

Beavers host streaking No. 3 Bruins

The UCLA and OSU programs are traveling in different directions

By Tim Pyle
Oregon Daily Emerald

No. 3 UCLA (7-0, 5-0) at Oregon State (4-5, 1-5)

Not that teams should need extra incentive to play well and win, but both of these teams need good performances and victories in this game if they are to reach their season goals.

The difference in those goals illustrates the vast discrepancy between these two programs. While the Bruins are seeking their first national championship since 1954, the Beavers are looking to break a string of 27 consecutive losing seasons.

Following a 28-24 win against Stanford last Saturday, UCLA dropped to third in the Bowl Championship rankings that determine who plays for the national title in the Fiesta Bowl. The Bruins know they must produce impressive results in their final four regular-season games to realign

the rankings in their favor. And quarterback Cade McNown is entering the final leg of the Heisman Trophy race.

Oregon State quarterback Jonathan Smith, a redshirt freshman, will try to relocate the accuracy that allowed him to pass for a school-record 469 yards two weeks ago at Washington. In the Beavers' 20-19 loss to California last Saturday, Smith connected on just 17 of 58 throws.

Sorry farmers, but barring an upset of catastrophic proportions, UCLA will ensure Oregon State finishes an overall loser for the 28th straight year come Saturday.

Southern California (6-3, 4-2) at Stanford (1-7, 0-5)

A week after giving the Bruins all they could handle, the Cardinal is still hoping to get a firm handle on its first conference win heading into its matchup with the Trojans.

Having star flanker Troy Wal-

ters at full strength makes Stanford a much better team, as is evidenced by the 10-total points that have separated the Cardinal from wins the past two weeks. In those two games, Walters has hauled in 20 passes for 323 yards.

Now that USC has made itself bowl eligible with six wins, the Trojans will use their remaining three games to try to solidify their postseason standing. After all, USC was passed over despite its six wins last season.

Washington State (3-5, 0-5) at No. 10 Arizona (8-1, 4-1)

Unless the Wildcats have a major letdown following their 38-3 dismantling of Oregon last week, the Cougars do not figure to earn their first conference win this week.

After rolling up 268 rushing yards on the Ducks, Arizona will surely continue to hand off to tailback Trung Canidate and fullback Kelvin Eafon repeatedly. If Washington State finds a way to stuff the run, Wildcat quarterbacks Keith Smith and Ortege Jenkins will simply switch gears and throw to deadly wideouts Dennis Northcutt and Jeremy McDaniel.



Game of the Week

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California (5-3, 3-2) at Arizona State (4-4, 3-2)

Neither of these teams will be playing in Tempe, Ariz., come early January when the national champion will be decided there in the Fiesta Bowl, but this game will go a long way toward determining whether or not these teams play in a bowl game at all.

The Golden Bears and Sun Devils have taken different routes to their current tie for fourth place in the Pacific-10 Conference. While Cal has surprised prognosticators with its winning record, Arizona State has shocked the experts with its struggles.

Two of the conference's top offensive performers will be showcased in this matchup.

For the Bears, wide receiver Dameane Douglas stands out on an otherwise stagnant offense, which ranks last in the Pac-10. Douglas leads the conference and is third in the nation with 71 receptions. His average of nearly nine receptions per game puts him on pace to better the Pac-10 single-season reception record of 90, which was set by Southern California's Keyshawn Johnson in 1995.


Multi-dimensional tailback J.R. Redmond is the Sun Devils' most dangerous weapon. He leads the Pac-10 in both rushing yards per game with nearly 93

and all-purpose yards per outing with almost 174. His all-purpose output also ranks him fourth in the country.

Cal should be wary of Redmond's game-breaking capabilities because he ran for 114 yards and scored two touchdowns (one rushing, one receiving) in Arizona State's 28-21 win against the Bears in Berkeley, Calif., last season.

Linebackers Albert Dorsey, Matt Beck and Sekou Sanyika of Cal's formidable defense, which is ranked second in the Pac-10, will be charged with keeping Redmond contained.

Sanyika leads the Pac-10 in tackles for loss with 20, including seven sacks.



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