

## No figuring the peculiar Pac-10

Stanford is starting to look like it's old self in women's action, and surprising USC is unbeaten on the men's side. See Pac-10 notes. **PAGES 8, 12**

### Scoreboard

#### Wright reprimanded

WALNUT CREEK, Calif. (AP) — Arizona's Michael Wright was reprimanded by the Pac-10 Conference on Tuesday for an apparently intentional blow he delivered to the face and neck of Southern California's Abdullah Elmagbari in a game last week.

Wright also was placed on probation for the remainder of the season by Pac-10 commissioner Tom Hansen.

"Any blow to the head area in athletics competition is a serious matter, and when it is struck away from the ball when a competitor has no reason to expect contact, it has a high chance of causing serious injury," Hansen said.

Hansen said Wright would have been ejected from Saturday night's game at USC if officials had seen the incident. The Trojans defeated Arizona 80-72.

USC coach Henry Bibby called the reprimand "ridiculous."

"It's a slap on the wrist," he said. "The kid should have been tossed out of the game that night and suspended. I don't know how there couldn't have been a foul called."

#### Rodman might be a Mav

DALLAS (AP) — Dennis the Maverick? Stay tuned.

Dennis Rodman spoke with the Dallas Mavericks again Tuesday, just as the team was placing Gary Trent on the injured list. The move opened a roster spot and left Dallas in need of a starting power forward.

"I think everybody is kind of ready for a bit of a gamble," coach and general manager Don Nelson said before the Mavericks played the Golden State Warriors. "If it works out, that'll be fine." If a deal is struck, Rodman would get \$500,000 for the final 41 games, beginning Thursday night at home against the Los Angeles Clippers.

Rodman flew in Monday and met for two hours with Nelson and Mark Cuban, who is buying the team. The flamboyant forward and Internet billionaire continued talking Tuesday to decide whether the two sides made a good fit.

#### Thomas has surgery

MIAMI (AP) — Derrick Thomas underwent more than four hours of surgery Tuesday to rebuild part of his spine and doctors said his spinal cord was not damaged as badly as feared.

Thomas' spinal cord was severely bruised, neurosurgeon Barth Green said. Doctors originally thought it might have been severed when Thomas, 33, was thrown from his car Sunday after losing control on an icy highway near Kansas City, Mo. Thomas broke his spine and neck and wound up semiconscious with no feeling in his legs.

Though the NFL star remained paralyzed from the chest down at Jackson Memorial Hospital, doctors expressed hope he'd walk again.

"There have been cases of people with similar injuries who have recovered and there have been people who haven't recovered," Green said. "Anybody who knows Derrick knows that you don't bet against him. But it's too early to tell right now. We just have to see how he does."

#### Best Bet

NCAA Basketball  
Arizona vs.  
Arizona State  
7 p.m., FoxSports  
Net



# Sports

## Big Smooth

On and off the court, Guillermo Carter has been a calming influence on the Ducks

“He kind of took me under his wing last year. He set a good example for me on what an Oregon tennis player should be.”

David Becker junior, Oregon tennis

By Matt O'Neill  
Oregon Daily Emerald

It's great when you don't have to sell a school to a recruit.

It's an added bonus when that athlete really wants to play for your team.

That was the case Oregon men's tennis coach Chris Russell when he found Guillermo Carter four years ago.

"He wanted to come here," Russell said. "It is always nice to have a player who wants to play at your program. More often than not you have to sell the bank to get a player to come."

Carter met Russell while he was coaching Stanford players at a tournament in Mexico. Russell saw Carter's potential while he played against a Stanford player who Russell was coaching.

"He was very competitive," Russell said. "He had a good presence on the court and I knew he was going to get better. I knew right away that he could play at the collegiate level."

For Carter, coming to Oregon involved more than just playing tennis. He turned down other schools, includ-



Azle Malinao-Alvarez Emerald

Senior Guillermo Carter has returned to the Oregon squad even better than when he left.

ing Texas El Paso and Fort Lauderdale College, mainly because a friend recommended Oregon.

"I had a good friend here and I heard it was very beautiful up here," Carter

said. "It was also a [Pacific-10 Conference] school ..."

As part of Russell's first recruiting class, Carter quickly became the cornerstone of Oregon tennis. His calm de-

Turn to **Tennis**, page 8

## Fans not worthy of Super Bowl joy

St. Louis and Tennessee fans don't support 'their' teams the way Houston and L.A. fans did

With the Super Bowl only four — yup, four — days away, everyone seems excited about the pairing of two new, exciting teams to breathe new life into the National Football League.

But I'm definitely not. Instead, I look at the game between the St. Louis Rams and Tennessee Titans and I feel sad. Nothing against the players or the coaches, because they proved all year long that they deserve to play in the grandest game of them all.

But rather, I feel sad for the cities of Houston and Los Angeles — a city I despise mind you.

Only six years ago, both cities were homes to the Houston Oilers and Los Angeles Rams, and it was those fans who did all of the suffering.

It was those fans who watched, year after year, as their teams ached through another frustrating losing season.

It was those fans who had their hearts broken as money-hungry owners Bud Adams and Georgia Frontiere shipped their teams to

brand new cities.

And in those brand new cities came a new crop of "die-hard" fans.

Give me a break.

I watched as some of those new fans went wild in an exuberant celebration after the Rams knocked off the Tampa Bay Buccaneers. They celebrated as if they had been in Los Angeles themselves throughout the years watching their team lose.

But they weren't.

Granted, St. Louis sports fans are some of the best in sports. For example, last

Turn to **Jeff Smith**, page 9



Jeff Smith