

Ducks set sights on Pac-10 title

Oregon needs to finish near the top in order to upset the No. 1 Cardinal

By Joel Hood
Sports Reporter

When Oregon invades California for the Pacific-10 Conference Cross Country Championships on Saturday, nobody has to tell head coaches Bill Dellinger and Tom Heinonen how important it is to finish near the top.

Last season, Stanford placed three runners in the top five of the men's race and five in the top 11 of the women's event to cruise to its first Pac-10 title sweep in school history.

Stanford's late season momentum carried through November,

first to the District VIII Championships in Fresno, Calif., and then to the NCAA Championships, where the Cardinal won in dominating fashion.

"It's important to get on a roll at this time in the season," Heinonen said.



"The conference championships is a great atmosphere to do it in. It gives you a chance to see what you still need to do to prepare for the District and NCAA championships, and it shows everyone else what level you're at."

This season, the Pac-10 Championships have eerily the same

storyline. Both the Stanford men's and women's teams enter the championships ranked No. 1 in the nation and are on a major roll. The women beat a championship field three weeks ago at the Furman Invitational in Greenville, S.C.

Also like last season, the Pac-10 returns as arguably the nation's toughest conference. Six men's teams and four women's teams rank in the country's top 25, including the No. 4 Oregon women and the No. 5 Oregon men.

Stanford is the favorite to repeat as both the Pac-10 and NCAA champion. However, Oregon coaches and its runners have not ruled out the possibility of a Duck upset.

Forwards: Curtis will back up Mowe at center

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Brianne Meharry will be asked to fill that void.

Benson was the Ducks' best defensive player at forward last season and wasn't asked to contribute much scoring, averaging 4.9 points a game. But along with Curtis, she returns as the Ducks' most experienced forward and will be asked to contribute more scoring this season.

Curtis, a 6-foot-2 junior, worked hard to improve her strength in the off-season and will be one the Ducks' top scor-

ers and rebounders at forward. Because of Sandie Edwards' decision not to play this season, Curtis also will be asked to help Jenny Mowe with the duties at center.

The Ducks' biggest asset at forward could be their ability to shoot from behind the three-point line.

Benson was second on the team in three-point percentage a season ago, and O'Brien, who joins the Ducks after serving a one-year suspension, could turn out to be Oregon's top three-point shooter.

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Horoscope by Frances Drake

For Wednesday, Oct. 29, 1997

ARIES

(March 21 to April 19)

A co-worker's feelings are easily hurt. A period of goofing off is followed by one of productivity. Rise above distractions, and complete assignments.

TAURUS

(April 20 to May 20)

You're pleased with the day's job developments. Don't let someone impose upon you in the name of friendship. Watch a tendency to be curt with loved ones during evening hours.

GEMINI

(May 21 to June 20)

It's the small word that hurts. Make amends quickly if you slight someone. You're on top of things in business, so save time in the evening for pleasurable interests.

CANCER

(June 21 to July 22)

The day's partnership news makes you happy. Someone you deal with, however, is not straightforward. Couples work well as a team. Financial concerns preoccupy you after dark.

LEO

(July 23 to Aug. 22)

Be less concerned about what others think. Don't let that long-awaited opportunity pass you by! Details on the job need watching. At night, the accent is on togetherness.

VIRGO

(Aug. 23 to Sept. 22)

A partner is enthusiastic about a project you propose in the morning. Business developments are positive in general, but watch a tendency to undersell yourself.

LIBRA

(Sept. 23 to Oct. 22)

It's a lovely day for leisure interests and romance. Outings with children and travel also are favored. Be careful, however, not to exhaust your

SCORPIO

(Oct. 23 to Nov. 21)

A fringe benefit comes in connection with your career. Financial developments are positive. Don't keep worries to yourself. Heart-to-heart talks are favored during the evening.

SAGITTARIUS

(Nov. 22 to Dec. 21)

Guard against overspending. Family interests are highlighted. It's a great time for entertaining at home. The evening promises an introduction to a fascinating person.

CAPRICORN

(Dec. 22 to Jan. 19)

You begin a favorable period for career interests. A new business opportunity could involve some travel. Plan job-search strategies later in the day.

AQUARIUS

(Jan. 20 to Feb. 18)

Partnerships are emphasized early in the day. Couples enjoy an outing to someplace special after dark. Singles will find the coming months conducive to romance.

PISCES

(Feb. 19 to March 20)

There are a few ruffled feathers that you should smooth over. Accent thoughtfulness, consideration and diplomacy. A club-related responsibility could arise.

YOU BORN TODAY are a veritable bundle of energy, flitting effortlessly from one task to the other. In your haste, however, you have a tendency to overlook details — and that comes back to haunt you. Once you learn how to concentrate and slow down, you are more successful. Fast-paced careers captivate you. The stock market and journalism hold particular appeal.

Birthdate of: Richard Dreyfuss, actor; Winona Ryder, actress; Joely Fisher, actress.

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SHAKE YOUR HEAD
BACK AND FORTH
INSTEAD OF SPINNING
IT AROUND?

