

**Game of the Week****Stanford (4-2, 4-0) at Southern California (3-3, 1-2)****By Jeff Smith***Oregon Daily Emerald*

It's time for the honeymoon to end.

As the wacky Pacific-10 Conference season heads into the home stretch, the team that sits comfortably atop the division is the Cardinal.

The Cardinal? The same team that lost at home to inferior San Jose State 44-39?

The same team that barely pulled out an ugly 21-17 comeback victory last weekend over Oregon State?

Yes, that team. But it's all about to end for those bookworms by the Bay.

Southern California is in no mood for another loss after what happened in South Bend, Ind., last Saturday.

"It was a very difficult afternoon for us at Notre Dame," head coach Paul Hackett said in a released statement.

Difficult? No, difficult is an understatement.

In the third quarter the Trojans held a 24-3 lead, but they self-de-

structed and lost 25-24 to further scar the Pac-10's diminishing reputation.

Now the Trojans host Stanford, a team it has beat five of the last six times. Stanford relies heavily on its offense, which is a good thing because its defense is currently ranked 110th in the nation.

Quarterback Todd Husak needs to produce another strong performance in the air if Stanford hopes to push its league mark to 5-0.

But the Trojan defense, ranked third in the Pac-10, should be able to contain the Cardinal offense enough to give its offense a chance.

From there it's all up to junior quarterback Mike Van Raaphorst and his ability to get the ball to R.Jay Soward and Chad Morton, who USC offensive coordinator Hue Jackson labeled the "Energizer Bunny."

One thing's for sure: if USC doesn't blemish Stanford's record Saturday at 12:30 p.m. on ABC, then the Cardinal's Rose Bowl dreams will keep going... and going... and going.

**OSU seeks first Pac-10 win****By Jeff Smith***Oregon Daily Emerald***UCLA (3-4, 1-3)****at Oregon State (3-3, 0-3)**

What happened to all the talk of championships in Corvallis?

Beaver fans got a little bit carried away when their "new" Beavers were 3-0.

But then came the Pacific-10 Conference season, and with it, the three straight losses.

But never fear Beaver faithful because the UCLA Bruins are headed to town this weekend.

The Bruins are in disarray following their 17-0 loss at home last Saturday to California, their first shutout defeat in more than five years.

Beaver quarterback Jonathan Smith has improved his numbers from a season ago in helping Oregon State lead the Pac-10 in passing offense. Expect Smith to have a solid game against the Bruin defense, which ranks seventh in passing defense.

And if the score is close at the start of the fourth quarter, don't plan on having it stay that way.

The Bruins have been outscored 43-6 in their last three fourth quarters. Anticipate the trend continuing and, Dennis Erickson recording his first Pac-10 win.

**Washington (3-3, 2-1)**  
**at California (3-3, 2-1)**

There are five games remaining for California to earn a bowl berth.

But that's the bad news. If recent history is any indication, the Golden Bears are in for a long second half. California has gone 1-4 to close each of the last three seasons.

Last week's 17-0 shutout win at UCLA has California right in the middle of the bowl hunt, but a big problem stands in the way — the Huskies.

Washington has won its last 16 meetings with California. The Huskies have held the Bears to less than 20 points in 11 of the last 13 games and must do the same this weekend in order to get the win. Washington quarterback Marques Tuiasosopo will have his hands full with California's stingy defense, ranked first in the Pac-10.

But the problem is that the

Golden Bear offense is ranked 109th in the nation and another poor showing will lead to a Washington victory.

**Washington State (2-4, 1-2)**  
**at Arizona State (3-3, 2-1)**

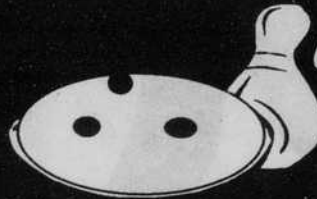
Something has to give when the Sun Devils, last in the league in rushing defense, host the Cougars, last in the league in rushing offense.

Both the Cougars and Sun Devils are coming off blowout wins, but there was a big difference in opponents.

The Cougars knocked around inferior Louisiana-Lafayette 44-0 at home, whereas Arizona State beat the Huskies 28-7 in Seattle.

Sun Devil quarterback Ryan Kealy reached 5,000 career passing yards last weekend, but he might find it tough to break through the Cougar secondary, which ranks third in the Pac-10.

In the end, Washington State's two-game winning streak should come to a close, but the Cougars can take solace that those are two more wins than they were predicted to get.

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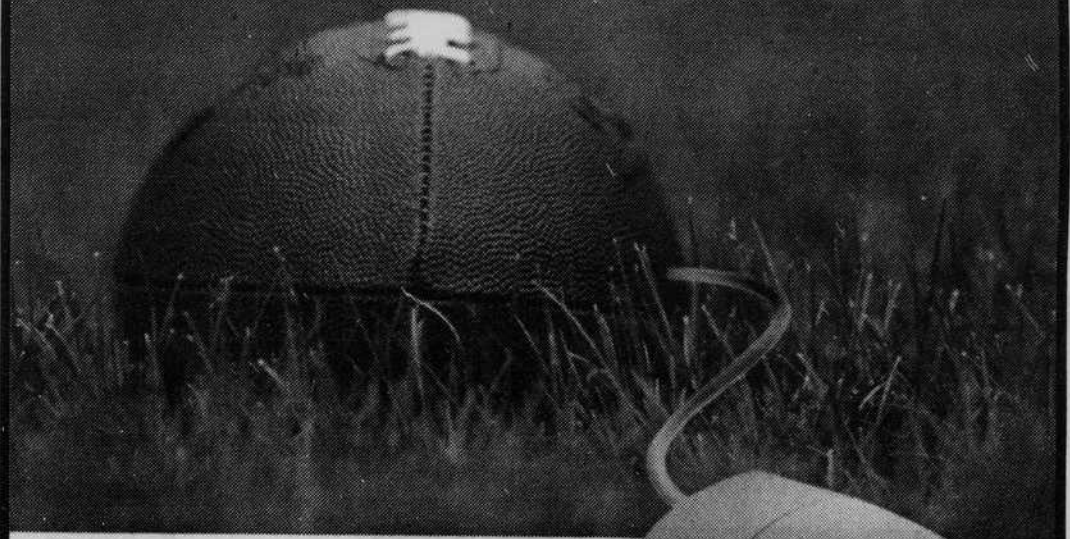
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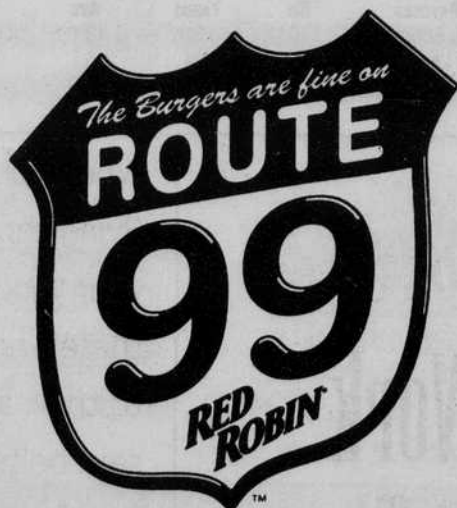
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