



Quarterback Mike Van Raaphorst and USC have struggled mightily this season. *Scott Barnett Emerald*

Pac-10

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against their D (six). They also forced the Beavs (6-3, 3-3) to punt a school-record 15 times. A feat that earned punter Mike Fessler honors as the Pac-10 special teams' player of the week.

Regardless of all that, Cal's young offense is straight woeful. The Bears' are currently No. 110 out of 114 Division I-A teams in total offensive output.

And not surprisingly, they're last in the Pac-10 in scoring offense, pass offense, pass efficiency and, yes, total offense.

But folks down in the Bay Area are seemingly expecting prompt improvement.

A recent San Francisco Chronicle story explained: "With games remaining against Oregon and Stanford — two teams that are weak defensively — the Bears still have a chance for a winning record and a bowl game."

It must be stated, however, that the Ducks' defense is significantly less "weak" than Cal's offense.

Oregon is coming off back-to-back quality defensive games in which it held its opponents to a combined 27 points. And Peter Sirmon, Brandon McLemore, Dietrich Moore and Co. currently rank fifth in the Pac-10 in both scoring defense and rushing defense.

Happy, happy, joy, joy Southern California (3-6, 1-5) wasn't supposed to be bad to start with, and they certainly weren't supposed to be this bad.

Not only have the Trojans plummeted to the bottom of the conference standings, but twice they've blown 21-point leads. They're one of only three USC teams ever to lose five straight games.

Fans are calling for head coach Paul Hackett's head, while asking a psychologist to check the heads of his players.

The Los Angeles Times published an entire story about what one Professor Callaghan, a teacher of sports psychology who doesn't yet have an affiliation with Trojans' football program, had to say about the situation.

Callaghan's professional opinion: "My main thought, there's not much joy on the field. I'd probably try to tell them to bring some joy back in the game. When there's no joy in the game, you become machine-like, robotic. I think it's almost to the stage where they've lost their joy, and they should try to get it back."

Hackett has a slightly different professional theory.

He blames some crucial, late-game, momentum-shifting turnovers for much of USC's troubles.

But he also conceded that there may be more to it than that. Only that he's not yet familiar with what it could be.

"If it was a simple solution, I think I would have arrived at it by now," Hackett said.

He could likely find the elusive solution this weekend because the Trojans travel to Pullman, Wash., where they'll take on a Washington State team that is even worse than they are.

Maybe that will make them happy.

Oregon Daily Emerald

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- Entertainment
- The Emerald
- Fun
- All of the above

Horoscope by Linda C. Black

TODAY'S BIRTHDAY (Nov. 10). Wealth is your objective this year, and you're in store for a surprise. Ask for what you need in December. Push yourself to learn in January. Follow a pretty woman's advice in February and a generous man's lead in April. Your mate steers you around an obstacle in May, but you take charge in August. That's when the money comes in. Hide away in September.

To get the advantage, check the day's rating: 10 is the easiest day, 0 the most challenging.

ARIES (March 21-April 19) — Today is a 6 — Be cautious today, especially about information. Ask more questions than you answer. The winners at this game will be calm, cool and patient. So, don't lose your temper — no matter what. This is good for you.

TAURUS (April 20-May 20) — Today is a 7 — Work with a partner for maximum success. The two of you can make a strong showing. Work out your differences and agree on your goals, first. If you can manage that, others won't have a chance.

GEMINI (May 21-June 21) — Today is a 5 — There's way too much to do. Besides that, just about anything that could go wrong will. Knowing that ahead of time, give yourself several backups and a couple of extra escape routes. You're smart enough to get through, but victory may be delayed.

CANCER (June 22-July 22) — Today is a 7 — You are busy, most likely. Pay close attention 'cause things are changing fast. Snoozing is not recommended. Love looks good if you can find time for it and if you have any energy left.

LEO (July 23-Aug. 22) — Today is a 6 — You should have a pretty good attitude. You're learning, and that's good. You're not taking yourself too seriously, either. Keep most of what you're learning to yourself a while longer, however. That's smart, too.

VIRGO (Aug. 23-Sept. 22) — Today is a 6 — A few disruptions and changes come about.

You like to have your routine established, and that's not happening yet. No need to wait until people in on your frustration. Wait until you have a more coherent picture to present.

LIBRA (Sept. 23-Oct. 23) — Today is a 6 — You may still be concerned about money. You should be used to that by now. This is not how it always has to be. You can learn how to save, as well as make more. Go ahead and clip those coupons; it'll be good for you.

SCORPIO (Oct. 24-Nov. 21) — Today is a 7 — You should be kind of quiet today, especially about money. You can discuss a deal that will make you wealthier, but that's all. You can convince a person to pay back what's owed to you, for example.

SAGITTARIUS (Nov. 22-Dec. 21) — Today is a 5 — You're usually lucky when the moon's in your sign, but the sun's in Scorpio now. You want to talk, but you really shouldn't. Even somebody you trust doesn't need to know everything yet. Listen, instead.

CAPRICORN (Dec. 22-Jan. 19) — Today is a 7 — Your friends can get you some good deals now, so let them know what you need. You're under a bit of stress, but that's OK. It could motivate you to do something you've been thinking about.

AQUARIUS (Jan. 20-Feb. 18) — Today is a 4 — Get the work done first, especially if you don't want to. The temptation to goof off is strong, but it's not a good idea. If you don't have anything else to do, read. Look busy and play later.

PISCES (Feb. 19-March 20) — Today is a 7 — Travel and work are connected again, maybe even required. You can combine the two quite successfully now, and you might slip some fun in while you're at it. Give yourself plenty of time and listen much more than you talk.

095 PERSONALS
TKS
Thinking of you always makes me smile. ♥D

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