

# Predictions Continued from Page 8D

this year. Musgrave's injuries in the past have all come in the open field; the offensive line is too good to let other teams get to Musgrave.

Injuries on the open field are usually the result of either bad play or bad luck. Musgrave's in his third year of play now, and he's got the experience that you'd assume would avoid bad play. You'd also figure that his bad luck streak should change by now. Of course, one could also say the same thing about the Ducks as a team who have been on a bad luck streak of their own for some time now.



**5 — Arizona State** Home is where ASU's heart is; the Sun Devils have a sinfully easy card with eight of 11 games at home. Four of their first games are against non-conference opponents and they don't even play USC this year.

But beyond the schedule advantage, the Devils are decidedly mild. Their running game is soft, and quarterback Paul Justin doesn't seem like the kind of player to lead an impressive passing game, especially behind a line without much experience. Devil defense was weak last year.

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**6 — Washington** Husky coach Don James and his team won't have to play at Autzen Stadium for a while, but they do have a tough early schedule that may keep Washington out of a bowl game for only the second time this decade.

What it'll take to get the Huskies to post-season will be a development of talented but erratic QB Cary Conklin and a shoring-up of the linebackers. The lines and running game both look solid, despite the loss of some key personnel.

The one returning person who really matters is James himself, who's seemingly been around forever. James is the man who drives the Huskies, and he's got some personal motivation this time. Last year, he voluntarily passed up a raise after Washington's disappointing season. If the Huskies don't produce now, he may not have that option and will instead be looking for a new job.



**7 — California** With Aikman and Peete gone, many observers pick the Golden Bears' golden boy Troy Taylor as the Pac-10's best quarterback. Consider also that Cal lost three contests in the final 20 seconds last year (including the 61-minute game with Oregon State), which won't happen this year, and Cal seems ready to move up.

Whether it gets to the first division is doubtful. The defensive and offensive lines both are shaping up as the league's worst, and the team could use a blue-chip running back instead of the four inexperienced sophomores they've got.



**8 — Stanford** New Cardinal coach Dennis Green will inherit a team that's better than departed coach's Jack Elway's 3-6-2 record indicates. There are 15 returning starters, including running back Jon Volpe.



**9 — Washington State** Not only do the Cougars have to replace defecting coach Dennis Erickson (gone to Miami) and QB Timm Rosenbach (gone to the NFL), they have to replace most of their graduated offensive and defensive lines.



**10 — Oregon State** Coach Dave Kragthorpe and brilliant QB Erik Wilhelm made great strides with the team last year but it'll be some time before the Beavs are completely around the bend.

Wilhelm is gone now, as are the top two receivers and tailbacks. A few players are ready to step into leadership roles, but it will have to be new-found Beaver Pride that carries the team.

There are bright days further ahead for OSU: Kragthorpe's recruiting class looks solid enough to be the start of a new era.

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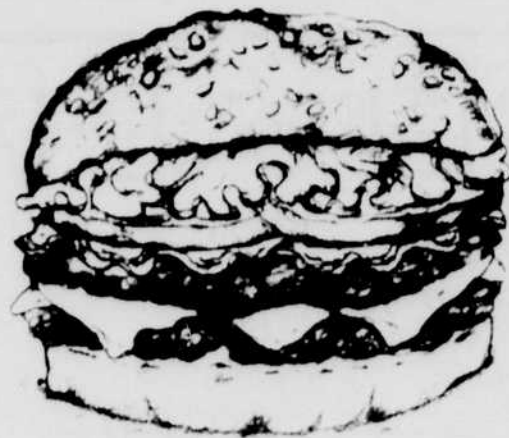
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