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and is looking to end the 1994 season on a good note as a building block for next season. But the Cardinal may have to do if without the services of star quarterback Steve Stenstrom, who broke a bone in the pinky finge of his throwing hand in the Washington game. Stenstrom's condition was guarded on Wednesday, and he missed the team's practice.
Brooks said that while the team is gearing up to face backup quarterback Scott Frost, who rushed for 88 yards on 11 carries against Washington, the Ducks are also prepared to face Stenstrom, even though his injury would more than likely hamper his throwing.
"We're going to roll the dice," Brooks said, "and assume that if

Stenstrom plays, it will be a very imited role and probably not as effective as it would be if he had a healthy hand.

Stenstrom is fourth in the nation in total offense and has amassed over 2,800 yards through the air. Frost played well in last week's game, and with the ability to run at $6^{\prime} 3^{\prime \prime}$ and 210 pounds, he is by no means someone the Ducks ${ }^{\text { }}$ defense can afford to lay down against. The sophomore from Wood River, Nebraska was one of the most highly-recruited athetes in the nation in 1993 and was rated the No. 3 quarterback prospect in the nation by Blue Chip.

If Stenstrom doesn't play, it will be the second time this season that injury has forced a Pac10 opponent to start a backup quarterback against the Ducks.

California's Kerry McGonigal unsuccessfully filled in for starter Dave Barr against the Ducks earlier this season but, at the same time. Brooks believes that backup quarterbacks are also capable of giving teams a boost.

There's no question sometimes a team rallies around a backup quarterback," Brooks said. "They know he doesn't have experience, and they may need to step up their level of play. I think our team responded that way with Tony (Graziani) in the Coliseum."

Another concern for Walsh is moving the ball against the tough Oregon defense. He knows the power of Gang Green but remains confident that the productive Stanford offense will be able to move the ball effectively.

It's probably the best defense in Pac-10 football right now," Walsh said about the Duck defense. "I don't think it's so awesome that we have to become timid and fearful. No one's stopped us yet, so we expect Oregon not to stop us."
Stanford has had little problem putting points on the board this season and is coming off its second-highest point total of the season against the Huskies:
"It's obvious that Stanford has the premier offense in this league," Brooks said. "They ran the ball remarkably well (against Washington). That scares me "

The Ducks hit the road after four-straight home games. They haven't won in Palo Alto since 1983 and have won only two of the last 10 meetings on Stanford turf.

Brooks believes that the California teams are more difficult to play on the road because of the distractions brought about by visitation of family and friends of the numerous Oregon players who are from California. But, at the same time, he also believes that this Oregon team knows what's at stake this time around.
"Sometimes maybe our focus and concentration isn't where it needs to be," Brooks said. "I think this team understands what needs to be done."
With a win, the Ducks would be just one game away from a Rose Bowl berth, and Brooks emphasized the importance of Saturday's Stanford game.
"Each game becomes the biggest game of the year," Brooks said. "This is obviously the biggest game of the year This is a must win."


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THE FAR SIDE

## Insipid Tales

by Charles Marier


10 Oregon Daly' Emerala Thursday, November 10, 1994

