

Women: WSU has worst attendance

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But the close win at UCLA could be a bit disturbing for Cardinal fans and good news for the other nine conference schools.

When Stanford wins, it usually wins big. During the streak, only six of the Cardinal's 48 wins were by five points or less.

The game against the Bruins went down to the wire and could have gone either way if it wasn't for the Cardinal connecting on its last 14 free-throw attempts. In fact, UCLA actually led 59-57 with six minutes, 16 seconds remaining.

In all likelihood, Stanford will take care of business at home, where it hasn't lost a Pac-10 game since 1991.

But Arizona has proven the Cardinal can be beaten on the road, and the close game at UCLA should provide further proof that the Cardinal is not invincible.

Look for games at Washington

on Feb. 19 and at Oregon on March 5 to be the best chances for the Cardinal to get knocked off.

Is WSU really that bad?

What is wrong with fans in Pullman, anyway? First, fans failed to fill Marten Stadium for the majority of the football games in the Cougars' run to the Rose Bowl.

Now, Washington State is easily dead last in the Pac-10 in attendance for its women's basketball team.

No, the Cougars aren't challenging for a national title or anything, but they really aren't that bad at 8-6 overall and 2-3 in the Pac-10.

At least not bad enough that they should attract just 468 fans per home game, a whopping 3.9 percent of capacity.

Surely there isn't so much to do in Pullman that fans can't find time to watch some women's basketball, especially one of the pre-

mier women's basketball conferences in the nation.

Game of the week

A couple of weeks ago, this distinction could have gone to Washington at Stanford on Saturday. But the Huskies' little slump of late, losing three of their past four games, has taken care of that.

Arizona (11-3, 5-1) at Oregon (8-6, 4-2) is this week's most important Pac-10 matchup.

It is a chance for the Ducks to make a big statement to the rest of the Pac-10, with the chance to make it two wins over a ranked team in one week (the Ducks beat then-No. 13 Washington last Thursday).

Just 2-2 in McArthur Court this season, the Ducks don't want to fall below .500 in a building that Oregon head coach Jody Runge said is the conference's biggest home court advantage.

Alex's Women's Power Rankings

1. **Arizona:** Snapped Stanford's 48-game Pac-10 win streak to take over the top spot, for now
2. **Stanford:** Loss to Arizona, five-point come-from-behind win at UCLA prove Cardinal may be vulnerable
3. **UCLA:** The best of the rest? Two Pac-10 losses came against Stanford and Arizona
4. **Oregon:** Win at then-No. 13 Washington first against a ranked opponent since 1995-96 season
5. **Washington:** Losing three of past four conference games proves shooting 38.5 percent from field won't cut it in Pac-10 play



6. **Arizona State:** Impressive sweep of Washington schools then a good effort against Arizona. Devils could surprise some teams down the road
7. **Washington State:** Last 10 games: W, L, W, L, W, L, W, L, W, L. Hmm ... Stanford is up next
8. **USC:** Win against Cal snapped four-game losing streak
9. **Oregon State:** Some hope for this weekend: Beavers have swept the Arizona schools at home last four seasons
10. **California:** The name of the game is scoring and Cal can't, averaging just 57.2 points



Men: Stanford at Washington game of week

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against Oregon on 14-of-15 shooting and adding 18 points and eight boards against Oregon State.

OSU's Grady out indefinitely

Oregon State's Ron Grady left Saturday's loss to Washington with nine minutes left with an abdominal injury that reportedly caused him trouble breathing. After the game, Grady reported blood in his urine and was diagnosed with bruised ribs and a lacerated kidney. Grady joins the Beavers' Iyan Walker on the "out indefinitely" list, a label that could apply to the entire roster, judging by Oregon State's 0-6 Pac-10 record.

Sizzling in the desert

Arizona scored 127 points against Arizona State, a Pac-10 record for scoring in a conference game. The Wildcats are now averaging 96.6 points per game, two points better than the Pac-10 record set in 1972 by UCLA. The Wildcats boast three of the top seven scorers in the conference, with Michael Dickerson third at 18.3 points per game, Miles Simon fourth with 17.9 per game and Mike Bibby seventh with 17.4. The Wildcats beat No. 15 New Mexico at home on Sunday and should be a serious force come tournament time.

The Sun Devils also have three representatives among the top 10 in scoring, with No. 1 Jeremy Veal (20.1), No. 8 Bobby Lazor (17.4) and No. 10 Mike Batiste (16.6), but for a different reason than the Wildcats. Arizona State has used the same starting lineup in each of

its 22 games and features just nine scholarship players.

Transferring production
Transfers Geno Carlisle and Thomas Kilgore are starting to pay dividends for California, which is shooting 10 percentage points better since the two became eligible three weeks ago. Carlisle spent two productive seasons at Northwestern and needs just 24 points to reach 1,000 in his career, and Kilgore began his career at Central Michigan. Replacing Pac-10 player of the year Ed Gary is no easy task, but Carlisle and Kilgore certainly appear up to the challenge.

Game of the week

Stanford at Washington, Jan. 24.

This game deserves mention again, and the key matchup is between 7-foot centers MacCulloch and Stanford's Tim Young. MacCulloch has already amassed six double-doubles this season, and Young's absence from the Pac-10's scoring leaders is more a testament to the Cardinal's depth in the frontcourt than a lack of production from Young.

If the two neutralize each other as expected, the difference in this game will be in the backcourt, where each team features a veteran presence and not much depth. The Huskies' Deon Luton and Donald Watts should be on the floor most of the game, as should Stanford's Arthur Lee and Kris Weems. The Cardinal's David Moseley is the only other guard who should see significant action, and his three-point shooting should be the difference.

Rob's Men's Power Rankings

1. **Arizona:** The Wildcats' 19-point win over No. 15 New Mexico shows the Wildcats will be a force come tournament time
2. **Stanford:** The Cardinal have weathered the loss of starter Mark Madsen nicely
3. **UCLA:** Stanford proved the gap between second and third in the Pac-10 is large with a 13-point win over the Bruins
4. **Washington:** Player of the week Todd MacCulloch is showing more consistency in the past few weeks
5. **California:** The Golden Bears are breaking the conventional wisdom by playing better in conference than in the historically weak preseason



6. **USC:** The Trojans feature 10 players averaging at least 13 minutes, and 43 percent of the team's scoring comes off the bench
7. **Oregon:** If the loss to UCLA was close, why didn't they blow out WSU?
8. **Arizona State:** The rigors of the Pac-10 should catch up to the Sun Devils, as shown by Ahlon Lewis' average of 39.4 minutes
9. **Washington State:** Carlos Daniel cannot win single-handedly, even if he does get a double-double in every game
10. **Oregon State:** This team stinks! How do you shoot 14.7 percent (Pac-10 home games) from the three-point line?



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