

Ohio State's 'chestnut' tops mascots; five pro teams to contend for title

THE MASCOTS

It's low time that someone honor the colleges' corniest sideline cavorters. After all, the television cameras are focused on them as much as on the players these days.

The winner, of course, is the man who dresses up as a chestnut: None other than Brutus Buckeye of Ohio State. What could be more inspiring? (Yes, in response to the eternal trivia question, a buckeye is a chestnut.)



Bottom 10

Stanford's Tree, which is sort of a joke (much like the school's team), is a close second, followed by Arizona State's horned, pitchfork-waving Sun Devil. It is not true, by the way, that Arizona State authorities told the NCAA that it was the Sun Devil who made them commit those violations that eventually resulted in the forfeit of five victories a few years ago.

Let's not forget USC's snooty stallion, Traveler III, which, in the Hollywood tradition, sent a stand-in to the Trojans' game against UCLA and California (his long-suffering mate, Atifa) or Florida State's Seminole mascot, who needed two attempts to mount his horse at one point during the Florida game. (Shame!)

And then there's Air Force's latest falcon, which is constantly in the sights of a trained sharpshooter so as to guard against a repeat of the tragic 1981 incident. The team looked so bad in losing 21-45 to BYU that year that its falcon flew away. The fugitive fowl tried to turn pro in Atlanta as a hardship case but was cut from the team. A sad sight these days, he now begs for French fries in the parking lot of a nearby McDonald's.

MASCOT, SCHOOL	OBJECTION
1) Buckeye (Ohio State)	How did Woody Hayes stand it?
2) Tree (Stanford)	Bring back Robber Barons.
3) Sun Devil (Ariz. St.)	Was pitchfork an alumni gift?
4) Blue Hen (Delaware)	Self-explanatory

- 5) Traveler III (USC) What next — a makeup man?
- 6) Seminole (Flor. St.) Lousy spear thrower, too
- 7) Mildcat (Northwstn.) Wouldn't harm a QB
- 8) Leprechaun (Dame) On Mr. Blackwell's worst-dressed list
- 9) Blimp (Goodyear) Gray personality
- 10) Falcon (Air Force) Says no stadium can hold it

THE PROS

As the legendary Lost Team of Atlanta (3-12) sank into Tampa Bay, concern was voiced over whether it would re-emerge Sunday in time to clinch the Bottom Ten title.

Or would it pull a Phyllis George and shock everyone by departing a week early? George bade a tearful farewell Sunday to Brent and Irv and the Greek on CBS' "NFL Today" show, leaving it with no one to anchor a planned feature on hairstyles of NFL wide receivers. (She's moving over to CBS Morning News, where she'll report on hairstyles of world leaders.)

Meanwhile, five NFL teams are within stumbling range of the Bottom Ten title, including No. 5 Houston (3-12), which had the honor of being present when the L.A. Lambs' Eric Dickerson broke O.J. Simpson's single-season rushing record.

TEAM	LAST LOSS	NEXT LOSS
1) Atlanta (3-12)	6-23 Bay (Tampa)	Philadelphia
2) Minnesota (3-12)	7-51 San Fran.	Bay (Green)
3) Indianapolis (4-11)	17-35 Miami	New England
4) Buffalo (2-13)	17-21, NJ Jets	Cincinnati
5) Houston (3-12)	16-27 Dickerson	Cleveland
6) New Orleans (6-9); 7) Detroit (4-10-1); 8) Cleveland (4-11); 9) Martina Navratilova (currently on her longest losing streak of the season); 10) anyone else in the AFC Central.		

INFLATION, NFL STYLE: Denver's Sammy Winder was honored after the Broncos game Sunday for passing the 1,000-yard rushing milestone with 1,008. Gee. That means he's averaging almost 68 yards per game.

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Gymnasts prepare for Gophers

The women's gymnastics team will compete in its third meet of the week against Minnesota at 7 p.m. Saturday at the Bob Devaney Sports Center.

Coach Rick Walton said his team looked much cleaner in Kansas City Tuesday night against the Japanese Collegiate all stars. The team still lost the meet 179.45 to 183.20. It was UNL's second loss to the Japanese this year.

"We scored a lot better this time because the girls were not as nervous," Walton said. "I think they were a lot cleaner in their routines also."

The only Husker to win an event was freshman Racine Smith. She won the vault with a score of 9.25. Char Hagemann was the high scorer in the all-around competition with 35.7.

Renee Gould, a freshman, finished second in the uneven bars.

Walton said the score of 179.45 was the team's highest in two years.

The meet against Minnesota will be a tough one because Minnesota matches up well to the Cornhuskers, Walton said.

"They have been scoring right around the same average as we have, and they are a pretty clean team. It should be a good, close meet," Walton said.

The Golden Gophers are 1-1 in dual-meet competition. They defeated the University of Wisconsin and they lost to the Japanese Collegiate all stars by a score of 182.25 to 180.85.

The Gophers' top gymnast is Lori Kaiser, a sophomore who won both all-arounds in each dual meet. Another person to watch on Saturday will be Candice Doyale. In the dual meet against the Japanese, Doyale

placed third in the all-around.

Walton said he hopes for a big turn out at the meet.

"The bigger the crowd is, the more pressure will be put on our opponents," Walton said. "I hope people didn't judge us on our opening meet because we made a lot of mistakes last Sunday," he said.

"And our girls were not used to performing in front of such a big crowd."

After the Japanese dual meets, the Huskers are suffering from some minor injuries. Char Hagemann is still bothered by a strained muscle in her lower back, and Elizabeth Barlotti is fighting mononucleosis. But Walton said he thinks his team is about to explode.

"I think people will really be surprised on how good we will do this weekend," Walton said.

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