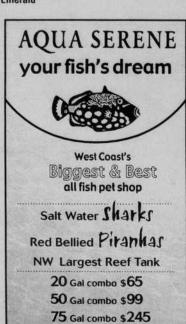
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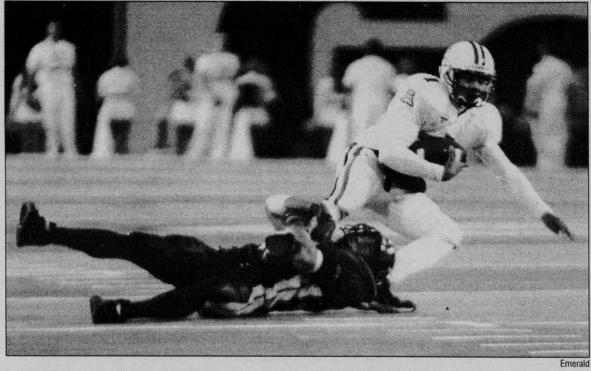
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Arizona junior wide receiver Bobby Wade, the Wildcats' veteran leader at the receiver position this season, is shown here being taken down by former Oregon linebacker Garrett Sabol in Oregon's 14-10 victory at home against Arizona last season.

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Pac-10

continued from page 5

"We're just not making the big plays that we did last year," he said. "I'm a little concerned because the first two weeks were dismal."

On the other side of the field, Washington State has scored 77 points in its firsts two games and has the top rated offense in the Pac10. Receiver Nakoa McElrath is leading the nation with 175.5 yards per game for the Cougars.

Head coach Mike Price's defense is also holding opposing squads to 64 yards per game on the ground, so Cal's straw-hat band will likely be kept quiet most of the game.

Arizona State (1-0, 0-0) at Stanford (1-0, 0-0)

Stanford won the last two meetings, but Arizona State leads the overall series 11-6. Both teams are coming off big wins from two weeks ago, with Stanford beating a strong Boston College team, 38-22, and the Sun Devils victorious over San Diego State, 38-7. ASU head coach Dirk Koetter knows his team's opponents will only get tougher.

"Even though we scored a few points against San Diego State, we are going to have to play a lot better as we get into Pac-10 play if we are going to get into shootouts with anybody," he said. "We are a little bit away from putting everything together on offense."

Stanford coach Tyrone Willingham is preparing his athletes for a physical battle.

"Arizona State has a great reputation for being a physical football team and also a very explosive and quick football team," he said.

Stanford should keep an eye out for ASU center Scott Peters, who Koetter called a "coach's dream." He has helped the team focus on the practice field, and Koetter expects the game-time execution to be improved, thanks to Peters.

Players for ASU to watch out for are quarterback Randy Fasani, safety Tank Williams and linebacker Coy Wire, who led the Cardinal in tackles last season.

UNLV (0-2, 0-0 Western Athletic Conference) at Arizona (2-0, 0-0)

UNLV should prove to be Arizona's toughest competition of the young season. The Rebels are coming off a 37-28 loss to 20th ranked Northwestern two weeks ago and a 14-10 loss to Arkansas on August 30.

Junior quarterback Jason Thomas leads UNLV's offense with a strong wide receiver group, including Troy Mason, who was the conference's best punt returner last season.

Arizona head coach John Mackovic said the pass rush of the

Pacific-10 Conference Standings

Overall Pac-10 1. Oregon 2-0 0-0 Arizona 2-0 0-0 UCLA 2-0 0-0 Washington State 2-0 0-0 5. Arizona State 0-0 Stanford 1-0 0-0 Washington 1-0 0-0 8. Oregon State 0-0 1-1 USC 1-1 10. California 0-2 0-0

Rebels will be the best of the three teams they have played this year. In their two previous games, the Cats have allowed just two sacks while racking up 10 of their own. This is due in part to quarterback Jason Johnson's ability to escape closing defenders.

"He knows what to do with the football and get rid of it if he's under pressure," Mackovic said.

In its last game Sept. 8, Arizona gave up 29 points in the fourth quarter, hanging on to win the game 36-29. Mackovic blamed the final quarter slide on conditioning.

"We wore down a little bit," he said. "We need some three-and-outs."

If the Cats' defense can stay fresh, Arizona should be able to handle the Rebels.



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