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USC, Washington, favored to win

By Brent De La Paz

Of the Emerald

Many questions lurk around the gridiron fields of the Pacific-10 Conference this season, but none are more perplexing than which school will advance to Pasadena for the Rose Bowl on Jan. 1.

Will this be the year of the Bruin as UCLA seeks its third straight Rose Bowl appearance? Or will the Huskies finally get the Cougars off their backs? Or could the Sun Devils use eight games at home to back into the title? Or will USC finally find a Trojan horse to lead them back to the Roses?

Football is a game of inches — and predictions are a game of guesses, so this Emerald fearless forecaster will try to make a Pac-10 pigskin prophecy.

Four teams stand above the rest, ASU, UCLA, USC and Washington, but there are darkhorses and spoilers everywhere.

1. USC

Forget 1983 because USC has found a tailback in the likes of

heralded freshman runner Ryan Knight. The offensive line is the key to the Trojans' offense with Beaverton's James FitzPatrick leading the way.

Although quarterback Sean Salisbury is out for awhile, the Trojans should make up for last year's debacle in Los Angeles.

The defense will be anchored by everybody's All-America candidate, linebacker Jack Del Rio. Del Rio will feast every Saturday on young-inexperienced Pac-10 quarterbacks. Del Rio's dinner will USC's salvation.

2. WASHINGTON

The Huskies don't rebuild, they just reload was the coining phrase coming out of Seattle last season. Coach Don James was short on ammunition against Washington State last year, but the Huskies are better than ever for 1984.

Split-end Danny Greene and wide receiver Mark Pattison are quality players. The only problem is James needs a quarterback. The Huskie defense is tough with linebacker Tim Meamber and safety Jim

Rodgers from Aloha.

The Huskies are a good bet to go bowling again, but confusion at quarterback will prove their undoing — plus a victory over WSU remains to be seen.

3. UCLA

Coming off a convincing 45-9 rout of Illinois in the Rose Bowl, coach Terry Donahue's club will go for an encore season. UCLA quarterback Steve Bono has the tools to make the Bruins winners.

Donahue can let tailback Danny Andrews run wild behind a good offensive line that is fortified by All-America tackle candidate Dual Love.

Defensively, UCLA is returning six defensive starters including highly touted linebacker Neal Dellocono. The Bruins' season should hinge on their confence finale against USC.

4. ARIZONA STATE

Things are getting quite hot in Tempe for coach Darryl Rogers and his Sun Devil squad because all the pre-season hoopla of being a contender is turning sour as the Devils lost two of their first three.

ASU's offense will center around tailback Darryl Clack and the NCAA's most prolific kicker, Luis Zendejas. The quarterback situation is iffy with greenhorn Jeff Van Raaphorst at the helm.

Defense will be the Devil's main forte this season as ASU returns all of their starting defensive unit. Sophomore safety David Fulcher is a strong All-America candidate. Rogers' team is good, but all the pre-season hype will not get them to Pasadena.

5. OREGON

Optimism is abundant in Duckville for the upcoming season because of many reasons, but the main force behind this thinking is the talent of one individual — Lew Barnes.

The Ducks had a real question mark at quarterback, but sophomore Chris Miller has put all fears to rest. Miller can run as well as throw — giving Brooks an ingredient missing since the days of Reggie Ogburn.

Besides Barnes and Miller, the Ducks have a bevy of talented running backs.

The Ducks' defensive line is thin, but the secondary and linebacking units are deep with people. Brooks' special teams should decide the outcome of a few games and — Oregon's chances.

6. ARIZONA

Many think 1984 will be a rebuilding year for a Wildcat team hit hard by graduation. The Cats have talent in a lot of places, but all hopes will rest in the hands of new Arizona quarterback Alfred Jenkins. Jenkins will throw to reliable receiver Jay Dobyns. The rushing game will be in the hands of tailback Vance Johnson.

The "D" in Tucson is more stable. Last year, Arizona led the Pac-10 in rushing defense with the presence of 286-pound noseguard Joe Drake who returns. The kicking chores will be handled by another Zendejas kicking prodigy, Max. If Arizona's offense gets untracked, look for the Wildcats to cause some trouble.

7. WASHINGTON STATE

Coach Jim Walden's Washington State Cougars are a

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