

Bowl games on minds of many Pac-10 teams

■ As the Pac-10 heads into the final stretch, more thrills should be expected

By Adam Jude
Oregon Daily Emerald

It's November, baby, and that means it's time for the Pacific-10 Conference to start seriously thinking about the postseason.

With three games remaining, the Ducks head to chilly Pullman and hope to contain the Cougars' flashy passing game.

The Beavers will try to continue to terrorize opposing defenses as they head to the Bay Area to take on the surprising California Bears.

Southern California puts its winless conference record against an outraged Arizona State.

After a fourth-quarter come-from-behind victory over Arizona last week, UCLA will host Stanford in the Rose Bowl.

And in the biggest game of the week, Arizona will try to snap a two-game losing streak at Husky Stadium in Seattle (and help the Ducks out a little).

Oh boy, oh boy, it's going to be a fun weekend. So let's get it on.

Oregon State (7-1 overall, 4-1 Pac-10) at California (3-5, 2-3)

Ken Simonton.

He's no longer a secret weapon, but Oregon State's junior running back is darn good. He's moved his way into 10th-place all-time in Pac-10 rushing yards, and is leading the 14th-ranked Beavers to their best start since 1964.

Can he do more of the same in Berkeley? Statistically, the Bears have held their opponents to an average of 111 yards on the ground, which is third best in the conference. Simonton is fifth in the nation with 145 yards per game. How well

Cal contains Simonton will decide this matchup.

Stanford (3-5, 2-3) at UCLA (5-3, 2-3)

"We're still in position to have an all-right season," UCLA quarterback Cory Paus told the Orange County Register. "Hopefully, we can use this win on the road and take it for a little momentum."

UCLA's momentum, which got a tremendous lift after a gut-wrenching victory at Arizona, will have to face the arm of Stanford quarterback Randy Fasani. When Fasani is the starter, the Cardinal averages more than 27 points per game and 414 yards of total offense.

If Stanford still hopes to be in contention for a bowl game, it must win its final three games of the season.

"We just want to get to that 12th game," wide receiver DeRonnie Pitts said. "Now it's do or die. We just lost our margin for error."

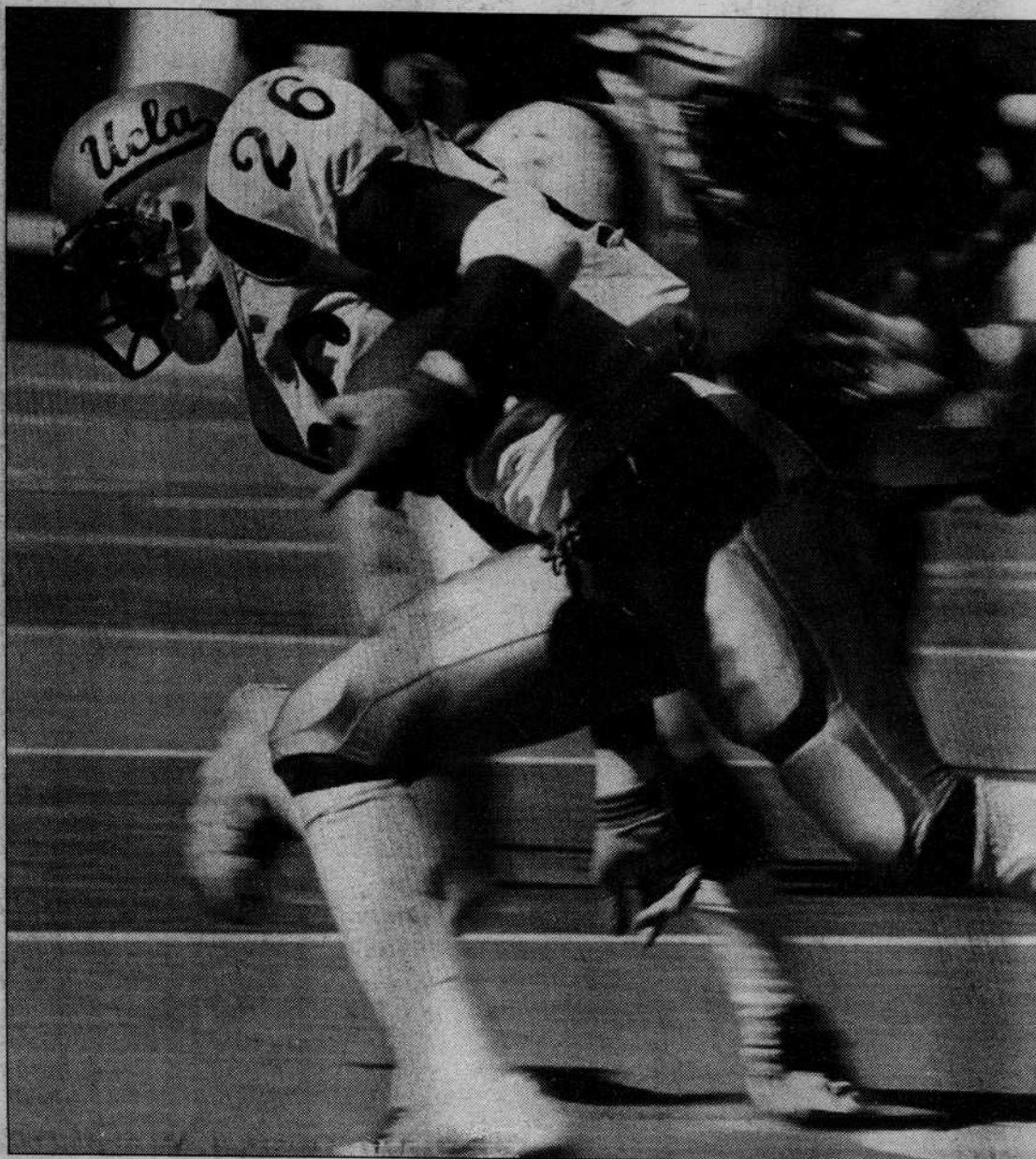
USC (3-5, 0-5) at Arizona State (5-3, 2-3)

You have to feel sorry for those Trojans. And even more so for Paul Hackett, their soon-to-be former coach.

After being projected by many to win the Pac-10 title, USC sits alone at the bottom of the conference standings.

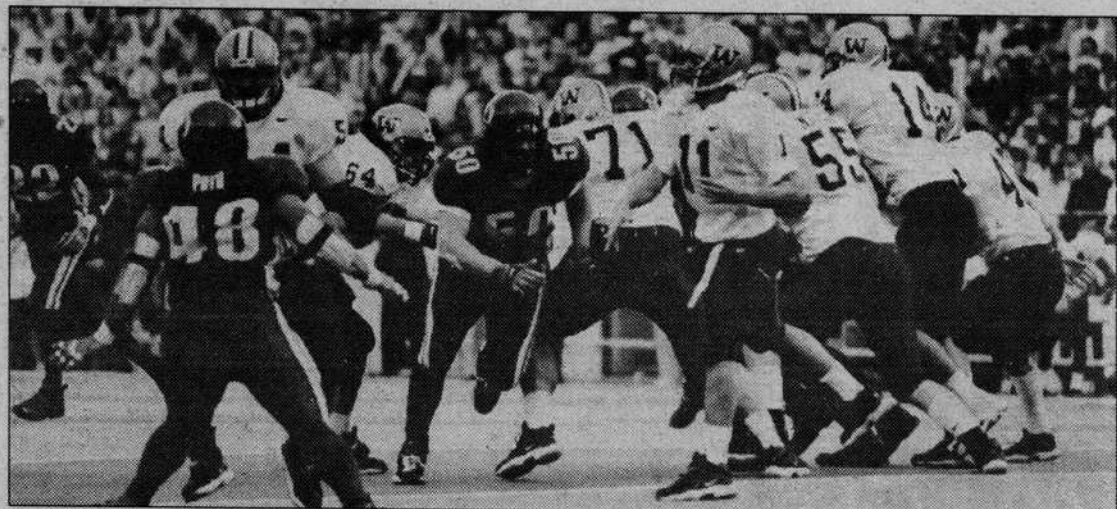
And now USC must head into a hostile Tempe environment, where you know the Sun Devils are steaming mad and looking to take out their frustration after last week's double-overtime loss to the Ducks.

"Obviously, it was a really emotional and intense game," Arizona State head coach Bruce Snyder said. "Five or six guys were crying, and that's OK because of the work put into the game. There wasn't helmet throwing or screaming or yelling. My sense tells me they will bounce back... we're going to be fine."



Erin Swanson-Davies Emerald

DeShaun Foster and the Bruins will try to build on their defeat of Arizona last week when they face Stanford.



Dan Brunell Emerald

Washington will try to ride on the arm of Marques Tuiasosopo (11) to win its fifth straight game when it plays Arizona in Tempe this week. Washington has won four of the teams' last five meetings.

Huskies, 'cats do battle in Seattle

■ An emotional Husky team will try to stop Arizona, which looks to end a two-game skid

By Adam Jude
Oregon Daily Emerald

Thoughts of the injured Curtis Williams — whose status is still uncertain — are on the minds of the Washington players and coaches as the senior safety lays in Stanford Medical Center after suffering a spinal cord injury during the Huskies' 31-28 victory in Palo Alto, Calif., last Saturday.

While it's been an emotional week for the No. 8 Huskies (7-1 overall, 4-1 Pacific-10 Conference),

they know they have a game to play against a tough Arizona (5-3, 3-2) club.

"I think you let the kids deal with [their emotions] the way they think is appropriate to deal with it," Washington head coach Rick Neuheisel said. "Yet, you make sure we all understand this is what we have to do and we go. I don't think you try to push away the human emotions that exist. I don't think you ignore them; that would be silly."

"I don't think there is any question that it is going to be difficult."

The Wildcats are focusing on ending a two-game losing streak, but it won't come easy in front of 70,000-plus die-hard fans at Husky Stadium. Washington has won four of its last five meetings with Arizona.

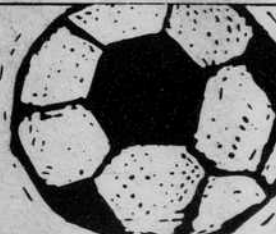
One of the major factors in the

game will be at the quarterback position. Washington's option-oriented offense relies heavily on Marques Tuiasosopo, who is third in the Pac-10 with 240 yards of total offense per game.

Arizona quarterback Ortege Jenkins — famous for his somersault leap into the end zone the last time he was in Seattle — rushed for a career-high 104 yards on 11 carries, but also threw four interceptions in last week's loss to UCLA.

"I think he'll be fine," Arizona head coach Dick Tomey said of Jenkins. "I don't think there is a quarterback who hasn't had an ugly game or two. The great ones have had those kind of games. He handled [the last game] like a champion, and he stood up there and took more responsibility than he needed to take."

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