

Pass-happy Beavers will be tested by California

By Tim Pyle
Oregon Daily Emerald

California (4-3 Pacific-10 Conference, 2-2 overall) at Oregon State (4-4, 1-4)

Not that the always optimistic Beaver fans needed a reason to think their team is about to break out its 27-season losing funk, but Oregon State played courageously in nearly pulling off a win against Washington in Seattle last week.

However, the Beavers came up short again, as a two-point conversion fell incomplete with no time remaining in the Huskies' 35-34 victory.

Redshirt freshman quarterback Jonathan Smith's brilliant performance in relief of starter Terrance Bryant gives Oregon State head coach Mike Riley another dilemma besides trying to end the Beavers' losing ways. After Smith passed for a school-record 469 yards and three touchdowns in three quarters, many Beaver followers believe he deserves the starting job.

Riley agreed, naming Smith the starter this week.

The Golden Bears were able to contain No. 2 UCLA, but they still lost, 28-16, because of a lack of offense. Those scoring problems have plagued Cal all season, as evidenced by its No. 10 Pac-10 rank in scoring and total offense. Comparably, the Bear defense is ranked No. 2 in the conference.

For Oregon State to secure its first five-win season since 1971, whomever is playing quarterback will need to produce against the vaunted Cal defense. The Beaver defense will have to keep the Bear offense from finally breaking out as well.

Arizona State (3-4, 2-2) at Washington State (3-4, 0-4)

My, how times have changed. In 1997, this matchup would have been one of the best in the Pac-10. Now, the only people who care probably either current-

ly attend or have attended one of these two schools.

Actually, whichever team wins this game will reach .500 and still have a remote chance at a bowl game. Especially if the winner is the Sun Devils.

The Cougars are just attempting to ensure they will not fall from the high of the Rose Bowl, which they made in 1997, to the low of a winless, last-place season.

Arizona State tailback/kick returner J.R. Redmond, who leads the Pac-10 with 198.4 all-purpose yards per game, is the Sun Devils' — maybe the conference's — most exciting player. Running through Washington State should not provide much of a challenge for Redmond. The Cougar defense is the second worst in the conference.

Washington State head coach Mike Price is still searching for a productive quarterback seven games into the season. He replaced struggling starter Steve Birnbaum with Paul Mencke against Southern California two weeks ago. Mencke promptly tossed six interceptions.

Stanford (1-6, 0-4) at No. 2 UCLA (6-0, 4-0)

It does not look like the Cardinal is going to bust out of the Pac-10 cellar this week.

Quarterback and Heisman Trophy hopeful Cade McNown has probably been licking his chops while watching film of the Stanford defense, which gives up an average of almost 39 points per game. McNown should be padding his stats and practicing his pose come Saturday afternoon.

Stanford quarterback Todd Husak leads the Pac-10 with 301 passing yards per game.



Game of the Week

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Washington (5-2, 3-1) at Southern California (5-3, 3-2)

Both the Huskies and Trojans will be vying for magic win No. 6, which makes a team bowl eligible, when they butt heads for an ABC audience in Los Angeles on Saturday.

While Washington survived a 35-34 scare from Oregon State in Seattle last weekend to remain in the conference-title race, USC will try to equal its win total from last season after losing a hard-fought battle at Oregon, 17-13.

As with most of their opponents, the Trojans have dominated the all-time series, with a 41-25-4 edge. However, the Huskies have won the last two meetings, including a 27-0 vic-

tory in Seattle last season.

The Washington defense was dominant in that game, holding USC to 157 yards of total offense and recording five sacks among its 11 tackles for a loss.

Such a performance by the Husky defense is unlikely this time, as it is giving up more than 385 yards per game and ranks No. 9 in the Pac-10. Beaver redshirt freshman quarterback Jonathan Smith torched Washington for a school-record 469 passing yards in just three quarters last Saturday.

The Huskies seem to be improving offensively after the return of star quarterback Brock Huard, who threw for 240 yards and four touchdowns in last week's win. But Washington is still having severe tailback difficulties.

R. Jay Soward must play a key role for the Trojans to score points. Soward, a multi-purpose threat, averages more than 144 yards per game, but the Ducks held him to a career-low 19 total yards last week.

Tailback Chad Morton is another speedy threat for USC and is averaging 128 all-purpose yards, including 87 rushing yards. Morton showcased his explosiveness on a 70-yard catch and run against Oregon.

Linebacker Chris Claiborne and Sultan Abdul-Malik are the most punishing players on a tough Trojan defense that ranks No. 3 in the Pac-10. Claiborne, a Butkus Award candidate, has recorded 69 tackles, five sacks and four interceptions. Abdul-Malik leads the team with six sacks.

Pacific-10 Conference Leaders

Rushing Team	G	Att	Yds	Avg	TD	YPG
Droughns ORE	5	112	824	7.4	9	164.8
Redmond ASU	7	139	742	5.3	9	106.0
Simonton OSU	8	169	734	4.3	8	91.8
Morton, C USC	6	112	522	4.7	5	87.0
Canidate ARIZ	7	105	494	4.7	3	70.6

Receiving Team	G	Rec	Yds	TD	YPC	YPG
Pitts STAN	7	53	741	4	14.0	105.9
Farmer UCLA	6	27	581	4	21.5	96.8
Douglas CAL	7	56	667	3	11.9	95.3
Northcutt ARIZ	8	49	759	6	15.5	94.9
Griffin ORE	7	33	642	5	19.5	91.7

Eff. Team	G	Att	Yds	TD	Eff
Smith ORE	7	185	103	5	55.7
Smith ARIZ	8	117	80	5	68.4
McNown UCLA	6	176	96	5	54.5
Kealy ASU	7	158	86	7	54.4
Jenkins ARIZ	8	111	56	2	50.5

All Pur. Team	G	Rush	Rcv	PR	KR	Yds	YDG
Redmond ASU	7	742	170	242	235	1389	198
Droughns ORE	5	824	44	0	0	868	173
Northcutt ARIZ	8	47	759	292	185	1283	160
Soward USC	7	146	431	178	256	1011	144
Alexander OSU	8	3	385	87	565	1040	130

Pass. Team	G	Att	Cmp	Int	Pct.	Yds	TD	Ave
Husak STAN	7	304	161	6	53.0	2107	13	301
McN. UCLA	6	176	96	5	54.5	1607	12	267
Smith ORE	7	185	103	5	55.7	1870	19	267
Huard WASH	5	168	91	5	54.2	1047	10	209
Vedder CAL	7	228	125	6	54.8	1385	6	197

Punt Ret. Team	G	Ret	Yds	TD	AVG
Redmond ASU	7	17	242	1	14.2
Fletcher ORE	7	28	357	2	12.8
Northcutt ARIZ	8	26	292	0	11.2
Jarzynka WASH	7	31	314	1	10.1
O'Neal, D CAL	7	25	245	0	9.8

Ttl Off. Team	G	Rush	Pass	Plays	Total	YPG
Husak, T STAN	7	-17	2107	332	2090	298
Smith, A ORE	7	167	1870	226	2037	291
McNown UCLA	6	71	1607	207	1678	279
Huard, B WASH	5	-26	1047	182	1021	204
Vedder, J CAL	7	-98	1385	290	1287	183

Kick Ret. Team	G	Ret	Yds	TD	AVG
Moronk. WSU	7	13	457	2	35.2
Butler, T WASH	7	12	385	1	32.1
O'Neal, D CAL	7	15	467	0	31.1
Alexander OSU	8	19	565	1	29.7
Foster, D UCLA	5	7	189	0	27.0

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