

Nobody's perfect in close Pac-10 title chase

■ After a great start, Arizona drops consecutive games in L.A., but Arizona State is on its way up

By Adam Jude
Oregon Daily Emerald

Oregon's loss to Washington State was the biggest shocker of the weekend, but it wasn't the only one.

No. 19 Arizona, heading into its weekend series in Los Angeles as the Pacific-10 Conference's top team, dropped consecutive games at UCLA and Southern Cal, the Ducks' next opponents.

Now, there are no unbeaten in what is becoming one of the most competitive conferences in the country.

Against the winless Bruins, Arizona (14-4 overall, 4-2 Pac-10)

could not get past Michelle Greco, the Pac-10 leading scorer who guided UCLA with 29 points en route to a 59-56 overtime victory Saturday.

"We got beat in every phase of the game," said Joan Bonvicini, Arizona head coach. Southern Cal "just wanted it more and it showed in everything ... their hustle, defense and steals."

And Thursday's 81-67 loss to USC (6-9, 1-4) didn't help Arizona's bid for its first-ever Pac-10 championship.

"We played against teams that were really scrappy," Arizona guard Reshea Bristol told the Arizona Daily Star. "They may not have the best record, but they definitely gave it their all."

Arizona is now 14-4 overall and tied for second with a 4-2 Pac-10 record.

A Devilish demolition

After its first road sweep since the 1992-93 season, and its first sweep of the L.A. schools since the early '80s, Arizona State (12-6, 4-2)



Laura Smit Emerald

Point guard Kourtney Shreve and the rest of the Ducks hold a lead over Stanford and the rest of the Pac-10 in the race for the title.

is making a name for itself.

"It's a very good feeling; I'm really proud of our kids," said Charli Turner Thorne, ASU coach. "It's not just one or two people; the whole bunch play good."

Three Sun Devils finished with double-figures in scoring in the 66-59 win over USC Saturday, putting Arizona State in the hunt for the Pac-10 crown.

ASU's Amanda Levens, the Pac-10 player of the week, scored 15 points in both wins over USC and UCLA.

Reason to celebrate

A sea of crimson and gray confetti filled the air at Friel Court on Saturday evening after Washington State defeated its first ranked opponent in three years.

"I'm feeling good. It was all about heart," Washington State's Victoria Harrod told The Spokesman-Review after the 67-64 win over the Ducks. Harrod's rebound off Jamie Craighead's missed shot with five seconds left capped off the Cougar win.

"This was a great win," said WSU coach Jenny Przekwas, whose Cougars are now 8-8 overall and 3-3 in the Pac-10. "I felt coming into the weekend that we really needed a split. I thought winning two would be tough, but I don't think I would have counted on the split this way."

After the game, Oregon coach Jody Runge said the injuries to starters Angelina Wolvert and Lindsey Dion were not the reason the

Ducks lost to the Cougars for the first time in 11 games.

"I didn't think it was difficult," Runge told the Review. "You just slide different people in (the starting lineup). It creates a lack of flow in your offense. But I don't think we brought the fight tonight by the players who play significant minutes. They did not lead. They did not get things straightened out on the floor."

In the polls

After the Cougars snapped the Ducks' six-game winning streak, Oregon dropped two spots in this week's ESPN/USA Today Coaches Poll. The Ducks are now ranked No. 20.

Arizona clings to No. 25, moving down from the 19th spot.

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We have an exciting new addition to the sports section of our Web site here at the Emerald:

When you log onto www.dailymerald.com and click on "Sports," it takes you to the sports front where you'll see... Peter Hockaday's Weekly Sports Poll!

(A planned pause here for the excitement to subdue.)

Yes, that's right, our own sports reporter Mr. Hockaday will be posing an entertaining sports question each and every week. Hockaday is an admitted Internet polls geek, who will vote on anything from ESPN.com's SportsCenter poll to Seventeen.com's daily poll.

A new question will be posted every Monday, with the results from the previous week published in Tuesday's sports section of the Emerald.

We look forward to hearing what our readers think. So, on that note, this week's question is:

"Which are you looking forward to more: Super Bowl XXXV or Survivor II?"

Ravens vs. Giants, or 16 castaways vs. the harsh Australian terrain?

You make the call.

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