

# It'll be close, but Oregon should take Cougars

## Beavers face tough game with Bulldogs

By Tracy Sumner  
Emerald Sports Editor

Looking ahead to Oregon's date with the high-scoring Washington State Cougars, one thing seems eerily similar between this game and last week's 16-10 win over Arizona:

Both games feature a team that is coming off a loss that should have been a win.

Just as the Ducks were coming off a heartbreaking loss the week before the Arizona game (let us not rehash that), Washington State is coming off a painful 18-17 (does the score sound familiar?) loss that should have been a win.

Southern California drove 91 yards in the final 3 1/2 minutes of last Saturday's game for a touchdown and the winning two point conversion to hand the Cougs their first loss of the season.

The Cougars are mad and Washington State coach Mike Price hopes they stay that way.

"What we need to do," Price said, "is to keep that mad on."

Also, Price points out that no one on the current Washington State roster has ever beaten a Duck football team.

"No one on this team has ever beaten the University of Oregon in a football game," he said. "I really haven't talked (to the team) about it, but it could be a motivating factor. Maybe I should bring it up."

Would it be presumptuous to assume that he probably doesn't need to?

Oregon has beaten the Cougars four straight times dating back to 1984 when Washington State outscored the Ducks 50-41.

High-scoring affairs seem to be becoming tradition between these two schools. In the last five meetings between the Cougars and Ducks, the losing team has averaged more than 28 points per game with the winners running it up at a clip of more than 38 points a contest.

Before the season began, most observers picked the Cou-

gars to finish at or near the bottom of the Pacific 10 standings.

Even with a new coach, a new quarterback (twice) and a new offensive line, the Cougars are sticking it to those of us who doubted them.

Washington State is now 4-1 overall and 1-1 in conference play. Just about everyone who saw last Saturday's loss to USC agrees that the Cougars should be 5-0 and 2-0.

The Cougars are leading the Pac-10 in scoring at 34.8 points per game. High scoring Washington State teams are not unusual, but what is turning heads around the nation is the Cougar defense.

Pac-10 Football		
Team	Conf	
	W-L-T	W-L-T
USC	1-0-0	3-1-0
UCLA	1-0-0	2-2-0
Oregon	2-1-0	3-1-0
Arizona	2-1-0	3-1-0
Oregon St	1-1-0	2-2-0
Washington St	1-1-0	4-1-0
Stanford	1-2-0	1-3-0
Arizona St	0-0-0	3-1-0
Washington	0-1-0	2-2-0
California	0-2-0	1-3-0

### Saturday's Games

Washington State at Oregon  
Oregon State at Fresno State  
Washington at USC  
Arizona State at UCLA  
San Jose State at California  
Notre Dame at Stanford

They're actually playing it this season.

Washington State is surrendering slightly more than 18 points a game and is leading the Pac-10 in rushing defense, giving up a stingy 81 yards per game.

Oregon is also scoring its share of points — 28 points per game to be exact — and have also been very effective in stopping the other guys.

The Ducks are second in the conference to USC in total defense and third — behind the Trojans and Arizona — in scoring defense.

On paper, this should be a

defensive battle. But as the saying goes, "you don't play football on paper."

Look for this to be a traditionally high-scoring Washington State-Oregon game with Oregon taking a 34-31 thriller.

Oregon State travels to Fresno State to meet the Bulldogs this Saturday.

The Beavers are coming off a 35-7 loss to Nebraska that, in some respects, is worse than it sounds.

The Beavers spent most of the game with their running game stuck in reverse. For the day, Oregon State rushed 27 times for negative — that's right, negative — 36 yards.

In fairness to the Beaver running backs, it should be noted that the Cornhuskers teed off on quarterback Nick Schichtle, sacking him 11 times for 89 yards in losses.

The Beavers played semi-respectably on defense, but it was once again a pathetic offensive attack that betrayed them. The Beavs aren't worth a dam when it comes time to move the ball.

Fresno State, on the other hand, sports a 4-0 record on the season and averages almost 500 yards per game in total offense. The Bulldogs score at a 45.8 clip while playing the kind of defense that is traditional at Fresno.

Sure, the Bulldogs have an easier schedule, but remember the Beavers had to struggle for a 37-30 win over Division 1AA Boise State.

Also, Oregon State was the last team to beat Fresno in the regular season. The Bulldogs have the motivation.

Fresno State by a touchdown. Fresh off the stunning win over Washington State, Southern California entertains the Washington Huskies this weekend.

USC has to be feeling lucky after last weekend.

The Trojans were down

17-10 to the Cougars when in steps redshirt freshman quarterback Todd Marinovich to spoil the celebration in Pullman.

Marinovich engineered a drive that brought back memories of ex-Dallas Cowboy great Roger Staubach.

Beginning on the Trojan nine yard line, Marinovich showed all of the poise and character of a senior in marching his team for the touchdown and the gamewinning two-point conversion.

Marinovich completed 11 of 17 passes on the the Drive, including the touchdown and the two pointer to flanker Gary Wellman.

For the game, Marinovich completed 27 of 41 passes for 268 yards and the touchdown.

Washington spent the day getting hammered 45-28 by Colorado. It was worse — much worse — than the score indicated.

Colorado led 38-6 going into the fourth quarter only to have the outclassed Huskies score 22 fourth quarter points against Buffalo reserves.

How much better can Washington fare against the country's ninth ranked team than

the third ranked?

Not much. USC by 10.

Stanford has the honor of hosting the nation's top ranked team, the Notre Dame Fighting Irish.

After a big 18-17 win over you-know-whom, the Cardinal went out and got dumped 40-33 by San Jose State.

Stanford managed a miserable 30 yards rushing for the game, but were held in the contest by quarterback Steve Smith.

For the game, Smith completed 28 of 52 of his passes for 384 yards and three touchdowns.

Notre Dame is 4-0 and coming off a 40-7 drilling of Purdue. The Irish also own a win over Big-10 power Michigan.

Who can stop the Irish?

Certainly not a team that loses to San Jose State.

Notre Dame by 24 (or more if the Irish please).

Speaking of San Jose State, the Spartans travel to Berkeley to meet the California Golden Bears.

California is fresh off a 24-6

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Pac-10 Pigskin Prognostications						
EDITOR'S NOTE: Predictions are based on anticipated point-spread as determined by individual voters. 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.						
	UW at USC	WSU at UO	OSU at Fresno St	Notre Dame at Stanford	San Jose St at Cal	ASU at UCLA
T. Sumner (3-4)	USC + 10	UO + 3	Fres + 3	ND + 24	Cal + 3	UCLA + 14
A. Conklin (5-2)	USC + 9	UO + 1	Fres + 1	ND + 27	San Jose + 3	UCLA + 13
D. Peters (5-2)	USC + 7	UO + 1	OSU + 3	ND + 28	Cal + 3	UCLA + 10
C. Sivesind (5-2)	USC + 9	UO + 7	OSU + 3	ND + 21	Cal + 3	UCLA + 9

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