

1998 Pac-10 Preview

The Pac-10 from Top to Bottom

Arizona	 <p>PLAYER TO WATCH ■ MILES SIMON Position: Guard Year: Senior Numbers: 17.8 ppg, 4.5 apg, 42 percent three-point shooter</p>	<p>1998 OUTLOOK The starting backcourt of Miles Simon and Mike Bibby is easily the best in the country, and Arizona is on a school-record pace for scoring, with over 94 points per game.</p> 	 <p>Tim Young Stanford center</p>		<p>1998 OUTLOOK Until someone proves they can knock off the Cardinal, Stanford will remain the team to beat in the Pac-10. Forwards Olympia Scott, Kristin Folki and Vanessa Nygaard are all of star quality.</p>	<p>PLAYER TO WATCH ■ OLYMPIA SCOTT: Position: Forward Year: Senior Numbers: 20.1 ppg, 8.6 rpg, 63.1 percent FG</p> 	Stanford
UCLA	 <p>PLAYER TO WATCH ■ J.R. HENDERSON Position: Forward Year: Senior Numbers: Pac-10 leader in both points per game (20) and rebounds (9.4)</p>	<p>1998 OUTLOOK The 10th-ranked Bruins won their third straight Pac-10 title last season and seem to be weathering the losses of starters Charles O'Bannon and Cameron Dollar nicely.</p> 			<p>1998 OUTLOOK Having won their first 10 games, the Huskies are off to their best start since 1989-90. Jamie Redd likes to shoot, but can score with the best of them. Amber Hall is far and away the best rebounder in the conference.</p>	<p>PLAYER TO WATCH ■ JAMIE REDD: Position: Guard Year: Junior Numbers: 22.1 ppg, 5.3 rpg, 75.5 percent FT</p> 	Washington
Stanford	 <p>PLAYER TO WATCH ■ TIM YOUNG Position: Center Year: Junior Numbers: 10.5 ppg, 7.3 rpg, 1.5 blocks while averaging only 24 minutes a game</p>	<p>1998 OUTLOOK No Pac-10 team lost a bigger impact player than did Stanford with the graduation of All-American Brevin Knight. But Arthur Lee is filling in admirably and the No. 7 Cardinal is off to its second-best start in school history.</p> 			<p>1998 OUTLOOK If you like to watch quick, guard-oriented teams, Arizona is your team. Led by Adia Barnes, the Wildcats have vaulted their way into the nation's top 10 and should stay there, barring a major collapse.</p>	<p>PLAYER TO WATCH ■ ADIA BARNES: Position: Forward Year: Senior Numbers: 22.9 ppg, 7.1 rpg, 56 percent FG, 75.4 percent FT</p> 	Arizona
Washington	 <p>PLAYER TO WATCH ■ TODD MACCULLOCH Position: Center Year: Junior Numbers: 19.1 ppg, 8.8 rpg, second in conference in FG percentage</p>	<p>1998 OUTLOOK The fate of the Huskies rides squarely on the shoulders of 7-foot Canadian center Todd MacCulloch, a 1997-98 Playboy All-American who led the nation in shooting percentage last season at 67.6.</p> 			<p>1998 OUTLOOK Injuries, notably Jenny Mowe's, have hurt the Ducks. They have a talented, experienced starting backcourt, but their young frontcourt, which is playing well so far, must hold up through the Pac-10 season.</p>	<p>PLAYER TO WATCH ■ NATALIE HUGHES: Position: Guard Year: Senior Numbers: 13.3 ppg, 3.4 apg, scored season-high 30 points vs. Western Kentucky</p> 	Oregon
Arizona State	 <p>PLAYER TO WATCH ■ JEREMY VEAL Position: Guard Year: Senior Numbers: Second in the Pac-10 in scoring at 19.9 ppg</p>	<p>1998 OUTLOOK The Sun Devils have already bettered last season's win total behind the leadership of guard Jeremy Veal, the Pac-10's active career scoring leader. Junior Bobby Lazor is averaging almost 19 points.</p> 			<p>1998 OUTLOOK Point guard Erica Gomez returns to the lineup this season after sitting out 1996-97 with a knee injury. With Maylana Martin and Gomez, the Bruins have talent, but only two seniors to fill leadership roles.</p>	<p>PLAYER TO WATCH ■ MAYLANA MARTIN: Position: Forward Year: Sophomore Numbers: 20.9 ppg, 8.0 rpg, .73 blocks per game, 1.91 spg, 80.9 percent FT</p> 	UCLA
California	 <p>PLAYER TO WATCH ■ GENO CARLISLE Position: Guard Year: Junior (Transfer) Numbers: In only five games averaging 15.7 ppg, 28 ppg in two Pac-10 games</p>	<p>1998 OUTLOOK Three transfers, headlined by former Northwestern guard Geno Carlisle, and two newcomers with junior college experience should ease the transition for 1996-97 Pac-10 coach of the year Ben Braun.</p> 			<p>1998 OUTLOOK Kristin Clark will have to step up and fill the giant void left by first-team all-conference selection Tina Thompson. Clark is a quick, talented guard, but she could have a hard time carrying the Trojans.</p>	<p>PLAYER TO WATCH ■ KRISTIN CLARK: Position: Guard Year: Junior Numbers: 15.3 ppg, 3.36 spg, 3.73 apg, 77.8 percent FT</p> 	USC
Oregon State	 <p>PLAYER TO WATCH ■ COREY BENJAMIN Position: Guard Year: Sophomore Numbers: 19.7 ppg, 60 percent FG, 2.1 spg</p>	<p>1998 OUTLOOK Sophomore sensation Corey Benjamin leads the charge for the Beavers, as evidenced by a streak of 25 games in which he has scored in double-figures. Replacing point guard Carson Cunningham will be difficult.</p> 			<p>1998 OUTLOOK The Bears are continuing to rebuild under legendary head coach Marianne Stanley. Cal has only two seniors, both of whom lack Pac-10 experience. Expect at least one more season before Cal breaks into the top half.</p>	<p>PLAYER TO WATCH ■ JENNIE LEANDER: Position: Center Year: Junior Numbers: 10.4 ppg, 6.7 rpg</p> 	California
Oregon	 <p>PLAYER TO WATCH ■ HENRY MADDEN Position: Forward Year: Senior Numbers: 14.3 ppg, 5.3 rpg, Oregon's leader in both categories</p>	<p>1998 OUTLOOK Oregon has some adversity to overcome if it is going to be successful in the Pac-10. Size and talent on this Duck squad won't match well against the conference's top three or four teams.</p> 			<p>1998 OUTLOOK Harold Rhodes, in his 16th season with the Cougars, has gotten solid performances out of his backcourt in the early going. But that won't be enough to carry the Cougars in the conference's top five.</p>	<p>PLAYER TO WATCH ■ YVONNE KUNZE: Position: Center Year: Senior Numbers: 13.4 ppg, 6.7 rpg, 59.1 percent FG, 7 blocks per game</p> 	Washington State
USC	 <p>PLAYER TO WATCH ■ GARY JOHNSON Position: Point guard Year: Senior Numbers: 13.1 ppg, 2.5 spg, 5.08 apg, 30 points against Arizona Monday.</p>	<p>1998 OUTLOOK The Trojans will be hard pressed to repeat last season's NCAA Tournament appearance, but the backcourt of Elias Ayuso and Gary Johnson, as well as a strong recruiting class, should keep USC in contention.</p> 			<p>1998 OUTLOOK Beavers must be road weary. They will play their first home game since the end of November this weekend. They have a solid defense, but a suspect offense that could have problems scoring.</p>	<p>PLAYER TO WATCH ■ MONICA WATTS: Position: Guard Year: Senior Numbers: 10.6 ppg</p> 	Oregon State
Washington State	 <p>PLAYER TO WATCH ■ CARLOS DANIEL Position: Forward Year: Senior Numbers: 15.7 ppg, 9.3 rpg, five double-doubles in 12 games this season</p>	<p>1998 OUTLOOK Not only did the Cougars lose all-time leading scorer Isaac Fontaine to graduation, but Rodrigo de la Fuente, who was averaging over 16 points, signed a professional contract to play in Spain.</p> 			<p>1998 OUTLOOK The Sun Devils also boast an intense, attacking defense, averaging 11.1 steals per game, but they also will have problems scoring. Freeman leads the team at 15.2 per game, but it could be a long season for Freeman and Co.</p>	<p>PLAYER TO WATCH ■ STEPHANIE FREEMAN: Position: Guard Year: Senior Numbers: 14.0 ppg, 2.73 spg, 70.4 percent FT, had six steals vs. SMU</p> 	Arizona State