

ESPN preview to highlight Oregon-UCLA game

■ The Ducks prepare to host a television network; officials hope for a large turnout despite early start time

By Jeff Smith
Oregon Daily Emerald

ESPN prides itself on its in-depth research.

The supreme sports television network has a huge contingent of staff that extensively keeps tabs on all major college sports teams.

But it freely admits that it bypassed a certain school as a potential destination during its pre-season planning for the hit weekly "College GameDay" preview show.

"We scouted a lot of different schools before the season that were possible sites for our show," said ESPN spokesman Mac Nwulu, re-

garding the show that travels around each week to the site of the biggest college football game of that weekend. "But nobody thought we'd be at Oregon so we didn't scout them. Although there were definitely some people who thought that we should."

Rightfully so, it turns out, as ESPN has chosen Eugene as its destination for "GameDay," with the Oregon - No. 6 UCLA clash as its headliner.

"We feel that with the Pac-10 performing as it has, we wanted to showcase them and really, this is the best game in the country this weekend," Nwulu said. "UCLA has beaten two number three ranked teams in a row and Oregon played Wisconsin very tough down to the end."

"This game has national championship implications."

"College GameDay" is anchored by Lee Corso, Chris Fowler and Kirk Herbstreit. The three were at the site of the Florida - Tennessee tilt on Sept. 16 and the Nebraska - Notre Dame game on Sept. 9.

Saturday's contest will mark the first time ever that the show has tel-

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Oregon athletic
director

vised from the Northwest and only the second time that it's ever been on the West Coast. Coincidentally, the last time the show ven-

tured out west was when it chose to have its GameDay crew in Los Angeles two seasons ago for UCLA's wild 41-38 overtime win over the Ducks.

Oregon officials are well aware of how huge an opportunity this is to gain national exposure and hope that the community responds accordingly.

"We are extremely excited to be the first college in the Northwest to host ESPN," Oregon athletic director Bill Moos said. "I encourage all of our students, fans and alumni to join me Saturday morning and take part in what will be a great national showcase for the University of Oregon and the Pacific-10 Conference."

The preview show will be broadcasted live from 8 a.m. to 9 a.m. outside of Autzen Stadium on Saturday morning. According to Ore-

gon media services, the outdoor set will be located on the far practice field in the corner, just outside of Papé Field, furthest away from Autzen.

The site was chosen to give as much grass between the set and the stadium, in order to fully capture the view of the Moshofsky and Casanova Centers, the stadium, as well as the Coburg Hills in the background.

The parking lots to Autzen Stadium will be opened at 7 a.m. and pre-game festivities will take place at 8 a.m. inside the Moshofsky Center. Also at 8 a.m., there will be an interactive display in the Moshofsky Center that will be put on by Tostitos, the official sponsor of "College GameDay."

"I think it's very exciting to have ESPN coming to Eugene," Oregon Turn to **Broadcast**, page 14

San Jose State has all the makings for a colossal Trojan upset

■ Ninth-ranked USC looks to better its 2-0 record against the dangerous Spartans

By Robbie McCallum
Oregon Daily Emerald

While Southern California enjoys its first appearance in the Associated Press Top 10 poll, it must watch out for dark horse San Jose State. On paper, it's all Trojans — ninth-ranked USC sports a 2-0 record against the 2-1 Spartans.

But San Jose State has everything in the making for an upset.

Following a 49-13 season-opening loss against top-ranked Nebraska, San Jose State rebounded with

a 40-27 upset over cross-town rival Stanford. The Spartans fine tuned their offense last weekend with a 47-7 demolition of Southern Utah.

Leading the San Jose State attack is tailback Deonce Whiteaker. The senior is averaging 182.7 yards per game.

Countering for the Trojans is sophomore Sultan McCullough, younger brother of former Oregon tailback Saladin McCullough. The tailback is 22nd in the nation in yards per game with 109.5. In wins over Penn State and Colorado, Mc-

Cullough led the Trojans in rushing and receiving.

USC coach Paul Hackett was cautious yet optimistic in a press conference Wednesday.

San Jose State "played at Nebraska and Stanford so they're prepared to play on the road," he said in a released statement. "They have the combination of a quarterback who can throw well in that three and four receiver offense, and a great running back to hand it off to. That means we'll have to be well prepared for the game."

"We face a tremendous opponent this week, but our players are improving and starting to learn the

system," Spartans coach Dave Baldwin said. "At this point, I like what I see. I like the camaraderie and attitude of this team."

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Also helping the USC cause is sophomore quarterback Carson Palmer, who threw for 275 yards

with 83.3 percent accuracy against Colorado last weekend. Palmer returns to the Trojan lineup after an injury sustained against Oregon sidelined him last season.

Southern California place kicker David Newbury earned Pacific-10 Conference special teams Player of the Week honors after kicking the game-winning field goal last week against the Buffaloes.

The Trojans currently hold the longest winning streak in the Pac-10 at five games dating back to last season.

Southern California is hosting the 500th game ever played at the Los Angeles Memorial Coliseum.



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