

Ducks, though favorites, face tough Saturday

Injuries to be a factor against Arizona

By Tracy Sumner
Emerald Sports Editor

Associated Press newsrooms all along the West Coast had to be filled with grins and chuckles earlier this week when over the wire came this little gem:

Oregon was favored by 4 1/2 points over 17th ranked Arizona in this Saturday's Pacific 10 football tilt.

Even Duck head coach Rich Brooks couldn't believe it.

"I'm shocked to be honest with you," Brooks told reporters at his weekly press conference Wednesday.

It's not that the Ducks, 1-1 in conference play and 2-1 overall, aren't capable of beating

the Wildcats. They are quite capable, all things being equal.

Therein lies the problem. All things are not equal, especially this week.

Oregon is nursing a myriad of injuries and the list of wounded Webfoots seems to be growing almost daily.

First center Scot Boatright, then fullback Latin Berry went down with knee injuries in the Iowa game, a 44-6 laughter at Iowa's Kinnick Stadium. Berry will be out at least two more weeks, Boatright indefinitely.

The Stanford Disaster left linebacker Mark Kearns, wide receiver Joe Reitzug and safety Rory Dairy hobbling and questionable for Saturday's game.

Tight end Joe Meerten and fullback Brandon Jumper are both early scratches for Saturday. Meerten is out indefinitely with a rib injury. Jumper is finished for the year following knee surgery.

If all that weren't enough, starting outside linebacker Bjarne Jensen will be out, maybe for the season, due to a knee injury sustained in Tuesday's practice.

The Ducks are a banged up team. The Wildcats, on the other hand, are healthy and full of confidence after a big 20-17 Pac-10 over a tough Washington Husky team.

The heart says "Ducks," but the head says "Wildcats" ... by a touchdown.

The only benefit Oregon State will receive from Saturday's appointment with third-ranked Nebraska is a big-time payday. Reportedly, the OSU athletic department will receive \$300,000 for the game.

No football team reaps any other benefit from the type of whipping the Cornhuskers will administer Saturday.

The Beavers' win over Stanford was a fluke. Period. The 1989 edition of OSU football may be one of the worst in memory. Scheduling this game was a mistake.

Nebraska by 35 (it will, in all likelihood, be worse).

Any prediction on Arizona State's contest with Missouri should be prefaced with "If the Sun Devils recover from shell shock."

The ASU defense (such as it was) was riddled to the tune of 744 total yards last Saturday by Houston. That includes a mind-boggling 626 yards passing.

For the record, Houston drilled the Devils 36-7. It should have been worse. Houston showed a little charity to

State and they needed a late score to avoid the upset.

UCLA did play Big-10 powerhouse Michigan tough before losing 24-23 on a last-second (sound familiar?) J.D. Carlson field goal, so there is hope in Westwood.

The Bruins entertain California this Saturday for a game UCLA must win. Cal lost badly its first two times out, 35-19 to the Ducks and 31-3 to Miami, Fla. before pulling out a 20-14 win over Big-10 doormat Wisconsin.

With or without Aikman, UCLA is no Wisconsin.

UCLA by 14.

The heartbreaker with the pretentious singular mascot, the Stanford Cardinal, play host this Saturday to the Spartans of San Jose State.

Stanford should be confident after its shocking win over Oregon. Despite its loss to Oregon State, Stanford, we're told, is not that bad.

San Jose is no slouch, either. It boasts Johnny Johnson, one of the best all-purpose backs in the nation.

This is the hardest call of the week, but Stanford should win by a field goal.

In one of the most intriguing match-ups of the week in any conference, Washington welcomes Big-8 power Colorado to Husky Stadium in Seattle. The sixth-ranked Buffaloes suffered a tremendous loss in quarterback Sal Aunese, who died of cancer this week. It will be interesting to see how CU responds emotionally.

Colorado is still loaded offensively and will challenge Nebraska for the Big-8 title this season.

Washington is coming off a tough 20-17 loss to Arizona last Saturday. The Huskies will be smarting from that and what they must consider a lack of pre and early-season respect.

In short, the Dawgs probably feel they have something to prove. Not this week, though. CU by a touchdown.

Pac-10 Football

Team	Conf		Overall	
	W-L-T	W-L-T	W-L-T	W-L-T
Arizona	3-0-0	3-1-0		
Washington St	1-0-0	4-0-0		
Oregon St	1-1-0	2-1-0		
Oregon	1-1-0	2-1-0		
Stanford	1-2-0	1-2-0		
Arizona St	0-0-0	2-1-0		
USC	0-0-0	2-1-0		
UCLA	0-0-0	1-2-0		
Washington	0-1-0	2-1-0		
California	0-1-0	1-2-0		

Saturday's Games

USC at Washington St. (ABC)
Arizona at Oregon (PN)
California at UCLA
Colorado at Washington
Missouri at Arizona State
San Jose State at Stanford
Oregon State at Nebraska

ASU, surrendering seven turnovers and an astounding 236 yards in penalties.

Because the game will be in Sun Devil Stadium and because the Tigers are just a lower division Big-8 team, the Sun Devils will rebound and pull out the win by a touchdown.

In what may be the Pac-10 game of the week, Southern California travels to Pullman, Washington to meet Washington State's scoring machine.

USC still boasts the conference's best defense, WSU still can't stop anybody and the Trojan offense has come of age under the leadership of freshman quarterback Todd Marinovich.

A 66-10 win over Utah State and a 42-3 rout of Ohio State has to have Marinovich and the rest of the Trojans feeling confident. After a season-opening loss to Illinois, the Trojans have become everything the "experts" thought they would be.

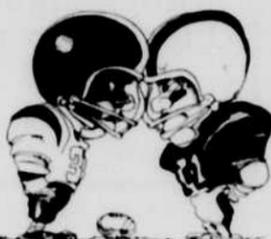
This could be an interesting game with SC's defense holding the Cougars down enough for a 14-point win.

UCLA has struggled to a 1-2 start this season. Is there life after Troy Aikman?

The Bruins' only win came against Western Athletic Conference also-ran San Diego

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Pac-10 Pigskin Prognostications

EDITOR'S NOTE: Predictions are based on anticipated point-spread as determined by individual bettors. A correct response is credited each time the favored team wins by at least the predicted margin. The numbers following each person's name represent that individual's overall record. These predictions are intended for entertainment purposes only.

	Arizona at UO	Missouri at ASU	OSU at Neb.	Colorado at WU	USC at WSU	SJS at SU	Cal at UCLA
T. Sumner	UA +7	ASU +7	Neb +35	CU +7	USC +7	Stan +3	UCLA +14
D. Peters	UO +1	ASU +2	Neb +24	CU +4	USC +10	Stan +6	UCLA +16
A. Conklin	UO +4	ASU +4	Neb +45	CU +10	USC +1	Stan +6	UCLA +14
C. Sivesind	UO +3	ASU +4	Neb +14	CU +3	WSU +6	Stan +7	UCLA +7

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