

Devils, Cougars set for matchup

□ Arizona State hopes to rebound from 30-14 loss in Corvallis

TEMPE, Ariz. (AP) — Nothing that happened before the game in Corvallis gave Arizona State coach Bruce Snyder a hint that a team which hadn't beaten the Sun Devils in 15 years was going to dominate every phase of this contest.

"The trip went fine, the meetings were fine — they were very crisp — and when we took the field on Saturday, I can remember very consciously thinking, 'Gee, there's a lot of enthusiasm,'" Snyder said Monday of his team's 30-14 drubbing last weekend by Oregon State.

Including a 1979 victory later forfeited, the Sun Devils were 14-0-1 against the Beavers since 1972. But that didn't keep Oregon State from rushing for 419 yards and dominating the game.

Snyder said he could see the pattern when the Beavers kept the ball 26 of the first 32 plays.

By the second half, adjustments slowed down Oregon State's anachronistic wishbone, but the seldom-seen offense had accomplished its purpose by then.

"I think their average rush in the second half — by that time, all the damage was done — but it was only about 2 yards a rush," Snyder said.

Although the defense was embarrassed, Snyder couldn't find much positive to say about any of the units, including the kicking game.

The coaching staff shares responsibility for the 2-2 record and a loss in the first Pac-10 game, Snyder said.

"It's our job to be as creative as we can and to help the players win," Snyder said. "They want to win. They want to play hard, and they want to play well."

On Saturday, the Sun Devils will be in Pullman, Wash., to play Washington State (3-2, 1-1).

The Cougars beat Oregon State 51-6 on Sept. 18, but since then they have scored just one touchdown, and coach Mike Price said in a telephone interview he was unhappy with his offense. He joked that he was planning on changing his pro-style offense to the wishbone for



FILE PHOTO
Arizona State quarterback Grady Benton's status is questionable for this weekend.

Arizona State.

There's nothing to be read into the fact the Cougars hung a big loss on a team that crushed Arizona State, he said.

"Heck, if their offense would have gotten the ball more in the first half, the game might not have gotten out of hand," Price said.

Snyder said his quarterback situation is the most worrisome.

Starter Grady Benton reinjured his sore right shoulder, bruised a hip and suffered a concussion, and freshman backup Jake Plummer was knocked out of the game with a twisted ankle.

Benton will start at Washington State, but Plummer is unlikely to see action. That means either Jason Verdugo, whom Snyder would like to red-shirt, or wide receiver Troy Rauer, who started the first game of 1992 at quarterback, will be at the controls.

Benton is under doctors' orders not to try to throw until Wednesday, Snyder said.

□ Washington State is coming off of an unimpressive 12-0 win over Pacific

PULLMAN, Wash. (AP) — With his defense running smoothly, Washington State coach Mike Price is looking to his offense for help.

The Cougars defeated a much smaller University of Pacific team 12-0 Saturday in the team's first shutout since a 1985 victory over Oregon State.

"Anybody who watched the game or has read the reports knows we did not play well on offense," Price said. "It's the second week in a row that's happened to us and that's not a situation we're accustomed to around here."

Fifth-year quarterback Mike Pattinson completed 14 of 28 passes for 141 yards and an interception at Stockton, Calif., and had trouble sparking the offense against Southern California the week before.

But Price said Sunday he was not considering throwing open competition for the starting position against Arizona State (2-2, 0-1 Pacific 10 Conference), which visits Martin Stadium on Saturday.

"We're used to our offense having its way, so it's got my attention," Price said. "And I'm going to work real, real hard as a coach this week to get our players prepared for the Sun Devils."

Washington State (3-2, 1-1) had trouble moving the ball against Pacific, especially in big plays around which the spread offense is built.

"We're disappointed that we're not a better offensive football team right now," Price said. "This last two weeks, we haven't progressed and we haven't improved and that has me concerned."

He said the Cougars were not playing conservatively against Pacific to save some plays for the Sun Devils, who are coming off a 30-14 loss to Oregon State.

"It wasn't that we were holding back. We didn't have to make too many adjustments at half-time," Price said. "It wasn't anything they were doing that was so unusual."

"It was just that the things we were doing, we weren't doing very well."

UNC signs with Nike

RALEIGH (AP) — North Carolina's lucrative deal with Nike Inc. shouldn't be viewed as much more than a great opportunity for the school and the state.

The athletics department at UNC-Chapel Hill signed a four-year clothing deal with the school valued at an estimated \$4.7 million. Part of the arrangement stemmed from the Oregon-based company's desire to have coach Dean Smith's basketball players wear its shoes.

"A lot of people's reaction is that the school is being purchased for \$4.7 million," Brian Murphy, publisher and editor of the *Sports Marketing Letter*, said in a telephone interview.

"But they're not going to have control over the sports program. What Nike has done is injected a lot of money to be used not only by the basketball program, but all people who want to participate in sports," he said.

Smith was a major beneficiary of the deal, earning \$1.2 million from Nike over the next four years as a consultant. He won't get any of the money personally; that money is to be used to support the basketball program and other ventures at UNC. In all, 26 of the 28 athletic teams at the school will wear Nike equipment. "It's a big number, but

it ain't all that big when you compare it to football," Murphy said of the contract. "My advice is not to let it scare you."

"I think you should look at it as great, good fortune and a well-deserved round of applause for schools that have stood for excellence and made it stick."

Image could be another factor behind Nike's move, Murphy suggested.

"If you're Nike, you know that you have an image that is reflected by the fact that you have all these top-level people involved, people like Andre Agassi and Michael Jordan. These are all important images for them," he said.

"UNC is considered to be one of the schools at the top of the basketball world."

UNC's prestige might be designed to counter the fact that two schools already in the Nike fold have received some adverse publicity.

Nevada-Las Vegas won the championship when it beat Duke in 1990, but the Runnin' Rebels were surrounded by turmoil and eventually placed under NCAA sanction. Michigan was a high-profile team for two seasons with its "Fab Five," but the Wolverines lost successive national title games to the two teams Nike just added to its list — Duke and North Carolina.

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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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