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# UW's road to Rose Bowl rougher

Oregon State head coach Mike Riley will face his old team when the Beavers play USC

By Ryan Frank  
Sports Editor

The road for Rose Bowl that seemed to rest well paved by Washington one week ago is now a lot bumpier.

The Huskies' loss to Oregon last Saturday dropped them into a four-way for first place in the conference with a 5-1 record.

Arizona State, Washington State, UCLA and Washington are all tied atop the conference standings with just one loss, but Washington is the only one of the four teams that controls its destiny for the Rose Bowl berth.

However, the Huskies final two games are anything but easy.

No. 13 Washington must travel to No. 9 UCLA, then return home the next week to play No. 14 Washington State in the Apple Cup.

Washington may get its toughest test of the season from the Bruins, who have won their last seven and are the conference's hottest team right now. And Washington State always provides a test for Washington in the Apple Cup.

**Still talking**

Just when you thought all the trash talking between the Oregon Ducks and Washington Huskies was over with last week's Oregon upset — forget it.

In his weekly press conference on Monday, Washington head coach Jim Lambright talked about the Oregon players being motivated by their hate of the Huskies.

"I have a hard time with hatred in a rivalry," Lambright told The Associated Press. "I will never

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ever get into it, and I know it's being coached. It's a shame it has to be in the game."

In a conference call with reporters on Tuesday, Oregon head coach Mike Bellotti denied Lambright's statement.

"I don't coach or teach hatred," Bellotti said. "It is a shame that comments like that come out after losing a game like that."

"I don't like [the comment] very personally. We don't do that. We coach emotion. I don't appreciate that comment if it is directed at me."

Bellotti went on to say it would be understandable for the players to dislike Washington after what was written in the Seattle newspapers.

In the same conference call, Lambright refuted the idea that he was referring to Bellotti when he made the statement.

"I didn't direct those at anybody except my thoughts about rivalry games," Lambright said. "Any time I read players' quotes about hatred, it bothers me because the game isn't supposed to be about that."

Mark Nov. 7, 1998, on your calendar. That's when Washington returns to Autzen Stadium for the rematch.

**Old friends**

Oregon State's game against Southern California this Saturday will be more than head coach Mike Riley's bid for his first conference win.

It will be a homecoming of sorts.

The Oregon State head coach came to Corvallis this season from Los Angeles where he was

the Trojans' offensive coordinator for four seasons, but he shouldn't expect any hugs from Southern California head coach John Robinson.

"That's an overblown thing," Robinson said Tuesday. "We're good friends and we like each other, but once the game starts there will be no other thoughts for each other. We'll just be playing the game."

Riley said after the game preparation is over, he will be excited to talk with his former co-workers.

"I think as I am going through the preparation it is Xs and Os, it's probably a detached feeling," Riley said. "But as the game approaches and I see the guys it means a lot to me. I don't want it to be a problem."

**Quips, quotes and numbers**

■ USC head coach John Robinson said he hasn't looked at any of the bowl possibilities, but he did rule out one place the Trojans won't play.

"If there's one in the Mojave Desert, we may not go there," he said.

Just for the record, there is no bowl game in the California desert.

■ This week's California-Arizona game is a rematch of last season's four-overtime battle. On a teleconference call with reporters Tuesday, California head coach Tom Holme was still feeling the effects.

"I'm still tired from that game," Holme joked.

■ Of the players who rank in the top 10, all of whom are quarterbacks, in total offense in Pac-10, not one is a senior. Six of the top 10 are juniors (including the top three), two are sophomores and two are freshmen.

# Ducks look ahead to a bright future

Returning all but two players, Oregon will be a more experienced team next season

By Alex Pond  
Sports Reporter

Season No. 2 is in the history books, and about the only grade the Ducks can expect is an incomplete.

Perhaps the best judgment of the 1997 Oregon women's soccer team will come from its record next season.

If the Ducks can turn all the experience and development the players and coaches claimed to be so valuable this season into a winning record next fall, then their 5-14-1 record this season can be chalked up to one big learning experience.

In just their second campaign, the Ducks showed some flashes of brilliance and brief glimpses of what might lie in store for them in the future. However, they also paid the price of youth and inexperience with several close losses and some lapses at inopportune times that often made the difference in several games.

The season was one of ups and downs. It started off well, with 14 goals scored and three wins in Oregon's first five games.

The Ducks then got into the meat of a schedule that ranked as the 18th-toughest in Division I-A and suffered a 10-game winless streak.

They then regrouped in time to win two of their last five games,

including an impressive 3-1 Civil War victory over Oregon State to end the season. During that stretch the Ducks stood toe to toe with California in a 1-0 loss that could have gone either way and put out a solid effort against Stanford for 85 minutes before allow-



ing two goals in the last five minutes of a 4-0 loss.

"I think we made progress, which is the most important thing," Oregon head coach Bill Steffen said. "I think we have a much better idea of the game, and I think we're much better at possessing the ball and working the ball amongst ourselves as a team than we were earlier."

"We're more of a group than the collection of individuals we were when we started out."

The bottom line is that the Ducks won just five games, but for a program in just its second season of existence, the record is almost secondary to the development of the team, Steffen said.

"Our goal was to be .500. We didn't achieve that. Obviously, I'd like to be 20-0, but we're not, so we can keep working toward that. I am very pleased with the progress we made as far as our understanding of the game, and I think that's probably more important than the record at this point."

Although they would have liked more wins this season, Steffen and the Ducks seem to be banking on the notion that the

experience gained this season will pay off in the future, a future that appears to be bright.

Oregon returns all but two players next season, losing seniors Katie Odishoo and Louisa Lakos.

The Ducks will suddenly be transformed from an inexperienced to an experienced team, but at the same time they will remain relatively young: just two of the current players will be seniors next season.

The majority of the team is sophomores, a group of 14 players that includes the Ducks' leading scorer, Sierra Marsh, their second-leading scorer, Kristi Morris, goalkeeper Amanda Fox and the heart and soul of the defense, Stacy Hebert and Carrie McLanahan.

"Sierra and Kristi did a great job for us in the center part of midfield," Steffen said. "They did a real good job as far as their work rate and as far as their efforts. I thought Carrie McLanahan was really solid in the back. She's the one that would start our controlled offense. She would win the ball and then find somebody to play instead of just clearing it."

With a new home field next season and a suddenly experienced squad toughened by a grueling schedule, the Ducks will likely have some high expectations next season.

How they handle those expectations will go a long way toward putting the final grade on this season.