

## PICKS

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Jimmy Anderson could fall victim to the infamous "Don Monson Dis," where he tries to make the best of an injury-riddled team but has a terrible season and loses his job at the end of the year, especially in Corvallis, where Ralph Miller raised expectations of the Oregon State basketball program so high that no coach at that school will ever be able to satisfy Beaver fans again.

The Beavers will have their worst season in recent history; of course, I had the luxury of seeing the Beavers get humiliated by UCLA last weekend. Hope to see more of the same.

So sad: I hope Brent Barry playing with a bunch of stiff doesn't hurt his chances of making it in the NBA. Daddy wouldn't be too pleased.

**Simonson's Forecast** — Are the Beavers better than the Ducks this year? The answer: Not really. They're both bad. However, Oregon State will finish at least two games better than Oregon in the conference standings this year for two reasons.

One: Defense. The Beavers can't shoot straight, but realize it's possible to win by creating easy baskets off turnovers and frustrating opponents.

Two: They always do. Oregon State finds ways to win games they have no business winning and of playing opponents tough when they should be getting blown out. Oregon seems to have forgotten how to do this.

**Stanford: 2-0, 9-2** — The Cardinal is one of the teams that has been a big surprise so far this season.

Much of the Cardinal's early success has been the play of freshman point guard Brevin Knight. Knight is averaging six assists and three steals this season (third and fourth in the conference) and has been a pleasant surprise for coach Mike Montgomery, but Montgomery also realizes it's going to take more than that if the Cardinal are going to have a shot at postseason.

"If you have to rely on a freshman, you're in trouble," he said. "The position is so loaded in the conference, it will be interesting to see how (Knight) will handle it."

Stanford has a decent front line with forwards Andy Poppink and Brent Williams both pulling down nearly seven boards a game, but the Cardinal will need to rely heavily on contributions from the younger guys.

"We have the ability to contend for postseason," Montgomery said. "We have to get better, and to do that we have five sophomores and freshmen that we need to contribute."

**Mims' Forecast** — The alarm clock's ringing, and it's time for the Cardinal to awake from its dreams. There is no way this team contends for postseason play. There is not enough depth anywhere on this roster, most notably up front.

Knight has been more than anyone expected, but no freshman guard (except Jason Kidd) will be enough to improve this team dramatically. The Cardinal will take its lumps through the Pac-10, but Williams and Knight should be fun. How bad were expectations in Palo Alto this year? The most exciting thing they could think of for the media guide was a picture of their eighth-year head coach.

**Dave's Forecast** — Stanford got

an important win last weekend over Washington State, but the win was at home, as were seven of its other eight wins this season. The Cardinal did a hell of a job mapping out its non-conference games, facing teams like San Jose State, Cal-Riverside, Cal State-Northridge and McNeese State all at home. Of its three road games, Stanford dropped two and managed to beat Santa Clara in overtime.

The Cardinal lack a proven scorer, and Montgomery's right, counting on a freshman to carry you is pushing it. Once Knight starts facing the Pac-10 terrors at the point position, he may find it a little more difficult than the Division II players he has faced so far this season.

No tourney this year guys. **Lame:** Come on, put the "s" back at the end of Cardinal. What is this, soccer?

**Simonson's Forecast** — Who has Stanford beat this year? McNeese State? Yeah, I think I had a cousin who went there to learn to fix tractors. Manhattan? Is that a university or a borough with a YMCA?

Yes, Stanford beat Santa Clara and Washington State. They're not bad, but it won't be long before they stop sneaking up on the rest of the conference. They've got decent talent and a decent coach. They have a good shot at being, um, decent this year, but .500 is out of the question.

**UCLA: 2-0, 9-0** — Head coach Jim Harrick is doing his best Lou Holtz impersonation in regard to his sixth-ranked Bruins.

"We're not a top-10 team yet," he said. "We need to work on our execution, but overall, I'm pleased with our start."

Truth be told, he's right. Although the Bruins have by far the best starting lineup in the conference, their depth is just a tad suspect, especially at the guard position. Shon Tarver and Tyus Edney are both unstoppable at times, and with players like them, the Bruins don't really need backups to play more than five or six minutes a game. But if an injury hits either one (especially Edney), UCLA may struggle.

The front line is rock solid. The O'Bannon brothers (Ed and Charles) can battle inside and burn you from the three-point line. Centers Rodney Zimmerman and Jiri Zidek are mammoth individuals who complement the rest of the team nicely.

## Emerald Pac-10 Predictions

### Dave Charbonneau

UCLA	16-2
Arizona	15-3
California	12-6
WSU	11-7
USC	10-8
Arizona St.	8-10
Stanford	6-12
Oregon	6-12
Oregon St.	5-13
Washington	1-17

### Steve Mims

UCLA	16-2
Arizona	15-3
California	15-3
USC	11-7
WSU	9-9
Arizona St.	7-11
Stanford	6-12
Oregon	5-13
Oregon St.	4-12
Washington	2-16

### Scott Simonson

Arizona	16-2
UCLA	14-4
California	14-4
WSU	11-7
USC	10-8
Arizona St.	8-10
Stanford	7-11
Oregon St.	5-13
Oregon	3-15
Washington	2-16

**Mims' Forecast** — What fun would a conference preview be without predicting someone to win the NCAA championship? So here it is, UCLA is the national champion. Well, maybe not, but they are one of the teams capable of showing up in Charlotte for the Final Four this year.

The O'Bannon brothers will complement each other great in the front court, and the backcourt of Edney and Tarver is overshadowed by all the other good guards in the conference. Edney is probably the quickest guard in the conference and Tarver has a size advantage over most of his opponents. So meet your 1994 Pac-10 champions, the UCLA Bruins.

**Charbonneau's Forecast** — I thought the Bruins were the odds-on favorite to win the conference. Then I saw them play Oregon, and I changed my mind. Then I saw them crush Oregon State, and I changed my mind again. It's nice to do this preview after a week of Pac-10 games have already been played.

When the Bruins are playing their best, no one in the conference can stop them. But they will have a few off-nights and lose at least a couple. Even so, the team who wins the Pac-10 will probably have a few losses, and I'm going with the Bruins.

What's that?: Jiri Zidek and Ike Nwankwo make up the weirdest-named duo in the Pac-10 since Christian Welp and Detlef Schrempf were at Washington.

**Simonson's Forecast** — UCLA is still two O'Bannon brothers away from winning a national championship. The Bruin back-

court will have its hands full trying to stay with the likes of Kidd, Reeves and Stoudamire in the big conference games.

Arizona will finish in front of the Bruins in the Pac-10, but UCLA should have a better post-season. One upset and the Bruins can make it to the final eight.

**USC: 2-0, 9-2** — The Trojans are probably the most mysterious team in the conference. Lorenzo Orr, the team's leading scorer from last year, is back, Burt Harris, USC's leading assist man, returns at point guard but isn't starting, and freshman center Avondre Jones has played well thus far.

But questions remain about just how good USC really is. Last season, the Trojans finished 16-11 and made it to the semifinals of the NIT. The Trojans got a big boost with a light non-conference schedule, but like so many other teams in the conference, it remains to be seen just how good this team performs against some valid competition.

Head coach George Raveling said he likes what he's seen so far this season.

"I'm pleased with the team," he said. "We've shown growth from week to week and month to month. Our freshmen continue to

get better, and three individuals, Mark Boyd, Orr and Demian Powell have shown amazing growth."

**Mims' Forecast** — If nothing else, this team should lead the conference in fouls and fights. The Trojans are probably the next best team in the conference, next to the three national powers in the conference. The Trojans will come in fourth place with about 20 wins overall, enough to get them into the tourney.

Mark March 10 on your calendar, that's the day the Trojans come to Eugene to play the Ducks, then usually go to Guido's afterwards and urinate on the building.

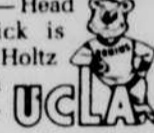
**Charbonneau's Forecast** — Here's another team that has a lot to prove in the Pac-10. Like Stanford, the Trojans benefited by having eight of their first 11 games at home against the likes of San Diego State, Sacramento State and Howard. Their two losses came at the hands of Pennsylvania and South Florida, two teams that will sink your power rating in a second.

Even so, USC will likely be on the NCAA bubble at the end of the season.

Bet you didn't know: Simonson says Orr can touch the top of the backboard. Oddly enough, so can

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