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him, so that's really scary."

A bright note for the defense is the play of linebacker Adam Archuleta, Pac-10 defensive player of the week for his performance against Washington State. Archuleta is averaging 10.7 tackles per game. It was the fourth out of the six games he recorded more than 10 tackles.

"I'm glad to see he got some recognition," Snyder said. "He is playing with so much confidence. He believes he can make every play. He sizes things up and says I think they are going here and 90 percent of the time he's right."

If the defense is the key to Rose Bowl dreams, then the offense is the keyhole. Without it, the door to Pasadena can't be opened.

Quarterback Ryan Kealy seems finally to be getting on the right track after an injury-plagued first half of the season. In the opener against Texas Tech, Kealy missed the first quarter due to torn carti-lage in his right knee, an injury that required arthroscopic surgery. Eleven days after the surgery, Kealy looked awful in the Sun Devils' embarrassing 35-7 loss to New Mexico State. Against California in the next game, Kealy was forced out in the third quarter with bruised ribs.

In the last three games, Kealy has been healthy enough to complete 53-of-92 passes for 593 yards and three touchdowns.

"Ryan Kealy is just starting to hit his stride," Snyder said. "His shortto-medium game is fabulous. He missed on a couple of long balls, but I think he's finally feeling comfortable running the offense.



50th career Pacific-10 Conference win last weekend at Washington State... an

Oregon alum, he played linebacker and fullback for the Ducks from 1960-1962... first collegiate coaching position was as an Oregon assistant (1965-71)... before that, was an assistant coach at Sheldon High School in Eugene... in his eighth season with Arizona State... was consensus national coach of the year and Pac-10 coach of the vear in 1996.

Alongside Kealy will be all-purpose senior running back J.R. Red-mond and emerging sophomore tight end Todd Heap. Redmond, busted out for 165 yards on a career-high 35 carries against the Cougar s. Heap has 27 catches for 394 yards.

"You recruit wide receivers, and you think that's where you have to throw," Snyder said. "You tend to think of the tight ends as an afterthought. It seems to me that when we move the ball, we get the ball to Todd Heap and we run with J.R. Redmond. Then things start to fall in place.'

For the Sun Devils to "fall" into Pasadena, Snyder must hope his defense - ranked ninth in the Pac-10 - can contain the likes of Trung Canidate, Re Droughns and Chad Morton. Reuben



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