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Pac-10

Continued from page 7

Washington State looks solid on the offensive line, as four of five starters — all seniors — return.

Problems could crop up on defense — the Cougars lost seven starters, including an entire secondary which led the Pac-10 in pass defense in '81.

"It's frightening how little experience we'll start with," says Walden, referring to the secondary. "It's going to be green."

Preseason college football publications have picked the Cougars anywhere from fourth to seventh in the Pac-10 this fall.

Don't bet on those predictions, though, because the Cougars were picked as an also ran prior to the '81 season.



6

Stanford

There's no denying that Stanford can score points. They ended last fall with consecutive winning scores of 63-9, 42-3, and 42-21. Led by junior quarterback John Elway and senior tailback Darren Nelson, the Cardinals averaged 443.6 yards and 28.5 points per game, second in the conference to national leader Arizona State.

There is also no denying that Stanford can give up points and yards, as they did last year to the tune of 25.5 points and 350.1 yards per game.

Nelson is gone to the Minnesota Vikings of the NFL, but Elway is back and being billed as the "top-rated NFL quarterback prospect in the nation." The 6-4, 202 pound senior threw for 2,674 yards and 20 touchdowns in '81 after throwing for 2,889 yards and 27 touchdowns the year before, and his career completion rate is 61 percent.

Elway, second team All-Pac-10 in '81, will be joined in the backfield by senior tailback Vincent White (5-8, 190), who fits the Nelson mold to a tee. He gained 417 yards on the ground (5.7 avg.) and caught 41 passes for 431 yards (fourth-best in the conference). Senior Rob Moore (6-1, 217) is the top returning fullback, having gained 218 yards in '81.

Flanker Mike Tolliver (6-0, 175) ranked ninth in the Pac-10 last fall after catching 33 passes for 639 yards and seven TD's in '81.

The Cardinal's other pass-catching threat is tight end Chris Dressel, a three-year starter, who caught 19 passes for 234 yards.

But the Cards lost three offensive linemen, including All-Pac-10 center John Macauley, which could prove troublesome if more teams this year can punch through the Stanford offensive line as well as San Jose State did last year. The Spartans sacked Elway seven times and limited him to six completions in 24 attempts for 103 yards.

While the Cards return six starters on offense, they return eight on defense. Safety Vaughn Williams (6-3, 190), All-Pac-10 in

Athlon's pre-season preview, returns along with the entire Cardinal secondary. Unfortunately, they allowed 219.2 yards per game last year, worst in the conference.

Linebacker Gary Wimmer (6-2, 225) leads a rushing defense that ranked third in the Pac-10 last fall, allowing only 131.1 yards per game. Junior John Bergren (6-5, 240) anchors the defensive line at tackle.

The schedule this fall is just as difficult as '81, when the Cards went 4-7, including six losses to teams that had a combined record of 50-14-1.

But the three late-season romps in '81 could carry some momentum into this fall.

OREGON FOOTBALL

7

Oregon head coach Rich Brooks had two items on his wish list last Christmas after watching

his Ducks stumble to a 2-9 season record. A quarterback and a healthy offensive line.

After Oregon's home opener against Arizona State on Sept. 4, it appeared that at least one of Brooks' requests had been answered — he had a healthy offensive line.

But he still didn't have a quarterback.

The Ducks have four candidates at the position, but none of them have been impressive in game situations. Senior Kevin Lusk (6-2, 196) started in 1981 and in the '82 opening game against ASU (174-86-8, 864 yards, four TD's in '81); sophomores Mike Owens (6-1, 193) and Mike Jorgensen (6-1, 200) started four games between them in '81 and freshman Dana Hill (5-10, 185) started this year's San Jose State game.

While the Ducks have a lot of "ifs" at quarterback, they seem set at running back. Oregon has returned to the split-back veer-attack that produced consecutive winning seasons in 1980 and '81, and the main cogs in that attack will be senior Dwight Robertson (6-1, 195), who gained 51 yards against Arizona State and has 1,096 career yards and 20 touchdowns; and junior Ladaria

Johnson who averaged 4.8 yards per carry.

The offensive line, crippled by injuries in '81, includes tackles Jeff Pew (6-7, 260), who started four games last fall, and Scott Shepard (6-3, 260), who was pegged to start last year but broke his leg. Right guard Paul Sanborn (6-3, 265) started occasionally last year, and left guard Gary Zimmerman (6-6, 250), who began '81 on the defensive line but finished the year starting at offensive tackle and center. Starting center Ryan Zinke (6-3, 235) was also moved last year, from linebacker to center.

Although Oregon won't be quite deep enough on defense this year to transfer large numbers of players to the offense, defense will probably continue to be Oregon's strength.

Defensive end Mike Walter (6-4, 235) made Athlon's preseason All-Pac-10 team, and had nine tackles for losses last fall. He will be joined by Steve Baack (6-4, 240) at the other defensive end and by defensive tackles Bill Lowder (6-4, 251) and Dan Ralph (6-4, 251).

Middle linebacker Chris Cosgrove ((6-3, 225) made the Pac-10's honorable mention list last year, and ranked second among the Ducks with 70 tackles. Senior Dwight Ford (6-2, 206), who had 62 tackles last fall, returns at the right linebacker spot.

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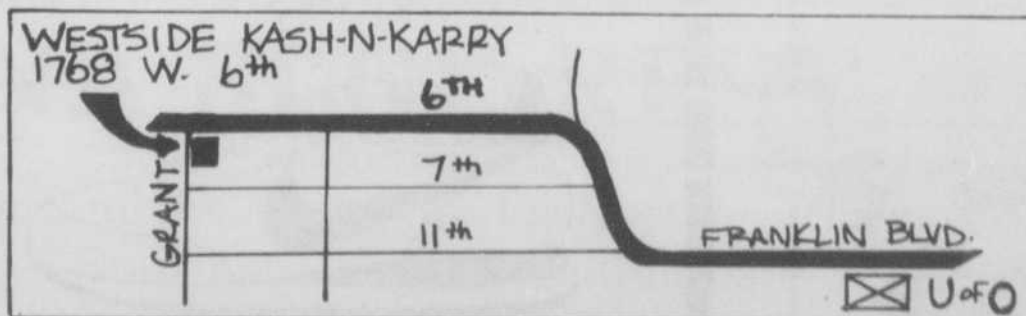
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