

Thompson

Continued from Page 9

ton State's miracle Rose Bowl run. Head coach Mike Price quickly learned that Thompson was at his best when Washington State had the most on the line.

Against rival Washington, in the game that would eventually crown Washington State as the Pac-10 champion and send the team to its first Rose Bowl appearance in 67 years, Thompson recorded a career-high 12 tackles and three interceptions — numbers good enough to earn Pac-10 Player of the Week honors for the final week of the regular season.

"He can be a spectacular player," Price says. "He's just great to have back there."

As if that weren't enough, the best cover-safety in the Pac-10 has added a new wrinkle to his game this season — offense.

Thompson, who earned six varsity letters as a wide receiver and defensive back at El Cerrito,

caught two passes for first downs against UCLA last week.

"I'll do anything to help this team win," Thompson says. "I know my main purpose is to play safety, but coach Price knows that he can put me in on offense if he needs to."

Depth at the wide receiver position has been a major concern for Washington State this season. A year ago, the Cougars ranked first in the Pac-10 and near the top of the nation in total offense. This season, following the loss of quarterback Ryan Leaf to the NFL and four receivers to graduation, the Cougars have fallen to sixth in the conference offensively averaging 353 yards per game.

"We need to make plays," he says. "We know we're not going to be able to outscore every team we play."

Certainly this has been a motivating factor that has enabled Thompson to pick up right where

he left off last season. He currently leads the Pac-10 with four interceptions in only five games.

"Every game I go into, I try and make plays whether I'm on offense or defense," Thompson says. "That's all I can do."

Washington State is ranked second in the conference against the pass this season, allowing opponents less than 200 yards a game through the air. The Cougars rank third overall in total defense and have intercepted a league-high 10 passes.

Price credits Thompson with being a big part of the resurgent Cougar defense.

"We've got one of the top teams in the entire country in terms of takeaways," Price says. "He's hugely responsible for that."

Which Thompson knows could eventually catch the eyes of NFL scouts.

"[The NFL] has always been a

Thompson File



WHO: Lamont Thompson
FROM: El Cerrito High School; Richmond, CA
STATS: started four games at free safety and appeared in 10 Pac-10 defensive player of the week last season against Washington led team with six interceptions last season all-ACCAL on both offense and defense his senior year in high school

dream of mine," he says. "But I try not to think about it too much. I'll be very fortunate if it happens to me. I have always dreamt that one day it could."

And it would be an ending that Maya Angelou herself couldn't have written any better.

Golf

Continued from Page 9

After the women's first day of competition on Monday was rained out, the Ducks finished day two of the three-day Bama Fall Preview with a score of 309. The Preview only invites the top 18 teams in the NCAA to compete.

Ranked No. 7 in the nation, the women are in a three-way tie for eighth place with Stanford and the Arizona.

Claire Hunter's triple-bogey score of 74 put her in a five-way tie for ninth overall and gave her Oregon's only top-10 finish. Karen Bristow finished 14th with a score of 75, Pam Sowden finished 39th and Angie Rizzo and Jerilyn White are in a nine-way tie for 73rd place.

Yankees take revenge on Indians 7-2 in Game 1 of series

By Ronald Blum
The Associated Press

NEW YORK — David Wells and the Yankees made sure pay-back was swift and brutal.

A five-run first inning blew Jaret Wright right out of the game, leaving the Indians with shocked, blank expressions.

Wells then shut out Cleveland until the ninth, and New York began its revenge for last year's playoff loss with a 7-2 victory Tuesday night in the opener of the American League championship series.

"I was geared tonight. I really wanted this," Wells said. "You win the first game, it can set a tone."

Paul O'Neill, Bernie Williams, Jorge Posada and Scott Brosius all hit run-scoring singles in the first off Wright, who beat the Yankees twice in Cleveland's five-game victory last fall.

Posada added a sixth-inning homer off Chad Ogea, and Williams hit a run-scoring double in the seventh as the Yankees won their fourth straight postsea-

son game and their season-high 11th straight overall.

"It takes a lot of pressure off you when you win the first game," Yankees manager Joe Torre said.

With their 118th win this year, the Yankees matched the major league record set by the 1906 Chicago Cubs, who won 116 in the regular season and two more in the World Series.

"The message to the fans was unbelievable," Wells said. "They deserve that because they're such

dedicated fans. They hold grudges more than we hold grudges."

New York, which had 11 hits, also set a team record with 21 consecutive shutout innings in the postseason, surpassing its 20 scoreless innings against the New York Giants in the 1921 World Series. The Yankees, who swept Texas in the first round, have outscored opponents 16-3 so far in the playoffs.

David Cone will try to extend

the domination Wednesday in Game 2, pitching against Charles Nagy in Yankee Stadium's famous October twilight shadows.

"Most teams have one No. 1 starter," Indians manager Mike Hargrove said.

"The Yankees are a little more blessed than others."

A year ago, the Yankees also won the first game against Cleveland. But it was hardly dominating, with New York overcoming a 5-0 deficit to win 8-6.

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