

## PAC-10

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won't have to worry about travel plans in March is **Washington**.

Lynn Nance's Huskies did upset Arizona and UCLA last year, but they still finished in the conference cellar with a 5-13 mark. Of Washington's (6-4) six wins so far, only two have come against Division I teams.

The good news is that 6-foot-6 senior forward Doug Meekins is back, after averaging 16 points a game a year ago.

"Doug's a proven scorer in the Pac-10," Nance said. "Hopefully he can have another good season."

Transfers Richard Manning (6-foot-10) and Andy Woods (6-foot-5) are both starting and doing well, but Nance remains more than cautious about his expectations for this team.

"We're a young club that's struggling to be competitive in the Pac-10," he said. "Right now we're a very mediocre team."

Last year, **Stanford** turned what was supposed to be a mediocre year into a season that saw it claim the NIT Championship.

Adam Keefe and a strong starting crew helped the Cardinal to a 20-win season. Unfortunately for them, Keefe is the only returning starter from last year's team, but the Cardinal has jumped to an impressive 8-1 start.

Keefe is thus far having an All-American year, averaging 25.7 points and 12.6 rebounds, but coach Mike Montgomery attributes much of Stanford's pre-season success to Keefe's supporting cast.

"The rest of the cast has played better than a lot of people thought they would," he said.

"If Keefe gets double or triple teamed, I guarantee we will hurt some people with the rest of our team."

It took Bill Frieder only one year to get **Arizona State** into the NCAA Tournament. Last year, the young Sun Devils won 20 games and made it to the second round of the tourney.

They have three returning starters from last year, including Pac-10 Freshman of the Year Jamal Faulkner (15.4 points, 6.2 rebounds).

They are far from being an experienced ball club, however. No one on the team has played more than a year of Division I ball.

In contrast is Jim Harrick's **UCLA** team. The Bruins are probably the most experienced team in the Pac-10, which is the reason they are predicted by most to take the conference

title. UCLA returns its entire starting lineup from last year's 23-9 team.

Leading the way for the Bruins will be the devastating front line of Don MacLean and Tracy Murray, both all-conference selections last year. This year, UCLA is off to an impressive 8-0 start and is currently ranked second nationally behind Duke.

MacLean is averaging 19 points a game, and Murray scores 24 a contest.

UCLA has the best chance of taking away the Pac-10 championship from three-time defending champs **Arizona**.

But it won't be easy. The Wildcats return seven of their top nine scorers from last year, but the two missing were vital to the success of the team last year: Brian Williams and Matt Muehlebach.

Coach Lute Olson is hoping the talented duo of forwards Chris Mills and Sean Rooks will be able to fill the void left by Williams. Sophomore guard

Khalid Reeves and senior Matt Othick will be looked to step into the shoes of Muehlebach.

So far the team has done just fine. Mills is averaging eight rebounds a game, Rooks is good for 17 points and Othick is averaging over six assists.

Not only do the Wildcats have the task of trying to retain their title, but they also have a 70-game winning streak at the McKale Center.

Needless to say, the Pac-10 will be gunning for the Wildcats.

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