

Rugger's overcome injuries, beat rival Navy

By Andrew Pogorzelski
FOR THE COLLEGIAN

The Penn State Rugger's were not concerned after the University of Buffalo dropped their match on Saturday. Instead, they prepared for a familiar foe: the United States Naval Academy. "We play Navy twice a year so we were ready for them," senior

captain Christopher Saint said. "We were ready for a physical match."

The Penn State Rugger's had no problem with the physical nature of their match at West Pitch, as they finished off Navy 25-22 in a defensive struggle.

Senior center Jonathan Intriери converted on two tries and Andrew Hollinger added another score to put Penn State out in front.

Despite capturing a hard fought victory from a tested foe, coach

Don Ferrell believes the game was not marked by individual efforts.

"There were really no standout players," said Ferrell. "We played well as a team and fought a physical battle and won."

The team is rebounding from several key injuries this year, including team captain Christopher Saint, who is out with an ACL tear, and Joe Baker, who returned to West Pitch Saturday in his first contest back.

"You can't replicate the speed

and the physicality of a game, especially against a team like Navy in practice," said Baker, who is also the team's president. "I was nervous but after I settled in, it's the same game I've been playing for ten years."

Baker's two penalty kicks and three conversions squeezed the Rugger's past Navy for the victory. "It felt good being back out there," Baker said.

"I was just glad I could help out the team."

Despite numerous injuries to

key veterans, both Ferrell and Baker agree that their freshmen are pivotal to the team's success. Although the injuries are unfortunate, Ferrell said, they have allowed younger players to get a better feel for the game.

"It truly is a developmental season for us," Ferrell said. "Our freshmen have stepped up and our future looks very bright. Now that we have some of our veterans back from injury, we are excited to compete during the second half of the season."

Oregon rises to No. 1 in latest Associated Press poll

By Ralph D. Russo
ASSOCIATED PRESS

Known for its ever-changing, often outrageous uniforms and a point-a-minute offense, Oregon now has a new distinction: No. 1 team in the country.

The Ducks climbed to the top spot for the first time Sunday, moving up one position during an off week after previously top-ranked Ohio State lost 31-18 at Wisconsin on Saturday night.

"We don't have to talk about rankings with these guys," Ducks coach Chip Kelly said in a telephone interview.

"Whether we're No. 1 in the country or 101 it won't affect how we prepare."

"But the only important thing is to be No. 1 in a month and a half on Dec. 5."

That's when the final BCS standings come out. The first were due out later Sunday.

In the AP poll, which is not part of the BCS standings, Boise State also moved up one place to No. 2. Oklahoma jumped three spots to No. 3, passing No. 4 TCU. Auburn

moved up two spots to fifth, while the Buckeyes dropped to 11th.

Oregon becomes the 43rd team to hold the No. 1 ranking in the AP media poll, which dates to 1936. The last time a team was No. 1 for the first time was almost 20 years ago to the day, when Virginia rose to No. 1 on Oct. 14, 1990.

Ohio State's loss came a week after then-No. 1 Alabama was beaten by South Carolina. Heisman Trophy contender LaMichael James and the Ducks will try to avoid three straight weeks of No. 1 losing when they play at home against UCLA on Thursday night.

The Ducks received 39 first-place votes and 1,471 points. Boise State had 15 first-place votes and TCU (three) and Oklahoma (three) also got votes as the top team in the country.

The rest of the AP top 10 was LSU at No. 6, followed by Alabama, Michigan State, Utah and Wisconsin, which jumped eight spots after its big win at Camp Randall Stadium.

The coaches' poll had the same top nine as the AP poll.

Florida was one of four teams that dropped out of the poll. The Gators lost their third straight

game Saturday — 10-7 to Mississippi State — and are unranked for the first time since the final poll of the 2004 season.

Also dropping out were Air Force, Nevada and Oregon State. Nebraska fell nine spots to No. 14 after losing 20-13 to Texas. The Longhorns moved back in at No. 22, along with No. 23 Virginia Tech and No. 25 Miami. Mississippi State is No. 24, its first ranking since 2001.

That was also a breakout season for Oregon. Under coach Mike Bellotti, quarterback Joey Harrington and the Ducks finished No. 2 and probably should have received a chance to play for the national championship.

But they were squeezed out by a BCS formula that was later changed.

Bellotti took over the program from Rich Brooks after the Ducks went to the 1995 Rose Bowl and Brooks bolted for the NFL. It was Oregon's first Rose Bowl appearance in almost 40 years, a major happening for a program that had spent decades as an afterthought.

The 1995 Rose Bowl trip was only the 10th bowl appearance in school history.

Under Bellotti and with the help

"Whether we're No. 1 in the country or 101 it won't affect how we prepare."

Chip Kelly
Oregon coach

of a multimillion-dollar deal with Nike, which is run by Oregon alum Phil Knight, the program bolstered its facilities and resources, and Oregon became a consistent winner and contender in the Pac-10.

"When I came here I considered Oregon a have. I considered Oregon a consistent top-20 team," said Kelly, who was offensive coordinator at New Hampshire when Bellotti hired him in 2007.

Thanks to Nike, the Ducks have become the fashion plates of college football, seemingly breaking out a new eye-catching look every week.

The Ducks donned all sorts of yellow, green, black, white and silver outfits, mixing and matching a multitude of combinations.

But after that 2001 national title run, the Ducks slipped a bit on the field as Pete Carroll and Southern California dominated the Pac-10. In 2007, it looked as if the Ducks were breaking through again,

beating the Trojans and reaching No. 2 with Heisman contender Dennis Dixon.

Dixon blew out his knee on a Thursday night against Arizona, though, and the Ducks went into a tailspin.

After the 2008 season, Bellotti stepped down as coach and Kelly was promoted.

Oregon finally unseated USC atop the Pac-10 last season and returned to the Rose Bowl with quarterback Jeremiah Masoli leading the way.

Masoli was kicked off the team after legal problems, but the Ducks haven't slowed down.

Quarterback Darron Thomas has stepped into the role of dual-threat triggerman and James leads the nation in rushing at 169 yards per game.

Running a high-speed offense that leaves weary opponents gasping, the Ducks are averaging 54 points per game, tops in the nation.

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HOROSCOPES

By Jacqueline Bigar

BY JACQUELINE BIGAR

HAPPY BIRTHDAY for Monday, Oct 18, 2010. This year, you will get a new beginning if you can give up certain ways of thinking. You tend to be hardest on yourself, and can get depressed if you don't learn to let go. You might want to indulge yourself more often without breaking the bank. If you are single, many people could be intrigued by you, but choosing the right person could take a lot of talent. If you are attached, the two of you will become even closer if you plug in a little more romance. PISCUS might be good to work with.

The Stars Show the Kind of Day You'll Have: 5-Dynamic, 4-Positive, 3-Average, 2-So-so, 1-Difficult

ARIES (March 21-April 19) Know when to back up and handle a matter differently. Someone you trust could be extremely idealistic but not very practical. Your instincts serve you well. Don't force yourself. Use time as your ally. Tonight, Vanish while you can.

TALIES (April 20-May 20) A boss might be extremely idealistic. For some, this person could be an authority figure in your life. This person's idealism might be inspirational; your job will be to harness it. Tonight, Off to the gym or where people are.

GEMINI (May 21-June 20) When questioning which way to go, others drop the decision on you. Do yourself research, but understand that your sources are off. Creativity, optimism and facts braid together under your

guidance. Tonight, Could be late. CANCER (June 21-July 22) Partner or associate sometimes is very practical or very headstrong. Use this trait as an asset as you eye a long-term decision. Travel and education could be involved. Loss negativity aside. Tonight, Seek out more ideas.

LEO (July 23-Aug. 22) Work with others, and give full attention to each individual. You might want to reorganize your schedule. Don't be stern, even if you are questioning the validity of another's idea. A family member's gesture could mean a lot. Tonight, Visit over dinner.

VIRGO (Aug. 23-Sept. 22) Others dominate, and you might not be sure which way to go. Listen to a neighbor, relative or someone you see daily. This person's perception, though rosy and optimistic, might be valid. Tonight, Just don't be alone.

LIBRA (Sept. 23-Oct. 22) Focus on one task at a time. You have unusual creativity and ideas. You could be a little too upright. Relax and be willing to indulge a little more. That might look like an easy conversation or two. Tonight, Do something just for you.

SCORPIO (Oct. 23-Nov. 21) First decide that there is no answer that you cannot find a way around. Communication could be dynamic, especially if you let go of preconceived ideas. You are your harshest critic. Remember that. Be generous with a loved one. Tonight, Leave today behind, and start the evening fresh.

SAGITTARIUS (Nov. 22-Dec. 21)

If you can handle a domestic matter head-on, you will stay on top of any issue. Establishing a home-based business might be a smart move. Brainstorm with others, and you'll find an unusual path. Tonight, At home.

CAPRICORN (Dec. 22-Jan. 19) You are in the home stretch. Some people might see you as rigid. Be willing to flex and allow in more creativity. You could find a meeting or key person to communicate to realize a dream. Tonight, Hang out with a friend.

AQUARIUS (Jan. 20-Feb. 18) At times you have a tendency to go overboard and wonder what needs to occur. If you are willing to change, you'll discover the power of openness. Help someone get past a grudge, and enlist his or her help. Tonight, Buy several needed items on the way home.

PISCES (Feb. 19-March 20) You are on top of your game. Don't worry about a difficult associate. You will learn a lot about what is ailing this person, but only on his or her schedule. A discussion helps point to another key goal. Tonight, Whatever puts a smile on your face.

BORN TODAY Actor Jean-Claude Van Damme (1960), singer Laura Nyro (1947), actor George C. Scott (1927)

Jacqueline Bigar is on the Internet at www.jacquelinebigar.com

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