

Doug Lee

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and leadership has also created a bit of a legend for the 184-pounder.

"I had heard about him before I came here," said Harris, a junior college transfer. "I heard that he was a tough guy and about how dominating and powerful he is."

That domination has allowed Lee to run through the Pac-10 undefeated, boasting a 17-0 record in dual matches, earning a No. 8 ranking and a third trip to nationals, which he feels he is more ready for this year — from March

“He was wrestling the No. 6 guy in the nation and made him look like he never wrestled before.”

Chuck Kearney
head coach

16 to 18 — than in any of his previous appearances.

"I feel that I have rounded my technique more," Lee said. "I have more of an offensive attack."

One of the factors in his development this season is that the team is younger than last season's squad was. Lee said that has forced him to take more of a leadership role as one of the few upperclassmen on the team.

"I'm the kind to lead by example," Lee said. "This year I've had to become a little more verbal because I am more of an upperclassman."

While he has become more vocal this year, Lee is not the type of person to get up in front of the team and give a big motivational speech to fire up his fellow teammates. He simply goes out there and shows what it takes to be successful.

That leadership has helped some of the younger grapplers realize how a great wrestler works

and what it takes to become one.

A good indication was his match at this year's Pac-10 Championships. Lee took control of a higher-ranked Lionel Halsey from Cal State Bakersfield, winning his second consecutive title.

"He wrestles guys like he did [for] the Pac-10 title," head coach Chuck Kearney said. "He was wrestling the No. 6 guy in the nation and made him look like he never wrestled before. It lets our wrestlers know that they could do the same thing."

"If they put in the work and develop the mind set, then they too can do the same things that Doug does."

Harris points to the match against Halsey as Lee's best match of the season so far. It's the perfect instance of what Lee means to the team.

"You see someone dominate like he did and you try to pick that up," Harris said. "Usually if he does that, then by the third period, his opponents have given up already. That's what he did against Halsey."

Both Kearney and Lee are hoping that he uses his domination at the Pac-10s as a spring board for the national tournament.

"That was one of my best performances," Lee said. "I just got to keep the ball rolling now. Go off of that and take the positives and how I felt during that match."

Kearney echoes his player's ideas but still feels that Lee hasn't yet recognized how good he really is.

"Understanding that he is one of three premier guys in the country — once he starts to do that, he'll do some things that are pretty special," Kearney said.

Despite all the honors and success Lee has achieved, he still has a humility about him. And he realizes that he still has a long way to go.

"You can't look at it like you're defending your title," Lee said. "You have to go in there and wrestle because you can get beat by anyone at anytime. You have to go after it."

Women

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In the case of a tie, two- or three-way, the following formula will determine which team receives the automatic bid.

The team with the better record against the next highest-placed team in the final conference standings gets the automatic bid that goes to the conference's first-place team.

Should Stanford beat the Wildcats and clinch the tie, then the automatic bid will likely go to Stanford. That is, unless Arizona drops further behind in the race by losing to California on Saturday.

Confused yet? If it's still tied after all that, the automatic qualifier will be determined on a coin flip by the Pac-10 commissioner.

Keeping in theme, the only consistent variable here is that it's impossible to predict what's going to happen with these inconsistent teams.

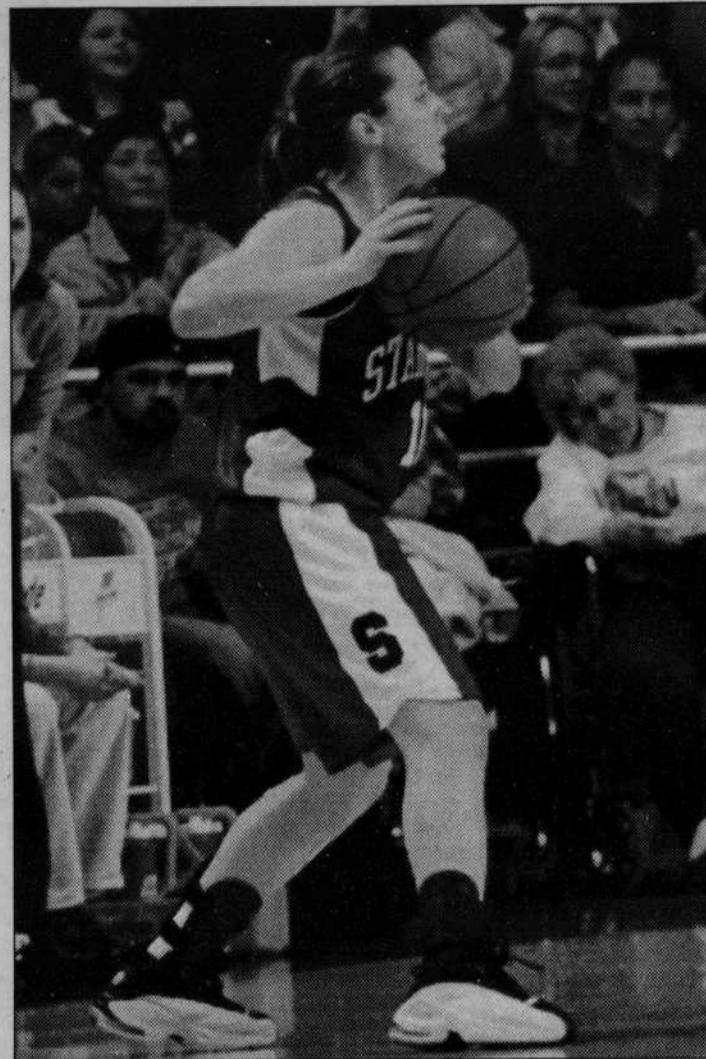
Predicting Pac-10 postseason awards

Three players — the Bruins' Nicole Kascmarski, Washington's Loree Payne and Stanford's Jamie Carey — all deserve consideration for Pac-10 freshman of the year award, won last season by the Ducks' Williams, who is now up for the Pac-10 player of the year honor.

Like most things in the Pac-10, freshman of the year is unpredictable too.

So, naturally: Expect the award to go to ... Carey.

Payne, a six-foot shooting guard from tiny Havre, Mont., might be the best all-around player of the trio. Like her counterparts, she's started all 25 games and is fourth in the con-



Kevin Calame Emerald

Stanford's Jamie Carey is one of three freshmen with a shot at Pac-10 freshman of the year title, competing with UCLA's Nicole Kascmarski and Washington's Loree Payne.

ference in scoring, averaging 16.8 points per game on a ninth-place team that averages 66 points per contest.

Nicole Kascmarski has, at moments, lived up to her spectacular billing coming to UCLA. The 5-11 New Yorker jumped in at point guard early in the season in place of an injured Erica Gomez, and has since moved to shooting guard.

Through it all, she's improved, averaging nearly 12 points per game in Pac-10 play. But her Bru-

ins team, like her, has been streaky — beating the Cardinal last Friday and then getting thumped by Cal on Sunday — and won't finish higher than second.

But the 5-6 Carey, the Cardinal's next great point guard, has averaged 12.3 points per game in the Pac-10, is first in three-point shooting percentage — hitting 47 percent of her shots behind the arc — and has been a major clutch contributor on a team that could win the conference title.

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