

Washington St. hosts Oregon in key game

By NICHOLAS K. GERANIOS
Associated Press

No. 25 Washington State hosting No. 12 Oregon has more significance than many may have expected early in the season.

The game will be key in determining which program stays alive in the hunt for the Pac-12 North title, which appeared to be a race between Washington and Stanford when the season began. All four programs now seem to be very much in it at the halfway mark.

As if the intrigue wasn't enough to make Saturday's game one of the top contests in the Pac-12 this week, fans can also expect to see plenty of offensive fireworks

DUCK FOOTBALL



Oregon Ducks
(5-1, 2-1)

Wash. St. Cougars
(5-1, 2-1)

Sat., 4:30 p.m., at Martin Stadium, Pullman, WA.
Television: FOX

in Pullman, which is also hosting ESPN's "College GameDay" for the first time.

Oregon (5-1, 2-1 Pac-12) averages 43 points per game behind quarterback Justin Herbert and Washington State (5-1, 2-1) averages 41.8 points behind Gardner Minshew.



AP Photo/Thomas Boyd

Oregon running back CJ Verdell scores the winning touchdown to beat Washington 30-27 on Oct. 13.

Ducks coach Mario Cristobal is impressed with Minshew, a graduate transfer who joined the Cougars in May from East Carolina. Minshew leads the nation

with an average of 403 passing yards per game.

"I think his completion percentage is at 68, 69 percent, something of that nature," Cristobal said.

"He's going to have a lot of time to throw the ball so you got to stay relentless to him."

Here are other things to know when Oregon visits Washington State, which has won the last three against the Ducks:

STEADY HERBERT: While Minshew has made a somewhat unexpected splash in his first season, Herbert is doing just what was expected of the steady junior. Herbert has thrown at least one touchdown pass in 21 games. Overall, he's thrown for 1,613 yards and 17 touchdowns this season, second to Minshew in the Pac-12, but he's amazingly accurate and ranks seventh nationally for passing efficiency (171.2). Against ranked teams, he's complet-

ing 70.8 percent for 1,509 yards and 11 TDs over the course of his Ducks career.

RESTED COUGARS: The Cougars were off last week and haven't played since a 56-37 win at Oregon State on Oct. 6, though maybe they would have preferred to keep playing. Washington State is just 1-5 coming out of the bye week under coach Mike Leach. The Cougars coach said his team worked this week to stay sharp on fundamentals.

WELL-GROUNDED DUCK: Freshman CJ Verdell was named the Pac-12's Player of the Week on offense after rushing for 111 yards and a pair of touchdowns in Oregon's 30-27 overtime win over Washington last weekend.

The Stanley Cup trophy is coming to the Tri-Cities

By ANNIE FOWLER
East Oregonian

The most iconic trophy in sports will make an appearance in the Tri-Cities next week.

Olie Kolzig, a former longtime goalie for the Washington Capitals, and now one of their development coaches, will bring the Stanley Cup to the Tri-Cities on Tuesday for fans to enjoy.

Unlike others who brought the Cup to their hometowns, Kolzig, a former player and now co-owner of the Tri-City Americans, strayed from the norm.

"If you look at it, I don't really have a hometown,"

Kolzig said. "I have lived in Florida the past 10 years, but Tri-Cities is as big a hometown as I have. With everything I have going on in the Tri-Cities, and the people I know, it made sense."

The Stanley Cup will begin its Tri-City journey at 10 a.m. at the Carson Kolzig Foundation in Kennewick, then make its way to Richland for a dinner at Meadow Springs Country Club.

The dinner is \$200 per person, but any anything above the overhead will be donated to the Carson Kolzig Foundation. People also may make personal donations to the Foundation.

The dinner, which will run from 6-9 p.m., will fea-

ture a short program and an opportunity for photos.

Kolzig, who played for the Stanley Cup with the Capitals in 1998, but came up short against Detroit, said winning the Cup as a player is extra special, but winning it as part of the staff is just as rewarding.

"There is something about it," he said. "But you don't know what it is until you lift it over your head. When you win, you are part of a family. It's extra special they put my name on the Cup. For them to honor me like that was very special."

After the Capitals won the Cup with a 4-1 series victory over the Vegas Golden Knights in June, the

Cup was passed around to all the players and a team photo was taken.

As Ovechkin was leaving the ice with the trophy, he spotted Kolzig, and handed him the Cup. The two played together for three years with the Capitals, and became fast friends when Ovechkin first arrived in Washington.

"He said, 'Can you believe we did this,'" Kolzig said of his conversation with Ovechkin. "It was an awesome moment. I don't know if there is a player who has won the Cup that has shown as much joy as him."

The Stanley Cup is the oldest existing trophy awarded to a professional sports franchise. Teams first



Photo courtesy of Olie Kolzig

Olie Kolzig, right, raises the Stanley Cup after the Capitals beat the Vegas Golden Knights in the Stanley Cup Finals on June 7.

became eligible to challenge for the Stanley Cup in 1906. The one-piece Cup is

designed with a five-band barrel, which can hold up to 13 winning teams per band. Once the bottom band is full, the oldest band is removed and preserved in the Hockey Hall of Fame, and a new blank band is added to the bottom.

The Washington Capitals are the only team on the newest band of the trophy, and Kolzig's name is among those hand-engraved.

"That's what's so great about it," Kolzig said of the Cup. "Every letter is different, and they way they squeeze everyone in there. This ring will be on there for a while. I will be long gone before that one comes off in 50 or 60 years."

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8:30AM - 11:30AM

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