

RETURNERS

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doing — I have to be one of the hardest workers out there.”
The confidence that Kerr has in her team is apparent in her tone of quiet determination.
“I think we can be as good or bad as we want to be,” she said. “If we have our heads in the game, are focused and working hard, I think we can compete with any team in the Pac-10.”

The exercise and movement major is excited about the youth of the team, particularly in regards to the future.
“It’s exciting,” Kerr said. “A lot of our team is sophomores and juniors that are going to be out there on the court next year. The fact that we will have nearly everyone back is really good.”

Woods said she feels Hedberg offers more in experience in leadership, whereas she offers more athletically.

Because Woods is a two-sport athlete (the only woman two-sport athlete at Oregon) and does track in the spring, it affects her leadership role.

“With me doing track in the off-season, I think a lot of the leaders on the team come from the off-season. I think I add to the athletic part of it,” Woods said.

Like Kerr, Woods has confidence in her team.
“I’d like to see us play a real consistent, high-intensity game. There is not a lot of room for error,” Woods said. “I think the things we are doing in our preseason are helping to ensure that we maintain a high level of intensity. If we can play like that, I think we can be in the top five in the Pac-10.”

The two new assistant coaches, Patty Jayne and Kirsten Frazer, have contributed much to the new attitude of the team.

“Our assistant coaches are adding new levels of aggressiveness. We’ve been focusing a lot on the auto-

matic things we should know how to do and setting our goals.”

The swing hitter and record-holding 100-meter sprinter said she will be able to focus more on volleyball this year.

“I’m redshirting track this season so I can concentrate on volleyball,” Woods said. “It helps me athletically and academically.”

Woods, a junior sociology major, will then have her fifth year of school to concentrate on track. She said she did initially have some problems academically but now is on track.

“The tutoring is exceptional and I know that it takes a lot of discipline to not go out with your friends when you have to study,” she said.

Woods said it is a new team out there on the court. “The attitudes have changed. It’s a brand new team, even with the people who have come back,” she said.

PAC-10

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Linebacker Jerrot Willard established himself as one of the league’s top defensive players last year when he led the league with 12.1 tackles per season. Cal’s special teams should be solid as well behind kicker Dave Brien, who connected on 16 of 18 field goals and all 28 extra points a year ago.
Projected record: 6-6, 3-5

Arizona State: The Sun Devils’ fate this season will depend strongly on a healthy return from injury by running back Mario Bates. Bates ranked among the nation’s leaders last year with 441 yards in three games before a knee injury ended his season.

The rest of Arizona State’s offense revolves around quarterback Grady Benton, who set an NCAA freshman record by completing 66.2 percent of his passes last year. The Devils’ offensive line returns four starters from a year ago, which should only help Benton and Bates.

Arizona State must fill a lot of holes on defense, but it has a top

player to build around in defensive lineman Shante Carver. The 6-foot-5, 240-pound defensive lineman recorded 10 sacks last year to give him 31 in his career.
Projected record: 5-6, 3-5



Washington State: There will be a different look coming out of Pullman this year, as the normally high-scoring Cougars will rely on a steady defense to lead the team.

The Cougars’ defense is led by All-American candidate linebacker Anthony McClanahan, who has averaged 142 tackles in each of the past two years. Eight other starters return on defense for the Cougars as well, giving them one of the most experienced defenses in the league.

Washington State’s problem this year will be one it has not had in years: finding the end zone. Senior Mike Pattinson takes over an offense that lost nine starters from last year’s squad, which led the Pac-10 in yards per game.

The Cougars suffered serious blows in the off-season when offensive stars Drew Bledsoe and

Phillip Bobo declared themselves eligible for the NFL, and running back Derek Sparks was lost for the year because of an injury.
Projected record: 4-7, 2-6



Oregon State: Which direction this program is going is still in question, but if history is any indication then the answer is ... not far. It has been more than two decades since the Beavers have had a winning record, and that will not change this year.

The Beavers will look to improve a passing game that averaged only 38 yards per game last year, but rushing the ball is still what the Beavers will do most. Oregon State returns seven of its top eight rushers from last year and will feature a three-back set in the wishbone offense.

Oregon State’s defense should be improved this season with eight starters back from a year ago. The defensive line is questionable, but the secondary and linebackers should be steady. Tony O’Billovich and Rico Petri lead the linebacking corps.

Projected record: 3-8, 1-7

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