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# Kitchen, ASU start off hot

■ Arizona State is the Pac-10's biggest surprise so far, beating both Stanford and California last weekend

## WOMEN'S NOTES

By Mirjam Swanson  
Oregon Daily Emerald

It's nothing short of a case study in college basketball parity.

Especially now that Stanford, almost untouchable for the past decade, has tumbled back to Earth — with some help, of course, from Pacific-10 Conference counterparts.

Any of the Pac-10 teams can beat one another on any given night, given the correct variables. Witness Arizona State, which was picked to finish no higher than fifth in preseason polls, surprisingly off to its best start ever. The Sun Devils (9-3 overall, 2-0 Pac-10) began Pac-10 play by beating California and also, for the first time in 14 meetings, the Cardinal — for which head coach Charlie Turner Thorne once played.

Arizona State is healthy, confident, and basically, hot, just like their senior guard Kitch Kitchen. She was named the conference's player of the week after averaging 13 points, 6.5 rebounds, 2.5 assists and 2.5 steals in last weekend's wins.

It's all to the delight of its third-year head coach.

"Being able to get over the hump against Stanford was a huge boost, for not only our program, but for our kids individually," Thorne said. "We had the sense that we could beat anybody we play, but we hadn't really gotten over the hump. It was a big weekend for us and hopefully we can continue to change history a little bit — we haven't played real well in Seattle the past three years."

It won't be a surprise if the Sun Devils find themselves 4-0 on Sunday morning, after playing against Washington and Washington State.

It's plausible because the Cougars are bad. Possible because the Huskies are inexperienced and struggling.

Still, there's no presuming anything.

### Ready, set, draw

The Washington schools certainly did their part to help escalate the hype — or attempt at hype — that's preceding the Southern California-UCLA rivalry match up this weekend at Pauley Pavilion.

After beating up on the Washington schools, the Women of Troy and the Bruins are both 2-0 in conference play.

UCLA beat the Cougars by 27 and the Huskies by 36.

And despite the Women of Troy's shortage of post players, coach Chris Gobrecht won't allow 6-foot-4 freshman Portia Mitchell to play until she can run 1 1/2 miles in 11 minutes. "Every player in the last 20 years has been able to do that," Gobrecht told the Los Angeles Times. "I'm not going to compromise on that requirement now" — they beat Washington State by 10 and Washington by 11.

In honor of the occasion, the Bruins' marketing people are making a push to set a Pac-10 single-game attendance record, according to UCLA head coach Kathy Olivier.

The Bruins currently rank third in conference attendance, drawing 3,441 fans per game. Oregon is first, averaging 4,720, and Stan-

ford is second, at 3,768.

Undoubtedly, drawing big crowds to watch women's college hoops is harder in an international hotbed of entertainment like L.A. than it is in smaller cities like Eugene.

"UCLA and USC have the most difficult jobs in the conference as far as attracting fan support," Gobrecht said. "The things we have to deal with are entirely different than what Oregon has to deal with."

"[We] have to make sure you win."

“UCLA and USC have the most difficult jobs in the conference as far as attracting fan support.”

Chris Gobrecht  
coach, UCLA

We've got to play attractive schedules, we have to be highly competitive and exciting teams and then we have to get the media to really believe that this is good stuff. And if you can do it in L.A. ...."

Well, UCLA is supposedly going to give it a shot.

"We're excited about having two good L.A. teams playing each other," Olivier said. "Hopefully, we'll set a Pac-10 record, like we're trying to do."

Among the ongoing promotions Olivier mentioned was an event called "Going to college," which is targeted at local high school students who are invited to attend a pregame discussion featuring UCLA athletes talking about future career opportunities.

However, the Bruins' ticket office is in the dark about the aforementioned activities.

### Not messing around anymore

Ignorant, like the Bruins' point guard Erica Gomez claimed her teammates were about UCLA's playbook.

In an effort to get a rise out of her teammates, fire them up and make them mad, she blasted her teammates in the L.A. Times a week ago — "This team, so far at least, doesn't have a clue."

Their response?

"They know Erica better than anyone," Olivier said. "So if you know Erica, you know that's how she is. They handled it maturely, put it in perspective ... took it as, OK, time to stop messing around."



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