

Ducks, 'Cats renew old friendship again

By Steve Mims
Oregon Daily Emerald

Oregon head coach Rich Brooks will look to become the winningest coach in school history on Saturday, but he will have to beat a good friend to do it.

Brooks, in his 17th year at Oregon, has won 82 games, tying him with legendary coach Len Casanova, the current athletic director emeritus at Oregon. Brooks will get a chance for win number 83 on Saturday when the Ducks play at Arizona in a regionally televised game beginning at 6:37 p.m.

Brooks' adversary this weekend is Arizona head coach Dick Tomey, who coached alongside Brooks when the two were assistant coaches at UCLA in 1976. The following year both received head coaching jobs, Brooks at Oregon and Tomey at Hawaii. However, the two have retained their friendship off the field.

"I'd hate to take away Dick's chance to go to the Rose Bowl," Brooks said. "But I'd hate for him to take away our chance to go to any bowl. I wish I could settle it on the golf course. I feel like I'd have a better chance to win there."

For the last few years the golf course has been the only place Brooks and Tomey have seen each other. Oregon and Arizona last met in 1990 when the Wildcats won 22-17 after tackling Oregon quarterback Bill Musgrave inches short of the end zone on fourth-and-goal at the end of the game.

"We are not as familiar with them as we were when we played them before," Brooks said. "The last game was a tough, hard-fought loss. Their defense is different now, and they are more of a pro-style offense. They've changed since the last time we played them."

Oregon (5-3, 2-3) and Arizona (7-1, 4-1) are coming off of opposite results last weekend. The Ducks got a big 46-23 win over Washington State last Saturday, giving them momentum and keeping their postseason hopes alive. Meanwhile, Arizona suffered its first loss of the year, 37-17 to UCLA, knocking it out of the driver's seat for its first Rose Bowl berth ever.

Arizona's defense has emerged as the nation's toughest unit over the last two years. The Wildcats lead the nation in rushing defense and total defense, and are on top of the Pacific-10 Conference in scoring defense and passing efficiency defense.

Oregon will be hard-pressed

to move the ball on the ground against the Wildcats with leading rusher Sean Burwell not expected to play. Ricky Whittle looked good for the Ducks in their win over Washington State last weekend, rushing a season-high 16 times and catching five passes.

"Ricky Whittle is as healthy as he's been all year," Brooks said. "He played well against Washington State. He's so explosive and a tough runner; with Sean Burwell doubtful, we need a healthy Ricky Whittle."

Arizona's biggest change has come in offense where they have forsaken the option offense of years past for a pro-style offense. The Wildcats hoped that Dan White, a 6-foot-5, 215-pound transfer from Penn State, would run the passing offense, but he has struggled.

White has completed less than half of his passes, and ranks behind every Pac-10 starting quarterback except Oregon State's Rahim Muhammad in passing efficiency. Both White and his backup Brady Batten were injured in Arizona's loss last week at UCLA, but both are probable for this weekend's game.

The Pac-10's second-worst passing game is exactly what a beat up Ducks' secondary needs right now. Free safety Jeff Sherman is out this week and cornerback Alex Molden is doubtful. With cornerback Herman O'Berry out for the year, the Ducks are only about two-deep at each defensive backfield position.

Arizona's running game is built around three main backs, with a fourth usually getting some action as well. Ontwaun Carter leads the 'Cats in rushing and ranks fifth in the conference with 487 yards. He could rank higher, but Arizona has three other backs with at least 50 carries.

The game could come down to big plays on special teams, which would appear to favor Arizona. The Wildcats have returned one punt for a touchdown this year, blocked two field goal attempts, one punt and tackled the punter before a kick once this year. Since 1990, Arizona has blocked 15 punts or field goals.

"We've spent a lot of time on punt blocking," Brooks said. "Our punt block and coverage has improved. My concern is very real about the Arizona special teams because they have the ability to block punts."



Oregon punter/kicker Tommy Thompson will face a tough challenge from an Arizona special teams unit that has blocked 15 kicks over the past four years.

Oregon golf on par

The Oregon women's golf team finished eighth at the Pioneer Electric/Bruin Classic in Temecula, Calif., on Wednesday.

Oregon opened the tournament with a 308 before slipping to a 322 in the second round on Tuesday. Oregon shot 316 in the final round Wednesday to finish at 946.

Oregon was paced by senior Cappy Mack, who shot 77 in the first round, followed by successive 78's to finish at 233, good

DUCK NOTEBOOK

for 16th place. Junior Shannon Hare opened the tournament with a 73 before shooting 78-83 in the final two rounds.

Meanwhile, the Oregon men's golf team shot a three-round total of 925 to finish tied for eighth at the Pioneer Electric/Bruin Classic Tuesday.

Randy McCracken led the Ducks and finished third overall with a six-over-par 222. The finish was the Eugene senior's best ever for Oregon.

Host UCLA won the title at 906 thanks in large part to Eddy Lee, who won medalist honors at 215.

Oregon's Ted Snavely shot

233, one shot better than teammate Andy Scheidt. Junior Paul Regali fired a 237 and freshman Joel Stock shot 246 for the Ducks.

Both the women and men's teams are now done with their fall season and will not play another tournament until February.

Dan Fouts, the Hall of Fame quarterback from the University of Oregon and the San Diego Chargers, received the Leo Harris Award last Saturday at half-time of the Oregon-Washington State football game. The award is presented annually to an alumni letterman based on achievement and service in the last 20 years.

A basketball coaches clinic scheduled for Saturday, Nov. 6, at McArthur Court has been canceled, the University of Oregon men's basketball office announced today.

All those who were pre-registered will be refunded their money. It is hoped the clinic can be rescheduled next fall. Contact the Oregon basketball office at 346-4346 with any questions.

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