

COLLEGE FOOTBALL PLAYOFF

Ducks among 14 teams with playoff hopes

BY RALPH D. RUSSO

AP College Football Writer

Even before the first College Football Playoff rankings of the season were unveiled Tuesday night, Nov. 1, it was clear which teams still have a chance to play for a national championship.

A glance at the conference standings reveals 14 contenders, all in the Power Five. Sorry, there will be no Cincinnati-style interloper from the Group of Five this season for the selection committee to consider.

A conference-by-conference assessment of who is in the race and the paths to the CFP, with AP Top 25 rankings.

PAC-12

No. 8 Oregon (7-1), No. 9 USC (7-1) and No. 10 UCLA (7-1)

They all need to run the table to have a chance and even then that might not be enough. The Ducks will have to overcome a 49-3 loss to Georgia in their opener. The Trojans have a bad defense and won't going to get much of a bump by beating Notre Dame. UCLA played one of the weakest nonconference schedules in the country.

What's the best option for the Pac-12? The guess here is a 12-1 USC with victories against UCLA and Oregon and one-point loss to a good Utah team.

ATLANTIC COAST CONFERENCE

No. 5 Clemson (8-0)

The Tigers had their streak of six straight playoff appearances snapped last year, but are well positioned to get back, with no ranked opponents left before a likely ACC title game against North Carolina.

No unbeaten Power Five champion has ever missed the playoff. A glance at the Big Ten and SEC suggests getting in as a one-loss conference champion could be dicey for the Tigers.

No. 17 North Carolina (7-1)

Run the table, beating unbeaten Clemson in the ACC title game, gets the Tar Heels in the conversation, but they'll need some upsets in other



California Golden Bears quarterback Jack Plumme throws a pass against Oregon during the first quarter of their game at Memorial Stadium in Berkeley, Calif., on Saturday, Oct. 29, 2022.

Jose Carlos Fajardo/Bay Area News Group-TNS

First Rankings Revealed

Tennessee, Ohio State, Georgia, and Clemson were the top four teams in the first College Football Playoff rankings of the season released Tuesday night, Nov. 1, four days before the Volunteers and Bulldogs square off on the field.

Michigan was fifth, followed by Alabama and unbeaten TCU.

Oregon was eighth followed by Pac-12 rival Southern California at ninth.

The highest ranked team from outside the Power Five conferences was Tulane at No. 19. The highest ranked champion from the Group of Five conferences earns a spot in New Year's Six bowl.

The CFP semifinals are scheduled to be played at the Fiesta and Peach bowls on Dec. 31, with the championship game set for Jan. 9 in Inglewood, California.

leagues to clear the way.

BIG 12

No. 7 TCU (8-0)

See above, re: unbeaten Power Five champions. The Horned Frogs flirt with disaster weekly and have some defensive issues. That's a profile the selection committee tends to look upon skeptically.

They'll probably need to stay unbeaten to get in and it's going to be really tough for them to stay unbeaten with the way they have been playing.

BIG TEN

No. 2 Ohio State (8-0) and No. 4 Michigan (8-0)

Both have been dominant. Neither has played a particularly

strenuous schedule and that won't change much before they meet Thanksgiving weekend. Still, either is locked by winning out.

Either would stay in the mix by being a 12-1 conference champion. And the loser of the rivalry game at 11-1 probably still holds out hope to get in.

No. 14 Illinois (7-1)

The Illini have a game against Michigan the week before the Wolverines play Ohio State. That means Illinois could finish 12-1 with either two victories against Michigan or one against Michigan and one against Ohio State.

It's not likely to happen, but that would put the Illini in the playoff.

SOUTHEASTERN CONFERENCE

No. 1 Georgia (8-0) and No. 2 Tennessee (8-0)

The loser of Saturday's showdown in Athens is not elimi-

nated, especially if its the Volunteers, with a victory over Alabama already in hand.

No. 6 Alabama (6-1) and No. 11 Mississippi (8-1)

The Crimson Tide and Rebels can't afford another loss — they play each other in two weeks — but either would breeze into the CFP by winning out.

The most SEC-centric scenario the rest of the country needs to root against is Alabama winning out, beating Georgia in the SEC championship game, and leaving the Tide and Bulldogs at 12-1 and Tennessee at 11-1 with a close loss to Georgia.

No. 15 LSU (6-2)

A two-loss team has never made the playoff, but the SEC champion has never missed the playoff. If the Tigers beat Alabama and avenge a loss to Tennessee on the way to a conference title they could break precedent.

POWDER VALLEY FOOTBALL

Badgers earn 1st-round playoff bye

BY JOHN BRAESE

EasternOregonSports.com

PILOT ROCK — Every Badger football player saw the field as Powder Valley wrapped up an unbeaten regular season with a 59-8 victory over Pilot Rock on Thursday, Oct. 27, in Pilot Rock.

The Badgers, 9-0 and ranked second in the state, scored in multiple ways, scoring four rushing touchdowns, three touchdowns through the air and one kick returned for a score.

"We were able to get our younger kids in early in the game and that was fun," said Powder Valley coach Josh Cobb.

The win earned the Badgers a bye in the first round of the Class 1A playoffs.

Powder Valley will play host on Nov. 11 to the winner of the Cove-Enterprise game on Friday, Nov. 4. The Badgers didn't play Cove this season. They beat Enterprise 60-12 on Oct. 14. The time for the Nov. 11 game hasn't been set.

In addition to scoring at Pilot Rock, the Badgers saw excitement in their kicking game. Lizandro Rodriguez converted all but two of his extra points and made the field long for the Pilots the whole night with touchbacks on all kickoffs.

Rodriguez also picked up a score of his own, a pass play from quarterback Cole Martin for the touchdown.

"Pilot Rock is always a great place to play with good fans and a great atmosphere," Cobb said.

SHANE ALDERSON FOR BAKER COUNTY COMMISSION CHAIR

My family has called Baker County home since 1935. We are enjoying raising our young daughter in this beautiful community surrounded by small town values.

I promise to work hard for all citizens, do the work that needs to be done and to provide the vital services taxpayer deserve.

I want to be your Baker County Commission Chair to mend the relationship between Baker County and Baker City and other small cities and jurisdictions.



I pledge to:

- Work hard to to maximize fire and ambulance service throughout Baker County
- Continue to support local law enforcement agencies to reduce crime and hold offenders accountable for their actions
- Be a strong supporter for water issues and other matters facing our local agricultural producers
- Work to protect jobs at Ashgrove Cement and other mining entities
- Continue to work with all local entities (Chambers, Baker City Downtown, Interpretive Center, local Museums, Economic Development Committee, etc.) to provide resources to enhance our local tourism industry.
- Advocate and work with State and Federal agencies to provide affordable workforce housing in our community.
- Work hard to bring traded sector jobs to our County that provide family wage jobs for working families.
- Work with local entities to make sure that we have affordable day care for families with working parents

I am not beholden to any special interest groups and will bring honest and open communication to the County Commission. Please vote for Shane Alderson for Baker County Commission Chair.

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