



CougCenter Year In Review

2015 was an awesome year. CougCenter posted 1,135 stories this year and before we move onto 2016, let's take a look back at some of the moments from 2015 we will remember for years to come.

Want to fire Mike Leach? Here's his contract with Washington State
By Michael Protem @MProtem on Sep 8, 2015, 6:27p



Yeah, you're mad ... but there's likely no way WSU can afford to part with its football coach.

24-17 LOSS TO PORTLAND STATE
SEPTEMBER 5, 2015

WSU opened the season at Martin Stadium against FCS school Portland State. The Cougars played awful on both sides of the ball, displaying lack of improvement from last season. The Vikings fought back in the 2nd half, scoring 17 unanswered points and the Vikings came away with a 24-17 victory.

The loss raised serious questions about the state of the football program, the decision making of Mike Leach, the hiring of first time defensive coordinator Alex Grinch, and sent whatever optimism WSU had down the drain.

WSU vs. Rutgers final score: Cougars complete fourth-quarter comeback to win 37-34
By Jeff Preece @JPreece on Sep 12, 2015, 4:46p



IN THIS STORYSTREAM
WSU vs. Rutgers: Cougars pick up much needed win with fourth quarter heroics

LATEST NEWS
Scouting the Miami Hurricanes: Defense
WSU dominating ALL CRIMSON for the Sun Bowl
PREVIEW: Miami's players to watch
Scouting the Miami Hurricanes: Offense
RECAP: Cougs lose to Northern Iowa, 63-59
What the Hell is a Miami and/or Sun Bowl?
The WSU Sports Judges are back on the bench
HCA: Days of Future Present
The CougCenter Big Board - Updated 12/23
CCH: Vince Grippi and Jerry Steinberg stop by

37-34 LAST SECOND WIN OVER RUTGERS
SEPTEMBER 12TH, 2015

After a crushing loss to Portland State, WSU traveled across the nation to battle with Rutgers. In this game it became apparent that QB Luke Falk was going to terrorize defenses, especially when the game was on the line.

Looking 0-2 dead in the face with just over a minute and a half remaining in the game, Falk led the Cougars with poise down the field. He capped off his 90 yard game winning drive by connecting with WR River Cracraft from 8 yards out. The 37-34 win restored hope for both the Cougars and their fans.

Washington State beating Oregon is a game to cherish and remember
By Brian Floyd @BrianFloyd on Oct 20, 2015, 8:04p



LATEST NEWS
Scouting the Miami Hurricanes: Defense
WSU dominating ALL CRIMSON for the Sun Bowl
PREVIEW: Miami's players to watch
Scouting the Miami Hurricanes: Offense
RECAP: Cougs lose to Northern Iowa, 63-59
What the Hell is a Miami and/or Sun Bowl?
The WSU Sports Judges are back on the bench
HCA: Days of Future Present
The CougCenter Big Board - Updated 12/23
CCH: Vince Grippi and Jerry Steinberg stop by

COUGARS OUTLAST OREGON IN 2OT, 45-38
OCTOBER, 10TH

Coming off a road loss to Cal, the Cougars traveled to Autzen Stadium to take on the Ducks. This epic battle would change everything for the Cougars.

Luke Falk shredded the Oregon defense for 505 yards and 5 tds, the last of which came with 0:01 second left in the game to force overtime. In OT, Falk answered an Oregon first possession score with a QB keeper. In the second OT Shalom Luani intercepted QB Jeff Lockie, then Falk found Robert Lewis to stiff the Ducks. This 45-38 victory provided the Cougars with the fuel necessary to win five of their next six games.

Cougars hang on to defeat Arizona 45-42, Stanford next
By PJ Kendall @PJKendall on Oct 25, 2015, 8:58a



LATEST NEWS
Scouting the Miami Hurricanes: Defense
WSU dominating ALL CRIMSON for the Sun Bowl
PREVIEW: Miami's players to watch
Scouting the Miami Hurricanes: Offense
RECAP: Cougs lose to Northern Iowa, 63-59
What the Hell is a Miami and/or Sun Bowl?
The WSU Sports Judges are back on the bench
HCA: Days of Future Present
The CougCenter Big Board - Updated 12/23
CCH: Vince Grippi and Jerry Steinberg stop by

COUGARS HOLD OFF WILDCATS, 45-42
OCTOBER, 24TH

WSU went on the road to face off with Arizona, fresh off of a homecoming win over the Beavers. Luke Falk continued his hot streak and tossed 6 touchdowns, four of which were caught by Gabe Marks.

Marks' last touchdown reception came with just over 2 minutes remaining to put the game out of reach for the Wildcats. The Cougars were 5-2 and the victory nearly persuaded College Gameday to come to Pullman.

Cougars outplay Stanford, but can't close the deal
By PJ Kendall @PJKendall on Nov 1, 2015, 8:02a



LATEST NEWS
Scouting the Miami Hurricanes: Defense
WSU dominating ALL CRIMSON for the Sun Bowl
PREVIEW: Miami's players to watch
Scouting the Miami Hurricanes: Offense
RECAP: Cougs lose to Northern Iowa, 63-59
What the Hell is a Miami and/or Sun Bowl?
The WSU Sports Judges are back on the bench
HCA: Days of Future Present
The CougCenter Big Board - Updated 12/23
CCH: Vince Grippi and Jerry Steinberg stop by

WAZZU MISSES GAME-WINNING FIELD GOAL TO UPSET NO. 8 STANFORD, 30-28
OCTOBER, 31ST

In what was a statement game against one of the top teams in the nation, the Cougars played arguably their best game of the season.

WSU was all over Stanford for the majority of the night but missed opportunities led to Halloween heartbreak. A bad ruling on a fumble, a missed two-point conversion, a forced pass, and a missed field goal as the clock expired foiled Wazzu's plans for an upset. Despite losing, the Cougars showed they were for real and would bounce back.

Cougars defeat UCLA in final seconds, euphoria reigns
By PJ Kendall @PJKendall on Nov 15, 2015, 10:36a



IN THIS STORYSTREAM
WSU vs. UCLA Football: Cougars upset Bruins, now 7-3 and ranked in both polls

LATEST NEWS
Scouting the Miami Hurricanes: Defense
WSU dominating ALL CRIMSON for the Sun Bowl
PREVIEW: Miami's players to watch
Scouting the Miami Hurricanes: Offense
RECAP: Cougs lose to Northern Iowa, 63-59
What the Hell is a Miami and/or Sun Bowl?
The WSU Sports Judges are back on the bench
HCA: Days of Future Present
The CougCenter Big Board - Updated 12/23
CCH: Vince Grippi and Jerry Steinberg stop by

WSU STUNS NO. 19 UCLA, 31-27
NOVEMBER, 14TH

On November 14th, the Cougars traveled to the Rose Bowl with hopes of shocking the Bruins. They did just that, but it wasn't easy.

Especially for Luke Falk, he took a beating all night and at one point was forced to leave the game after suffering an apparent head injury. He would return to the game in the second half. When the game was on the line, Falk was unstoppable. With 0:03 seconds left on the scoreboard Falk found Gabe Marks for the win.

Luke Falk is injured, but don't expect any updates on his health
By Brian Floyd @BrianFloyd on Nov 22, 2015, 10:34a



IN THIS STORYSTREAM
WSU vs Colorado: Cougars improve to 8-3, but lose Luke Falk to injury in the process

LATEST NEWS
Scouting the Miami Hurricanes: Defense
WSU dominating ALL CRIMSON for the Sun Bowl
PREVIEW: Miami's players to watch
Scouting the Miami Hurricanes: Offense
RECAP: Cougs lose to Northern Iowa, 63-59
What the Hell is a Miami and/or Sun Bowl?
The WSU Sports Judges are back on the bench
HCA: Days of Future Present
The CougCenter Big Board - Updated 12/23
CCH: Vince Grippi and Jerry Steinberg stop by

LUKE FALK SUFFERS CONCUSSION IN WIN OVER COLORADO
NOVEMBER 21ST, 2015

With WSU up 17-0 against Colorado, Luke Falk was sacked in the 3rd quarter and after being down for some time, was carted off the field. Falk gave the crowd and his teammates a reassuring thumbs up on his way out of Martin Stadium. The Cougars would go on to defeat the Buffs 27-3 and improve to 8-3 on the season.

Following the game Mike Leach refused to discuss Falk's status and availability for the upcoming rivalry game against UW.

College Football Playoff rankings: WSU debuts in the top 25
By Michael Protem @MProtem on Nov 24, 2015, 4:00p



LATEST NEWS
Scouting the Miami Hurricanes: Defense
WSU dominating ALL CRIMSON for the Sun Bowl
PREVIEW: Miami's players to watch
Scouting the Miami Hurricanes: Offense
RECAP: Cougs lose to Northern Iowa, 63-59
What the Hell is a Miami and/or Sun Bowl?
The WSU Sports Judges are back on the bench
HCA: Days of Future Present
The CougCenter Big Board - Updated 12/23
CCH: Vince Grippi and Jerry Steinberg stop by

WSU IS RANKED IN THE COLLEGE FOOTBALL PLAYOFF FOR THE FIRST TIME EVER
NOVEMBER, 25TH

With a record of 8-3 and winners in six of their last seven, the members of the 2015 WSU Cougars found themselves ranked the 20th team in the nation. This was the first time the Cougars had been ranked since the College Football Playoff system was implemented.

The 2015 season is also the first time the Cougars have been ranked in the Top 25 since 2003.

The 2015 Apple Cup was bad, but whatever
By Brian Floyd @BrianFloyd on Nov 26, 2015, 7:06a



LATEST NEWS
Scouting the Miami Hurricanes: Defense
WSU dominating ALL CRIMSON for the Sun Bowl
PREVIEW: Miami's players to watch
Scouting the Miami Hurricanes: Offense
RECAP: Cougs lose to Northern Iowa, 63-59
What the Hell is a Miami and/or Sun Bowl?
The WSU Sports Judges are back on the bench
HCA: Days of Future Present
The CougCenter Big Board - Updated 12/23
CCH: Vince Grippi and Jerry Steinberg stop by

WSU GIVES THE BALL AWAY 7 TIMES, AS HUSKIES BEAT FALKLESS COUGARS, 45-10
NOVEMBER, 28TH

On the road and without Luke Falk, WSU faced a young 5-6 UW team in the Apple Cup. The result was painful. In what was the worst showing since the first week of the season for the Cougars, they turned the ball over seven times and failed to do anything offensively.

A loss to the Huskies hurts bad enough and after seeing what this WSU team was capable of prior to Falk's injury, the disappointment was painful, but whatever.

Sun Bowl 2015 announced: Washington State will face Miami in El Paso
By Brian Floyd @BrianFloyd on Dec 6, 2015, 12:37p



LATEST NEWS
Scouting the Miami Hurricanes: Defense
WSU dominating ALL CRIMSON for the Sun Bowl
PREVIEW: Miami's players to watch
Scouting the Miami Hurricanes: Offense
RECAP: Cougs lose to Northern Iowa, 63-59
What the Hell is a Miami and/or Sun Bowl?
The WSU Sports Judges are back on the bench
HCA: Days of Future Present
The CougCenter Big Board - Updated 12/23
CCH: Vince Grippi and Jerry Steinberg stop by

WASHINGTON STATE PICKED TO FACE UNIVERSITY OF MIAMI IN THE 2015 SUN BOWL
DECEMBER 6TH, 2015

Following a disheartening 2015 Apple Cup performance, the Washington State Cougars (8-4) were rewarded for their overall body of work by being chosen to play in the 2015 Sun Bowl.

Their opponent is the University of Miami (8-4) who has also had a roller coaster season. The Sun Bowl will be played in El Paso, Texas tomorrow at 2 p.m.

Cougars land six on AP All-12 teams, Leach named Coach of the Year
By Britton Randolph @BrittonRandolph on Dec 18, 2015, 11:36a



LATEST NEWS
Scouting the Miami Hurricanes: Defense
WSU dominating ALL CRIMSON for the Sun Bowl
PREVIEW: Miami's players to watch
Scouting the Miami Hurricanes: Offense
RECAP: Cougs lose to Northern Iowa, 63-59
What the Hell is a Miami and/or Sun Bowl?
The WSU Sports Judges are back on the bench
HCA: Days of Future Present
The CougCenter Big Board - Updated 12/23
CCH: Vince Grippi and Jerry Steinberg stop by

WASHINGTON STATE PLAYERS HONORED BY AP, LEACH NAMED COACH OF THE YEAR
DECEMBER 18TH, 2015

Scroll up to the top and read the title of how we started the 2015 football season, now re-read this title. What. A. Turnaround.

Things have finally started clicking for Mike Leach. With a win in tomorrow's Sun Bowl, this could easily be WSU's best campaign in over a decade. The Associated Press also recognized QB Luke Falk, WR Gabe Marks, OL Eduardo Middleton, OL Joe Dahl, DE Darryl Paulo, and S Shalom Luani.

What a season for Washington State. To start off with a loss to Portland State, to pull of road upsets at Oregon and at No. 19 UCLA, to come so close to taking the Pac-12 North lead from No. 8 Stanford, to be bowl eligible in the first week of November, and to finish with an 8-4 record is just crazy. Considering the enormous progress that this team has taken and by looking at the Cougars' future potential, it is clear that this season could be the turning point for a program that has struggled mightily. Now the Cougars have to take care of business down in El Paso against the U. One heck of a year for Cougar football, Go Cougs!!!