

Pac-10 conference race heats up

While Washington is the current leader, other teams — including UCLA are hot on their heels

By Tim Pyle
Oregon Daily Emerald

Heading into the final weekend of Pacific-10 Conference women's soccer play, five teams still harbor hopes of claiming the conference crown.

Washington currently leads the Pac-10 with a 6-2 mark (10-7-1 overall). The Huskies and arch-rival Washington State (5-10-3, 3-4-1) have their final game against each other. The other four contenders — No. 17 UCLA (15-3-1, 5-2), Southern California (11-6-1, 5-2), California (11-7, 5-2) and Arizona State (8-9, 4-3) — have two games to play this weekend.

The Bruins and Trojans travel to the desert to battle Arizona (3-10-2,

0-6-1) and the Sun Devils, while California hosts Oregon (6-8-2, 3-4) and Oregon State (6-10-1, 1-6).

UCLA and Washington entered last Sunday sharing the conference driver's seat with one league loss apiece, but neither the Bruins nor the Huskies were able to capitalize on their advantage.

Southern California got a boost from senior forward Courtney Barham to upset rival UCLA 5-4 and win its fifth-straight game. Barham scored two goals, including the game-winner in the 89th minute, despite having started the game on the bench. She was named Pac-10 player of the week for her efforts and pushed her career total to 35 goals, which is the Trojans' all-time leading total.

Washington was blanked, 1-0, on its home field in Seattle by Stanford (9-6-2, 3-4), which used Ronnie Fair's fifth goal of the season to complete a sweep of the

Washington schools.

Whichever team ends up on top of the Pac-10 will be rewarded with an automatic bid to the NCAA Tournament, which will announce its field Sunday evening. In the likely case of a tie between two teams for the conference title, the team which won the regular season head-to-head game between the two will be awarded the automatic bid to the tournament.

If more than two teams tie for the title, the team which possesses the highest point total in head-to-head competition between all of those teams (three points for a win, one point for a tie, 0 points for a loss) will receive the bid.

Fabulous freshmen

The Pac-10 has had an influx of high-scoring freshmen this season, with 10 such newcomers among the conference's top-30 scoring leaders.



Matt Garton/Emerald

Forward Chalise Baysa leads Oregon with eight goals and 16 total points this season.

Former Arizona State star tells his story

The Associated Press

MESA, Ariz. — A former Arizona State basketball star who pleaded guilty last year to sports bribery conspiracy in games against Washington and other schools is telling his story in a national sports magazine.

Stevin "Hedake" Smith has told a Sports Illustrated writer he had been "well taken care of" during his stint with the Sun Devils, according to The Tribune, a newspaper serving suburban Phoenix.

The first-person story written with the help of reporter Don Yaeger will appear in a soon to be released issue of the magazine, the Tribune said today. In it Smith, the Sun Dev-

ils' No. 2 all-time leading scorer, also tells how he got into the habit of gambling.

Though the federal probe of the 1994 scandal is over and resulted in a number of guilty pleas and sentences, Smith's story suggesting gifts from boosters could lead to an NCAA investigation.

Yaeger told the Tribune Smith met with an Arizona State official several weeks ago to discuss possible rules violations. Yaeger also said Sports Illustrated interviewed other sources to verify Smith's claims.

Wally Renfro, NCAA director of public relations, said he hadn't seen anything pertaining to the report.

Women's tennis starts tournament

The team enters the Rolex Regional Tournament in Palo Alto, Calif., today

By Mirjam Swanson
for the Emerald

Having seen marked improvement at its first tournament and on the practice court, the Oregon women's tennis team hopes to convert those gains into success at the Rolex Regional Tournament, which begins today in Palo Alto, Calif.

"I'm excited to see us play our second event," head coach Jack Griffin said. "Our No. 1 concern is that we keep getting better. We've seen progress, and this is another chance for us to translate that over to our matches."

The only factor clouding the Ducks' prospects as they head into the individual tournament is the status of Alina Wygonowska.

Oregon's top player is suffering from tendinitis in her knee and may not be able to compete in the tournament, where she would be the sixth seed.

"Her knees are really bothering her," Griffin said. "We're kind of on a holding pattern on whether we're going to play her in singles. It's pretty frustrating, but I don't want her going out there if she doesn't have a legitimate chance of playing her best tennis. We'll wait and see."

Everyone else on the team is healthy, including two of the team's promising freshmen, Adeline Arnaud and Janice Nyland.

Two weeks ago, they both faltered in their first collegiate matches at the Washington Invitational. Griffin credited the losses to freshman jitters. But they later wound up facing each other in the consolation champi-

onship, which Arnaud won, 6-3, 4-6, 7-6.

"Janice Nyland and Adeline Arnaud played very well," Griffin said. "They were playing some really good tennis. I'm looking forward to some good results from them. It's their second chance, and I think they're going to be more comfortable with playing college tennis."

They'll have to find the comfort zone against some of the best players in the nation this week. No. 3 Stanford will be at the tournament, as will several other highly ranked teams.

California, ranked No. 6, will be there, as will Washington, Washington State and Fresno State.

"It's going to be great," Griffin said. "The level of our players is getting better, so I think there are going to be some great matches."

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