

Injuries mount for Oregon's stars

The Ducks' 58-3 blowout of San Jose State last week cost them five of their biggest stars

By Scott Pesznecker
Oregon Daily Emerald

The Ducks will try to stop a three game skid against the Stanford Cardinal on Saturday, but if they are to win, they must do it without some very important players.

Five of Oregon's key players — all hurt last week in the Ducks' 58-3 rout of San Jose State — are currently on the injured list.

Linebacker Peter Sirmon, who led the Pacific-10 Conference in tackles last season, strained his pectoralis muscle. Head coach Mike Bellotti said he is concerned about the loss of Sirmon but that the team has received "positive news" regarding his recovery.

"Doctors and trainers are excited about the progress of his shoulder," Bellotti said. "The swelling

has gone down. Day to day, we will know more."

Tailback Herman Ho-Ching is sidelined with a knee injury and will be out four to six weeks, as will wide receiver LaCorry Collins, who tore ligaments in his thumb and is wearing a cast.

Defensive tackle Zack Freiter, playing his first game after sitting out his freshman season with a bad ankle, went down after two snaps when he aggravated his injury. There is a chance that Freiter's injury is not as serious, however, and that he could be back in as little as a week.

"It may have just been scar tissue," Bellotti said. "It can be very painful but when those things go. It can actually loosen up the ankle, so it could be a positive thing."

Despite the injuries, the Ducks are confident that injuries have not had a severe impact on the team. As they did against the Spartans, the Ducks will try to rely on depth to overcome the loss of key players.

"Behind every starter is a guy waiting in the wings, confident and ready to play," Sirmon said.

Injuries to starting players do make things more difficult for the second, third and fourth strings, Collins said. Players who may not see as much playing time are suddenly expected to play longer with more intensity.

"We have a lot of skill to step up, so it's not a big loss, really," Collins said. "But then (reserve player) rest time is limited. When somebody goes down, someone else is going to be pushed more. It is a lot more wear and tear on the body that can wind up with another injury."

The most frustrating part about being injured, Sirmon said, is game day. But he said that injured players can continue to better themselves.

"Once I get hurt, I don't quit getting better," he said. "I can help out with questions and still give advice to other players."

Pacific-10 Conference Leaders

Rushing	G	Att	Yds	Avg	Yds/Game
Simonton, Ken OSU	3	58	302	5.2	100.7
Morton, Chad USC	3	61	286	4.7	95.3
Lewis, Jermaine UCLA	2	38	176	4.6	88.0
Redmond, J.R. ASU	3	53	258	4.9	86.0
Gilmore, DeJuan WSU	3	42	236	5.6	78.1

Passing	G	Att-Cmp	Ints	Pct	Yds	TDs	YPG
McNown, Cade UCLA	2	62-37	2	59.7	654	4	327.0
Husak, Todd Stan	3	133-70	3	52.6	885	6	295.0
Smith, Akili ORE	3	69-40	1	58.0	781	8	260.3
Kealy, Ryan ASU	3	93-52	3	55.9	750	6	250.0
Huard, Brock WASH	2	80-43	2	53.8	496	5	248.0

Total Offense	G	Rush	Pass	Plays	Total	YPG
McNown, Cade UCLA	2	-1	654	69	653	326.5
Husak, Todd STAN	3	0	885	150	885	295.0
Smith, Akili ORE	3	44	781	85	825	275.0
Kealy, Ryan ASU	3	-5	750	103	745	248.3
Huard, Brock WASH	2	-17	496	86	470	239.5

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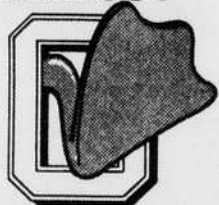
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