

A tight race looms in 2001

■ Arizona is off to a great start after beating Stanford in the opening week, but don't count out the Cardinal for the Pac-10 championship

By Adam Jude
Oregon Daily Emerald

With the first week of Pacific-10 Conference play under wraps, the contenders and the pretenders are beginning to shape up — and it looks like nothing is going to be predictable this year.

UCLA, the conference co-champions in 1999, may be one of the biggest shockers of the year, as the Bruins have won only a single game so far this year. Washington, on the other hand, may prove to be this year's sleeper, and perhaps contend for the league title.

Oregon will be in the hunt for its third consecutive crown, while the Cardinal looks to hold true to projections and win the conference.

1. No. 22 Arizona Wildcats (12-2 overall, 2-0 Pac-10)

Head coach: Joan Bonvicini, 10th year

Player to watch: Reshea Bristol, G
A 68-65 victory over Stanford to open the first week of Pac-10 play will boost an experienced Wildcat lineup, which leads the conference in scoring at nearly 82 points per contest.

A first-place finish is not unlikely for Arizona — a team that finished 25-7 last season and made an appearance in the second round of the NCAA tournament — but it would be surprising for many around the league, who projected the 'Cats to finish no better than fourth in 2001.

2. No. 20 Oregon Ducks (8-3, 1-0)

Head coach: Jody Runge, 8th year
Player to watch: Angelina Wolvert, F

With Shaq out, the Ducks have shown that they can compete against tougher opponents. The question on everyone's mind,

though, is can they win down the stretch and conquer the Pac-10 again without the star point guard?

Seniors Angelina Wolvert, Jenny Mowe and Brianna Meharry will be key for the Ducks in the paint, as they have helped Oregon become the best field goal shooting team in the league thus far.

3. No. 24 Stanford Cardinal (7-5, 1-1)

Head coach: Tara VanDerveer, 14th year

Player to watch: Lindsey Yamasaki, G

Don't let their preseason record fool you; Stanford is going to be a major contender again this year. The Cardinal are a great shooting team, leading the league in free throw and three-point percentages, and are second in scoring. Saturday's matchup at The Pit should be a fun one.

4. Washington Huskies (9-3, 2-0)

Head coach: June Daugherty, 4th year

Player to watch: Megan Franza, G
As the best rebounding team in the conference, the Huskies may be the biggest surprise in the Pac-10 after a dismal 8-23 season last year.

"Last year we lost some games that were tough like this, and there were questions about how tough this team really was," Daugherty said after Washington beat USC 91-79 in triple overtime last week. "The best thing to do is to just get in there and work hard and make those question marks go away. That is a lot about what this team is about."

5. Southern California Trojans (5-7, 0-2)

Head coach: Chris Gobrecht, 4th year

Player to watch: Denise Woods, C
The Trojans are a fairly young squad, with a pair of freshman — Ebony Hoffman and Aisha Hollans — leading the team. The team's first winning record (16-14) since 1997 was good enough to earn them a trip to the WNIT last season.

6. Arizona State Sun Devils (9-5, 1-1)

Head coach: Charli Turner Thorne, 4th year

Player to watch: Amanda Levens,

G
The Devils' defense has made its mark already this year, holding opponents to 57.4 points per game. In fact, No. 2 Tennessee scored just 67 against Arizona State, which is more than 16 points less than the Lady Vols are averaging this season.

7. Oregon State Beavers (8-3, 0-1)

Head coach: Judy Spoelstra, 6th year

Player to watch: Felicia Ragland, G
Despite losing 71-67, the Beavs held the Ducks to the closest score in the Civil War in four years. An easy schedule in the preseason didn't challenge Oregon State too much, so they may not be fully prepared for Pac-10 play. They do, however, have the top scoring defense in the league, allowing just 56.7 points per game.

8. Washington State Cougars (7-5, 2-0)

Head coach: Jenny Przez, 2nd year

Player to watch: Brittney Hawks, C

The Cougs have already won more Pac-10 games this year than they did all of last season, but it's hard to tell if they are a legitimate contender. Just to be safe, let's not mess with tradition; we'll keep them toward the bottom of the pile for awhile.

9. California Bears (4-8, 0-2)

Head coach: Caren Horstmeyer, 1st year

Player to watch: Ami Forney, F
With the 10th toughest schedule in the country, the Bears' preseason may have prepared them well for a tough Pac-10 schedule.

Then again, maybe not.

10. UCLA Bruins (1-12, 0-2)

Head coach: Kathy Oliver, 8th year

Player to watch: Michelle Greco, G

What happened here?
Last year at this time, the Bruins were cruising as the nation's 17th-ranked team and looking to protect their share of the Pac-10 crown. Now, after being swept by the Washington schools, UCLA will be lucky to pick up any conference wins.

Fine Latin style entrées in our friendly atmosphere

CELEBRATE MID WINTER

CAFE NAVARRO

454 Willamette St. 344-0943

"Our Mistake, YOUR PRICE BREAK!" WE ARE OVERSTOCKED!

90 DAYS SAME AS CASH

TWIN MATTS \$49
TWIN SET \$65
FULL SET \$69
QUEEN SET \$109
KING SETS \$179

AMERICAN MATTRESS WILL NOT BE UNDERSOLD

FREE DELIVERY	FREE SET-UP	FREE COMFORT GUARANTEE
KING KOIL FIRM SUPPORT	KING KOIL SUPER PLUSH	KING KOIL PILLOW TOP
TWIN SET \$169 ⁰⁰	TWIN SET \$239 ⁰⁰	TWIN SET \$299 ⁰⁰
FULL SET \$199 ⁰⁰	FULL SET \$289 ⁰⁰	FULL SET \$359 ⁰⁰
QUEEN SET \$259 ⁰⁰	QUEEN SET \$359 ⁰⁰	QUEEN SET \$399 ⁰⁰
10-Year Warranty	10-Year Warranty	10-Year Warranty

Bring in this ad for FREE DELIVERY

AMERICAN MATTRESS MANUFACTURING

4075 W. 11th 343-2690

Mon - Sat 9-6
Sun 11-5

To earn a 4.00 in Brewology all you need to know is STEELHEAD.

- 9 Award-Winning Micro-Brews
- Soups, Salads Ribs Fresh Pizza
- Sandwiches Pastas Burgers
- Spirits Home-Made Rootbeer

TAKE A BREW HOME IN STEELHEAD'S BOX O' BEER

Steelhead Brewing Company

199 East 5th Avenue Eugene, OR Phone 686-2739
Eugene, OR - Burlingame, CA - Fisherman's Wharf, San Francisco, CA - Irvine, CA

rainbow optics

SUNGLASS SALE

KZEL 96.1 Oregon's Best Rock

WILLAMETTE PASS

10% OFF

All sunglasses and goggles in stock

SPY

Register at any Rainbow Optics and win daily prizes of a Willamette Pass Lift Ticket and a SPY T-Shirt.

Rainbow Optics, wants you to hit the slopes in style. Grand prize winner drawn from daily winners will win a pair of new SPY "Micro-Scoop" sunglasses and a pair of new SPY "Scoop Blizzard" Snow Goggles.

SPY Announces the Release of the New "Micro-scoop" sunglasses. The Scoop™ frame venting system in which air rushes through the vents and draws out moist air from around the eyes, thus eliminating fogging.

CAMPUS 766 E. 13th St. Eugene 343-3333
WEST SIDE 18th & Chambers Eugene 343-5555
SHELDON Oasis Marketplace Eugene 484-9999

listen to 96.1 KZEL FM Sid & Mark show for daily winner names.

ODE ARCHIVES Find ODE stories since 1994 @ www.dailyemerald.com