

EMERALD FOOTBALL PICKS



Chris Metz



Kris Henry



Mark McTyre



Trevor Kearney



Michele Ross



Kaly Soto



Jeff Paslay

Washington St. -10 Oregon	Oregon	Oregon	Oregon	Oregon	Oregon	Oregon	Washington St.
USC -6 Oregon St.	USC	USC	USC	Oregon St.	USC	USC	USC
Arizona St. -1 Stanford	Stanford	Stanford	Stanford	Arizona St.	Arizona St.	Stanford	Stanford
California -3 1/2 UCLA	UCLA	UCLA	UCLA	UCLA	California	California	California
Arizona -17 Colorado St.	Colorado St.	Arizona	Arizona	Arizona	Colorado St.	Colorado St.	Colorado St.
Notre Dame -12 Boston College	Notre Dame	Notre Dame	Notre Dame	Notre Dame	Boston College	Boston College	Notre Dame
Florida St. -3 Miami	Florida St.	Florida St.	Florida St.	Florida St.	Miami	Miami	Miami
Florida -27 LSU	Florida	LSU	LSU	Florida	LSU	LSU	Florida
OVERALL	5-11	6-10	6-10	8-8	6-10	8-8	5-11

DUCKS

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O'Berry, who suffered a knee injury and was expected to be out 6-8 weeks, is listed as probable for this weekend and O'Neil has been cleared to play in next week's game.

The biggest change for this season's game from last year's is that the Washington State defense has gotten even better. The Cougars are allowing just 1.9 yards per rush this season while Oregon's ground game is generating just 3.5 yards per rush. Washington State has not been hit for a touchdown pass this season and the only touchdown the Cougars have allowed came from a 65-yard reverse last weekend at Tennessee. The Ducks' numbers pale in comparison for total defense, but the Ducks are in the top half of the league and the NCAA,

allowing just 22.2 points per game. Washington State's offense has only been able to reach the end zone six times in four games, the league's smallest total.

"There is a lot of talk about the Desert Swarm at Arizona, but Washington State is better statistically," Oregon head coach Rich Brooks said. "They are playing great football. They are a veteran defensive unit with so much speed. They play aggressively and confidently."

Although the Cougars' offense has been struggling, Brooks feels that won't make a difference.

"Their defense has become an offensive weapon for them," Brooks said. "There is no question their offense is getting better."

"The key for us is to not get caught up in the euphoria of what happened in the Coliseum," Brooks said.

COUGARS

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not the SEC.

"It was an opportunity we let slip through our hands. We had the opportunity to win the ball game in a difficult situation and we didn't get the job done."

In the game, the Cougars surrendered 149 yards rushing, more than double their season average, but managed to hold the Volunteers to 80 yards through the air.

"Our Cougars are not going to

stay down after the loss to Tennessee," Price said after the loss. "The feeling in the locker room after the game and the type of character we have - we will be back."

Washington State will face another tough test against the Ducks. Oregon coach Rich Brooks has had his fair share of success against the Cougars, winning the last three games. Price will be going into the weekend's match with a struggling offense that

averages only 16 points a game.

Price acknowledges the challenge that stands in front of him this weekend, but doesn't plan on making any significant changes to the team.

"I don't think that we need to change anything," Price said. "(Oregon is) a solid football team and they have been getting after us the last three years. We don't like it, but we have to do something about it when they get here."

SOCCER

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to start doing what it has been talking about all season.

"The first win is the toughest," coach David Burgee said. "We've been close in many games and I think it's just a matter of getting over the hump. I still think they believe they can beat most people."

But having four key players injured and questionable for Saturday's game in Salem, the team faces Willamette, an intercollegiate team that, according to Burgee, has a strong program.

"I think we are going to have a tough time," Burgee said. "Willamette is a good team ... they have beat some pretty well known competitors. But I think they can go out there and compete ... I think they can beat Willamette."

With the team searching for its first win, it could be without defender Beth Moseley and midfielder Kim Baumsteiger, who are out with possible shin stress fractures. The women are without midfielder Becka Burrowes, who has a hip injury, defender Kiley Steinriede, who has a muscle strain

in her shin, and goalkeeper Melissa Erion, who cannot make the game due to prior arrangements.

"It's going to be a particularly tough game for us ... people that haven't normally played are going to have to step up a level and play great soccer in order for us to pull a victory over Willamette," Burgee said.

Heading into Saturday's game with an 0-10-1 record, the team has struggled against intercollegiate teams that have the perks of being a fully sanctioned team.

But despite its record, the team has come close to winning several times, including a game in which the Ducks led Utah State by a goal 35 minutes into the second half, but ended up losing the game 3-1.

"I think these girls are really tough mentally," Burgee said. "They understand this is a transition year from years past. This is the first year we will be taking the program up so many levels to be really competitive."

The women have their first home game against Concordia College at 3:00 p.m. on Oct. 13, and follow it with three home games in as many days, starting Oct. 21.

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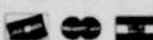
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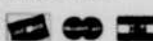
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