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2012 Rose Bowl Preview

This year's Rose Bowl will showcase two very similar programs in recent history. One found itself in this bowl a season ago (Wisconsin) while the other played for a national championship. The Ducks made this bowl two seasons ago but has dominated its conference the past three seasons.

The Rose Bowl Game presented by Vizio will showcase Big Ten champion Wisconsin facing Pac-12 champ Oregon in Pasadena. This will mark the fifth all-time game between the two programs, with the Badgers owning a 3-1 series lead. However, the Ducks won the last game in Eugene, 31-28, back in 2001.

Our current [Rose Bowl odds](#) show Oregon -6 and the over/under at 72 points.

Wisconsin

Wisconsin earned their second consecutive Rose Bowl invite by winning the inaugural Big Ten Championship Game with a 42-39 final over Michigan State. The Badgers come into this game riding a five-game win streak, which came on the heels of two consecutive defeats, which came after a 6-0 start. The Badgers were 4-2 as a visitor this season, winning the past three on the road.

Wisconsin is one of the few teams to be ranked in the top-10 nationally in both scoring offense and defense.

The Badgers rank fourth nationally in scoring offense (45 points per game) while compiling 467 yards per game (237 rushing, 230 passing). Montee Ball leads the offense by anchoring the running game with 1,759 yards and 32 scores on 6.4 yards per attempt, while James White adds 683 yards and six scores on 5.1 yards per attempt.

Russell Wilson has connected on 72 % of his attempts for 2,879 yards and 31 touchdowns with three picks. The offensive line has allowed 23 sacks. The main receiving targets are Nick Toon and Jared Abbrederis, who have combined for 106 catches for 1,636 yards and 16 touchdowns.

The Badger defense rates a stellar sixth in the country in defense (17 ppg) and surrenders 293 yards per game (155 via the pass, 138 via the rush) while recording 23 sacks and enticing 24 turnovers – one taken back for a touchdown (Derek Landisch, fumble).

Mike Taylor paces the unit with 137 stops, while Chris Borland has a team-high four forced fumbles with 131 total stops. Louis Nzegwu has 4.5 sacks, while Shelton Johnson and Antonio Fenelus each have four picks.

Oregon

The Ducks endured a season-opening defeat to LSU, then won nine in a row before a home defeat to USC, then ended the year with 98 points scored in victories against Oregon State and UCLA to take a third consecutive conference championship. The Ducks were 4-1 as a visitor this season, winning the last four such contests.

The Ducks rate third in the nation in points (46 ppg) while gaining 515 yards per contest (296 on the ground, 219 through the air). LaMichael James leads this ground attack with 1,646 yards and 17 touchdowns on 7.4 yards per attempt, while Kenjon Barner has 909 yards and 11 touchdowns on 6.3 yards per tote.

Darron Thomas connects on 61 % of his throws for 2,493 yards and 30 touchdowns with six interceptions. The offensive line has surrendered 12 sacks. De'Anthony Thomas is the main receiving target with 42 catches for 571 yards and nine touchdowns, while Lavasier Tuinei has 40 grabs for 441 yards and eight touchdowns.

Defensively, the Ducks rank 48th in the nation in scoring defense (24 ppg) and give up 381 yards per game (244 passing, 137 rushing) while compiling 43 sacks and forcing 27 turnovers – three of which were returned for TDs (Boseko Lokombo and Michael Clay, three interceptions).

John Boyett leads the defensive unit with 91 tackles and two blocked kicks, while Clay has 89 stops and a team-best two forced fumbles. Dion Jordan has 7.5 sacks, Eddie Pleasant has three interceptions and Brandon Hanna has three fumble recoveries.

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