

# Ducks face Frost as Stenstrom out for last two games

Trevor Kearney  
Oregon Daily Emerald

In the process of upsetting the Washington Huskies last week, the Stanford Cardinal lost starting quarterback Steve Stenstrom for the last two games of the season and will start sophomore Scott Frost against Oregon this Saturday.

In last week's game, Stanford played the second half of its game without Stenstrom, who is averaging 301.6 yards of total offense and has 16 touchdown passes this season, due to a cracked bone in his finger. Stenstrom is the all-time Pac-10 leader in both career yards passing and career yards in total offense. While the Cardinal held on to beat Washington decisively, Stenstrom's loss will significantly shake up Stanford's offense this Saturday.

"He is a great leader, a very inspirational player who has tremendous work-ethic and one of the most respected players on our team," Stanford coach Bill Walsh said. "We will certainly miss him this Saturday against Oregon and next week in the big game (against California.)"

But Walsh is not counting his team out. Even with Oregon's highly touted defense running rampant on opposing offenses, Walsh still believes that his team can carry last week's success over to Saturday's game.

"I don't see any change in anything we do," Walsh said, noting that he isn't worried about Frost starting against the Oregon defense. "He demonstrates he's a competitor. I'm sure he'll do well. I don't have any doubt about that."

Frost, who played free safety in parts of five games earlier in the season, completed two passes for 81 yards last week, and rushed 11 times and picked up 88 yards and one touchdown. Because last week's game was played in adverse weather conditions, Walsh believes that Frost's passing statistics were misleading.

"I think he'll be fine in a good situation," Walsh said. "He's a Steve Young, Dan Fouts kind of quarterback."

"Scott Frost is a great athlete who can run and throw," Oregon coach Rich Brooks said.

Along with solid quarterbacks, Stanford also has wide receiver Justin Armour, to test the Duck's defense. He



FILE PHOTO  
The Oregon defense was bruised for 38 points against Stanford last year but hopes to reverse the Cardinal barrage this time around.

has seven touchdowns in 56 receptions and is averaging 104.2 receiving yards per game.

Stanford is 39-19-1 against the Ducks, and has lost only nine games at home to Oregon. Last year at Autzen Stadium, Stanford stopped a fourth-quarter Oregon comeback and won the game 38-34. With a record of 3-5-1 this season, however, the Cardinal is out of the running for any postseason play but still poses a significant

threat as a spoiler to the Ducks' bid for the Rose Bowl.

While Stanford can only spoil Oregon's season, the Ducks have a chance to improve their record to 6-1 in the Pac-10, and 8-3 overall. If the Ducks win both of their remaining games, they will have achieved their best record since 1948, when they were 9-2, and earn coach Rich Brooks his first Rose Bowl appearance in his 18 seasons at Oregon.

"My guess would be that Oregon does not have the talent that three or four or more of the other Pac-10 schools have, but that's not demeaning," Walsh said, quickly adding that Oregon's depth is not as strong as some other teams, but they don't lack the skills of a Pac-10 champion.

"They're certainly talented enough to represent the Pac-10 in the Rose Bowl," Walsh said.

The Duck's success is due in part to their strong defense that has earned the nickname Gang Green. According to Walsh, more surprising than how good the defense has performed is how fast they have developed into a strong force.

"In the past, their defense has been fair to average and their offense has had to score and score and score," Walsh said. "But now, with a defense like this, you get more opportunities with the ball and better position on the field. You can have, as a coach, a lot more confidence in what you're going to be doing offensively knowing that your defense, for the most part, will stop the opponent."

"We've been playing very good football recently," Brooks said. "Our defense stood up and made the plays they had to make to keep them out of the end zone until late in the game."

After four-straight home games, the Ducks face two road games to end the season, and the outcome of those games decide whether the team goes to the Rose Bowl or not.

"It's been a great home stand, but we've got to get it done on the road," Brooks said. "The good news is that we're in it, but there's nothing to jump up and down about yet. It's always difficult to win on the road, particularly in this league."



Stanford Stadium 3:30 p.m.

## FOOTBALL

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