

Pac-10 football year will be competitive

By Steve Mims
Oregon Daily Emerald

This season should be one of the most competitive years in recent history for the Pacific-10 Conference in football, as there are only two teams that look to be the best in the league, and one is ineligible for the Rose Bowl.

Arizona and Washington are the class of the league and could conceivably go unbeaten because they do not meet on the field this year. The Wildcats are the favorite for the Rose Bowl, a game they have never played in, because Washington has been banned from postseason play for the next two years.

After those two teams, the league is a toss-up, as the next seven teams could finish anywhere. Although parity may not have reached the league yet, this should be one of the most evenly matched years the Pac-10 has seen.

Here is a brief capsule of each team in the conference with its projected 1993 record:

Arizona Wildcats: The Wildcats' defense will be as solid as any in the country, as they return seven starters from a defense that led the nation in scoring defense and ranked second in both total and rushing defense. Opposing teams averaged less than nine points a year ago against Arizona.

Arizona's success will depend on the growth of quarterback Dan White, a sophomore transfer from Penn State. White has never played a college game, but he should benefit from the return of the 'Cats' three top rushers from a year ago, including Ontwaun Carter, who ran for 739 yards in 1992.

Arizona will also have the benefit of a friendly schedule that allows them to skip Washington, and meet USC and Stanford at home. On the road this year, Ari-

zona does not have to face any team that finished in the top half of the division.

Projected record: 10-1 (overall), 7-1 (conference)



Washington Huskies:

Although the Huskies cannot advance to the Rose Bowl, they have the talent to win the conference title for the fourth consecutive season. Like Arizona, the Huskies also have a major question mark at quarterback. Sophomore Damon Huard has thrown only five passes in his collegiate career, but he is surrounded with talented targets.

The Huskies have two of the best running backs in the conference in junior Napoleon Kaufman and Beno Bryant. Kaufman proved that he is the best running back in the conference by averaging 6.5 yards per carry on his way to a 1,045-yard season. Huard also has trusty receivers in sophomore Jason Shelley and senior Joe Kralik.

If the Huskies stay focused in 1993, they can play a major role in the Rose Bowl race, even though they will need a ticket to get into the game this year.

Projected record: 9-2, 6-2



Trojans USC: This is where the conference gets tricky, as the next seven teams could finish in any order. USC is as good of a pick as to finish third, but the Trojans have to have quarterback Rob Johnson step up to finish here.

New head coach John Robinson's running game suffered a serious blow when starting tailback Dwight McFadden was injured against North Carolina. Robinson must replace McFad-

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HOME SCHEDULE

USC	Oct. 9	1:00 p.m.
WASHINGTON STATE	Oct. 30	1:00 p.m.
STANFORD	Nov. 13	1:00 p.m.
OREGON STATE	Nov. 20	1:00 p.m.

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