

## Women

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Washington in two weeks, probably their toughest remaining game because UCLA has already split with Oregon and Stanford this season.

If the Huskies (11-11, 7-6), who are hoping to secure a NCAA Tournament berth of their own, aren't able to beat UCLA, look for the Bruins to run the table in the Pac-10 and put an awful lot of pressure on the Ducks and Cardinal down the stretch.

### Oregon

At the start of the season there was a small camp of reporters

who picked the Ducks to threaten UCLA and Stanford for the Pac-10 title. That camp has grown in size each week since the start of Pac-10 play.

The Ducks control their own destiny, meaning if they win the rest of their games, Oregon will be the Pac-10 champion for the first time in school history.

Unfortunately, the Ducks still must play Stanford in Palo Alto on March 4. So the last weekend of the conference schedule could decide this season's champion.

Look for UCLA to keep an eye on

this matchup and sneak back in front of the Ducks if Oregon falls.

### Stanford

The Cardinal certainly have the most difficult schedule down the stretch: Washington at home this week, on the road against Arizona (13-8, 8-4) and then the titanic matchup with Oregon.

But this team has nothing to lose. A preseason top-10 team, Stanford started the season 6-7 and fell from the top 25. Now, the Cardinal has rebounded and stand an excellent shot at capturing its fifth straight Pac-10 title.

## Brown

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ergized both the Ducks and their fans and sparked serious talk of the postseason amid a three-game winning streak.

The 94-81 victory over the Huskies on Saturday was even more special for Brown.

The Seattle native scored 14 points, including two threes, and dished a career-high eight assists in his ultimate game against his hometown school's team, which includes his younger brother, Bryan, and childhood friend and rival Donald Watts.

And the performance also earned Brown career totals of more than 1,000 points and 200 three-pointers.

Brown is the 20th Oregon player to reach 1,000 points and ranks second on the all-time three-pointers-made list behind Orlando Williams, who converted 282 threes during his sterling career.

"I was more happy to have a winning streak," Brown says of the celebratory smile he unleashed after that game. "Of course, we beat the Huskies, and that's the school from my home town and everything. It really felt good for me because I had the last say."

"You're only as good as your last game, and that was our last game against the Huskies."

However, the impressive statistics Brown has accumulated in his Duck career, culminating in Saturday's milestone night, are not going to lead to complacency.

"I'm never satisfied," says the 21-year-old. "I'm just going to keep striving for the rest of the season and try to improve myself."

"I don't think you can ever be content or satisfied with what you have. You always have to work for more."

Kent says that work ethic and the experience Brown has gained from playing in 106 Division-I games for Oregon is invaluable to the team.

"He brings the leadership of a guy who's been in this conference and been through all the battles and been to all the arenas and knows all the personnel," Kent says.

"[He] kind of gives you an added coach in that type of environment to get guys ready for games."

In the course of this turbulent

season, Brown has conversed more with his father, former NBA star "Downtown" Freddie Brown, than he says he did all of last season.

And Terik has also taken to driving to the basket with increasing regularity.

The three-pointer, shot in his signature long, looping style, is certainly still Brown's weapon of choice — he ranks second on the team with 34 triples this season — but Brown has been forced to discover other methods of scoring in Kent's new offense.

"With trying to work myself back in and some things not going like I wanted them to offensively, I found myself putting the ball on the floor a little bit more," says Brown, who is third on the Ducks in scoring with more than 11 points per game.

"The type of offense we've put in has opened the floor more for us, and coach Kent's given me more leeway to put the ball on the floor."

Kent also sees other recent improvements in Brown's overall game.

"He's made himself a much better defender and is even starting to expand his game to where he's doing a really good job of finding people and passing the ball," Kent says.

In adding those new dimensions to his game, Brown has resolidified his position as Oregon's starting shooting guard of the present, with Jones coming off the bench as the shooting guard of the future.

When asked for a defining moment in his illustrious career, Brown struggles.

There was the game at Oregon State late last season when his two free throws boosted the Ducks to a 50-48 win.

There was the game at California as a freshman, when he poured in 23 points.

But a single best highlight?

"I think it's just all been one steady, above average, not getting too high or too low type of thing," Brown says.

"We've got some game left. Hopefully, I can get some highs out of those."

Yes, the climactic season is not yet complete.

So Brown and his teammates still have the chance to create a storybook ending.

# HOOPS 101

**Q1:** Which women's basketball team is in a three-way tie for the Pac-10 lead after winning its last six games?

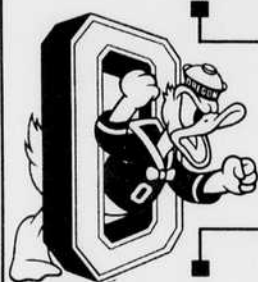
A1: Oregon Ducks

**Q2:** Which women's basketball team is ranked 18th in the nation?

A2: Oregon Ducks

**Q3:** Where can you find the most exciting, heart-pounding entertainment in Eugene this week?

A3: Mac Court



**Last chance to catch the Duck women on their drive for a Pac-10 title.**

**vs. Arizona State**

Friday, February 19

7:00pm

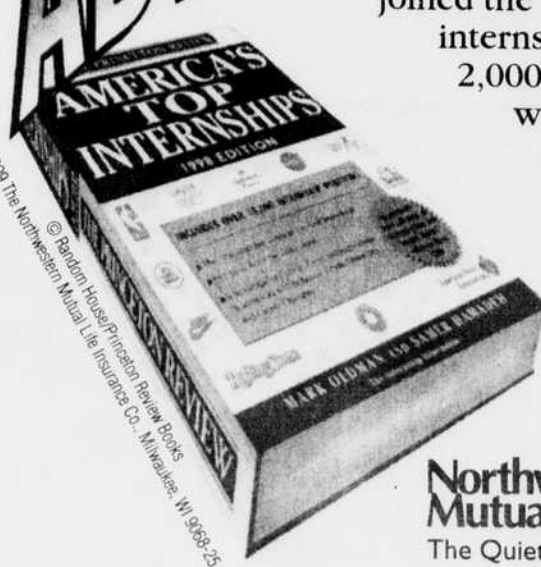
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Sunday, February 21

1:00pm

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## Men

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Adam Spanich over the Ducks at McArthur Court on Jan. 7.

But USC (12-10, 4-9) hung tough with Sports Illustrated's preseason pick to win it all even after blowing a double-digit second-half lead. Despite Stanford's frenzied comeback late in the game, the Trojans — to head coach Henry Bibby's credit — regrouped and finished out their shocking 86-82 overtime win.

In the process, USC sent this immediate message reverberating around the country in reference to No. 2 Connecticut, which humbled the Cardinal on their home court, 70-59, on Feb. 6: Anything UConn do, we can do, too.

California's 85-67 blowout of the Bruins and Oregon's 94-81 stop to the Huskies' recent win-

ning streak, which had reached five straight and eight of nine, served as exclamation points to the Pac-10's team depth, which is better than any other conference's in the country.

"Last year, we may have been strong through a certain number of teams, but there were some at the bottom that were not nearly as competitive," Arizona head coach Lute Olson said of the hard-to-figure Pac-10.

"This year, I think that's probably turned around. There is no such thing as a gimme anymore."

The Pac-10's intensely competitive composition should not be overlooked come NCAA Tournament selection time.

Tim Pyle covers men's basketball for the Emerald.

## Sports Brief

### Defensive lineman signs letter of intent

Van Brown, a 6-foot-5, 240-pound defensive end from Alhambra High School in California, has become the

25th football standout to sign a letter of intent with Oregon, head coach Mike Bellotti announced Tuesday.

Brown is the younger brother of Seattle Seahawks Pro Bowl linebacker Chad Brown.