 10 a.m.

Pittsburgh at Buffalo, 10 a.m.

San Diego at Carolina, 10 a.m.

Chicago at Detroit, 10 a.m.

N.Y. Jets at San Francisco, 1:05 p.m.

New Orleans at Tampa Bay, 1:25 p.m.

Seattle at Green Bay, 1:25 p.m.

Atlanta at Los Angeles, 1:25 p.m.

Dallas at N.Y. Giants, 5:30 p.m.

#### Monday, Dec. 12

Baltimore at New England, 5:30 p.m.

#### NCAA

##### Bowl Games Schedule

##### Saturday, Dec. 17

##### Celebration Bowl

At Atlanta

NC Central (9-2) vs. Grambling State (11-1), 9 a.m. (ABC)

##### New Mexico Bowl

Albuquerque

UTSA (6-6) vs. New Mexico (8-4), 11 a.m. (ESPN)

##### Las Vegas Bowl

San Diego State (10-3) vs. Houston (9-3), 12:30 p.m. (ABC)

##### Camellia Bowl

Montgomery, Ala.

Toledo (9-3) vs. Appalachian State (9-3), 2:30 p.m. (ESPN)

##### Cure Bowl

Orlando, Fla.

UCF (6-6) vs. Arkansas State (7-5), 2:30 p.m. (CBSN)

#### New Orleans Bowl

Southern Miss. (6-6) vs. Louisiana-Lafayette (6-6), 6 p.m. (ESPN)

#### FCS Playoffs

##### Quarterfinals

##### Friday

Sam Houston State (12-0) at James Madison (11-1), 4 p.m.

##### Saturday

South Dakota State (9-3) at North Dakota State (11-1), 9 a.m.

Wofford (10-3) at Youngstown State (10-3), 11 a.m.

Richmond (10-3) at Eastern Washington (11-1), 1 p.m.

#### NAIA

##### Semifinals

Saturday, Dec. 3

Saint Francis (Ind.) 42, Reinhardt (Ga.) 24

Baker (Kan.) 42, Eastern Oregon 24

##### Championship

Saturday, Dec. 17

At Municipal Stadium

Daytona Beach, Fla.

Saint Francis (Ind.) (12-1) vs. Baker (Kan.) (14-0), 3 p.m.

### Basketball

#### NBA

##### Eastern Conference

##### Atlantic Division

Toronto 14 7 667 —

Boston 13 9 591 1½

New York 12 10 545 2½

Brooklyn 6 15 286 8

Philadelphia 4 18 182 10½

##### Southeast Division

Charlotte 13 9 591 —

Atlanta 11 12 478 2½

Orlando 10 13 435 3½

Washington 7 13 350 5

Miami 7 15 318 6

##### Central Division

Cleveland 15 5 750 —

Milwaukee 11 9 550 4

Chicago 11 10 524 4½

Detroit 12 12 500 5

Indiana 11 11 500 5

#### Western Conference

##### Southwest Division

San Antonio 18 4 818 —

Houston 15 7 682 3

Memphis 15 8 652 3½

New Orleans 7 15 318 11

Dallas 4 17 190 13½

##### Northwest Division

Oklahoma City 14 8 636 —

Utah 14 9 609 ½

Portland 12 11 522 2½

Denver 8 14 364 6

Minnesota 6 15 286 7½

##### Pacific Division

Golden State 19 3 864 —