

# Turnovers kill the Cardinal

In its last two games, Stanford turned the ball over 10 times

By Ryan Frank  
Sports Editor

How quick the mighty fall. Stanford was apparently on its way to a battle for the conference title, having won four of its first five, its only loss coming to current-No. 4 North Carolina in Chapel Hill.

But after only two short weeks, and two quick losses, Stanford finds itself in the middle of the heap of the Pacific-10 Conference with a 2-2 record in conference play.

How can a team seemingly destined for a late-season showdown with Washington State for a possible Rose Bowl berth now be a middle-of-the-road team?

The answer is easy: turnovers. At Arizona on Oct. 11, the Cardinal fumbled the ball eight times, losing five of them. Then against Arizona State at home last Saturday, Stanford fumbled the ball away three times and threw two interceptions.

"Turn the ball over and you put yourself in a hole, and it's hard to find your way out of it," quarterback Chad Hutchinson told The Stanford Daily.

The lack of a rushing game against Arizona State hurt the Cardinal.

Stanford, whose running back tandem of Anthony Bookman and

## FOOTBALL Pac-10Notes

Michael Mitchell had a string of three straight games with 100 yards each at one point this season, gained only 44 yards in 31 attempts against the Sun Devil defense, which ranks third in the conference against the run.

The Cardinal has a bye this week, but has upcoming games against UCLA at home, Southern California in Los Angeles and Washington State in Pullman.

Suddenly, a schedule that looked so mediocre a few weeks ago is looking like a death trap for the Cardinal.

### Super fan

If you thought it was hard work getting to all the Ducks' home games this season, think what 90-year-old Giles Pellerin has gone through for the last 71 years.

Pellerin, a Pasadena resident, has not missed a USC game, home or away, since the start of the 1926 season.

He has seen every one of the Trojans' 781 games since 1926, traveling more than 650,000 miles and spending more than \$85,000. He has seen all 28 Rose Bowls the Trojans have played in and every USC-UCLA and USC-Notre Dame game.

### Up and back down

After losing to Louisiana Tech on Oct. 4, California seemed to be in shambles.

The loss to the Bulldogs left the Cal coaches wondering, not when, but if the team could recover, or if maybe the Golden Bears just didn't have the recruits or firepower to compete in the Pac-10.

But the following week against Washington, things looked like they have fallen back in line for Cal.

The porous Cal defense that was picked apart by the Bulldogs' passing game held the Huskies to just seven first-half points and trailed by only four at the break.

While the Bears gave up 23 second-half points to lose 30-3, the coaches were pleased with the players' effort and competitiveness.

Well, throw all that out the window now.

Last Saturday against Washington State, the Bears may as well not have made the trip to Pullman. The Cougars scored 56 unanswered points to take a 56-6 lead and eventually won the game 63-37.

Washington State averaged 9.5 yards per play and scored more touchdowns (nine) than had ever been scored on a Cal defense.

Bears linebacker Matt Beck was injured and did not play, but he did not withhold his feelings after the game.

"What happens out there isn't because of talent," Beck told the Daily Californian. "What happens is because we don't play like it means something for us to wear a California jersey."

# Duck: Players impressed

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Tigers, and been happy.

But the idea of playing for the Ducks grew on her, especially after the Ducks' three-point loss to national power Stanford.

Thanks to the Ducks' performance and atmosphere at McArthur Court against Stanford, O'Brien decided to stay with the Ducks and pay back the \$3,000 she earned.

"I just have a huge amount of admiration for Natasha O'Brien," Oregon head coach Jody Runge says. "I was really flabbergasted when she said she was going to stay. I think that's a very strong statement about her character and about the way she feels about this team and being here."

O'Brien left Eugene after winter term last year and worked two jobs at home in Adelaide, Australia, borrowed money from her mother and used some money she had saved up to pay back the \$3,000.

In recent years, Oregon has become a serious power in the Pac-10, but why would O'Brien want to put that much time and effort into coming back to Oregon?

"I just look forward to playing in front of the crowd," O'Brien says. "It was an amazing feeling at the Stanford game, the crowd and the atmosphere. I was just itching to get out there, and I sort of have visions of that going into this season."

That was not all that motivated O'Brien to make the long and arduous journey back to Eugene, one which her friends in Australia could not initially understand.

The 22-year-old junior said she wants to play professionally either in the United States or Europe and the exposure here offers her a greater chance of realizing her dream.

But to get to that next level, O'Brien will have to prove herself at Oregon, which is not going to be a problem according

to her teammates.

"She's very creative," says fellow Australian and Oregon point guard Natalie Hughes. "She's a little deceiving. She is quick, creative and can shoot. She hits some ridiculous shots."

Jenny Mowe, Oregon's 6-foot-5 sophomore center, says O'Brien is such a willing scorer she would be willing to pass the ball out to her.

"I'd kick the ball out to her knowing that she's going to score," Mowe says.

Runge agrees with her players. "She brings a lot of savvy and is a great scorer, competitor and is capable of hitting shots," Runge says. "She worked hard in the off-season and has something to prove when she steps on the court this year."

O'Brien's teammates aren't the only ones who think she can hold her own in the tough Pac-10.

"I've seen what the standard is like, and I'm pretty confident in my ability to do what's required," O'Brien says.

While taking the 1996 season off was not what O'Brien had in mind when she decided to come to Oregon, she now sees it as a mixed blessing.

"When I came here last year, it was overwhelming," O'Brien says. "Having a year to learn how things work was just to my advantage."

What else may be to her advantage is shooting well from behind the three-point line.

O'Brien has a bet with the women's basketball sports information director that if she doesn't shoot better than 45 percent from behind the three-point line for the season, O'Brien will have to shave her head.

A rough fate for O'Brien's failure to shoot the fourth-highest three-point percentage for a single season in Oregon history.

But if she did reach that 45-percent mark, maybe the year-long wait will be validated.

# Hansen: Another 49er blowout, anybody?

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years they have been crammed down my throat by local affiliates who think a team located 500 miles away is considered regional.

Is there really such a San Francisco stronghold here in Eugene that every 49er blowout has to be televised instead of some other, more competitive contest?

Hey, if San Francisco is playing Dallas, or Green Bay, or Minnesota, I'll watch it because it has the possibility of being a good game.

Same with Seattle for that matter — but to a much lesser degree.

I think football fans in this town would rather watch a game that is competitive and exciting, no matter who is playing, than watch another blowout by the same team every week.

Oh, by the way, San Francisco plays New Orleans on Sunday. What a perfect day to sleep in.

Chris Hansen is the assistant sports editor for the Emerald.

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### 100 LOST & FOUND

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