

Pac-10 characterized by strong quarterbacks

Joey Harrington is getting most of the attention, but the Pac-10 is loaded with talented signal-callers, all looking for a piece of the pie

By Hannah Gordon
Daily Bruin (U. California-Los Angeles)

(U-WIRE) LOS ANGELES — Some may be over-hyped while others are overlooked, but overall, the Pacific-10 Conference is a conference of quarterbacks.

No one has gotten more attention than Oregon's Joey Harrington, who led his team to a Pac-10 co-championship in 2000. The Heisman hopeful will face a lot of pressure attempting to live up to the hype, however, after gracing the cover of Sports Illustrated and a Manhattan skyscraper.

Oregon State senior Jonathan Smith has been overshadowed by running back Ken Simonton, but he is an emotional leader like his

rival Harrington. Smith has a middle-of-the-road .503 completion percentage, but triumphed over Oregon in the Civil War to force a three-way tie for the Pac-10 championship. He topped off last season with a 41-9 mutilation of the Fighting Irish in the Fiesta Bowl.

Stanford's Randy Fasani is the final senior quarterback of the conference. Head coach Tyrone Willingham thinks it takes a senior quarterback to win the Pac-10 because of the wealth of knowledge accumulated through experience. He hopes Fasani will be such a senior.

"He has the qualities of the modern quarterback: Size, mobility, and throwing ability," Willingham said.

Fasani also benefits from having played linebacker, tight end, and special teams while waiting his turn to be starting quarterback.

"I played a little defense so I understand what the defense is look-

ing for, what the weak points are, how to attack it," Fasani said.

With less experience but no less talent are juniors Cory Paus of UCLA, Carson Palmer of USC and Kyle Boller of California.

Paus, who is coming off a season where he maintained a .556 completion percentage while averaging 264 passing yards per game, should be near the top of the Pac-10 statistical categories for quarterbacks this season. He was excluded from last year's Pac-10 rankings because he missed four games due to injury. If he can stay healthy, he could be one of the best quarterbacks in the conference. He had a slow start in Alabama after not being hit in spring and fall practice, but feels fine.

"I'm right where I need to be, and I'll build on it," Paus said.

Last season at USC, Palmer boasted a .549 completion percentage. But with more interceptions (18) than touchdowns (16), some think he has not lived up to expect-

tations. Palmer could blossom this season under new offensive coordinator Norm Chow, who coached Steve Young at BYU.

Like Palmer, Boller has been called over-hyped after two disappointing seasons — completing .467 of his passes last year. In the offseason, Cal hired UCLA offensive coordinator Al Borges, who brought Boller back to basics, like footwork.

"He is very coachable; he and Cory have that in common," Borges said. "Cory is more of a finesse quarterback. Boller is taller, rangier, he has great velocity."

At Washington State, junior Jason Gesser led the Pac-10 in passing efficiency but could not lead his team to victory, finishing 2-6 in the Pac-10.

Washington will sorely miss Pac-10 Offensive Player of the Year Marques Tuiasosopo. Sophomore Cody Pickett, who had thrown only two passes for Washington entering the current season, will

succeed him. Though head coach Rick Neuheisel expects mistakes, he is looking at the long run.

"I think we are going to like the finished product," he said.

The Arizona schools face daunting quarterback situations as well. New Arizona State head coach Dick Koetter chose sophomore Jeff Krohn, who has started nine games in his career. Krohn had an impressive 266.8 yards per game, but a .488 completion percentage.

Arizona is probably the Pac-10 team with the biggest problems at the quarterback position. Junior Jason Johnson, who has only appeared in eight games (in which he'd thrown a combined total of 11 passes) in his first two seasons, won the starting position.

But UCLA head coach Bob Toledo thinks the quarterbacks in the Pac-10 are as strong as ever.

"As a whole, the quarterbacks in this conference are outstanding," he said.

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085 GREEK ANNOUNCEMENTS

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take a break at the break

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Horoscope by Linda C. Black

TODAY'S BIRTHDAY (Sept. 25). Something you've been putting off with at home gets more annoying this year. Do you need counseling? More closets? Another bathroom? Talk with loved ones near and far. They'll delight in giving you their opinions, and some of them will even help you solve the problem once and for all.

To get the advantage, check the day's rating: 10 is the easiest day, 0 the most challenging.

ARIES (March 21-April 19) - Today is a 6 - In your ongoing quest for advancement, you have to make choices. Taking on more responsibility at work means less time for fixing up your place, relaxing in front of the TV or spending time with your sweetheart. New factors that pop up later this week affect your choices.

TAURUS (April 20-May 20) - Today is a 7 - What you're learning may contradict what you already knew, so don't make assumptions in work-related matters. Romance should proceed more smoothly if you stay home tonight. Traveling gets complicated.

GEMINI (May 21-June 21) - Today is a 7 - Are you shuffling funds around, robbing Peter to pay Paul? There are ways to live happily within your budget. The most obvious is to simply stop wanting stuff. But where's the fun in that? Think of something else.

CANCER (June 22-July 22) - Today is a 7 - Just because the other person is yelling louder doesn't mean he's right. If he's wrong, gently but firmly tell him so. Your opinion is just as valid. Compromise will work.

LEO (July 23-Aug. 22) - Today is a 6 - Take on an extra assignment, but don't say much about it. It could turn out to be harder than you thought but still a valuable learning experience. Is it worth the trouble?

VIRGO (Aug. 23-Sept. 22) - Today is a 7 - Your sweetheart has some strong ideas about what you should do. But will this person's

agenda really be best for you? Add up the numbers and take all the time you need. You'll achieve success, but on your own terms and at your own speed.

LIBRA (Sept. 23-Oct. 22) - Today is a 7 - Watch what you say. A roommate may be highly sensitive. You hate to hurt people's feelings, but it could happen. If you think the other person was just waiting for something to be upset about, you're right. The less said, the better.

SCORPIO (Oct. 23-Nov. 21) - Today is a 7 - Keep studying. Dig deep to find the information you need. Some of it may contradict what you've been told. This makes the job more interesting.

SAGITTARIUS (Nov. 22-Dec. 21) - Today is a 7 - There's money to be made, but communications could become garbled. Deliver orders you've received, and collect money you're owed. Don't make cold calls now; too many people won't want to talk. Instead, do what you already know needs to be done.

CAPRICORN (Dec. 22-Jan. 19) - Today is a 7 - You're known to be direct and honest, but you also can be pretty darned blunt. If folks don't have your sense of humor, they can sometimes be offended, as you well know. Go easy.

AQUARIUS (Jan. 20-Feb. 18) - Today is a 6 - Travel isn't a good idea for most of today and tomorrow. Besides, somebody important may be trying to make contact. If you're running around, they won't be able to find you. At the very least, check your answering machine often.

PISCES (Feb. 19-March 20) - Today is a 7 - A fool and his or her money are soon parted. Don't let that be you. Just because others take risks, it doesn't mean you should. For financial advice, consult wealthy friends you've known for a long time. Then, leave your savings in a safe place.

085 GREEK ANNOUNCEMENTS

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FR 201	4:00 MW	MATH 241	5:00 MW
SPAN 101	4:00 MW	MATH 243	4:00 UH
SPAN 101	4:00 UH	MATH 251	4:00 MW (BI)
SPAN 201	4:00 UH	MATH 251	4:00 UH
MATH 095	3:00 MW	MATH 252	4:00 MW
MATH 111	3:00 MW	MATH 253	5:00 UH
MATH 111	4:00 MW		
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\$80/group

To participate in these groups, register and pay fees at ALS, 68 PLC. All groups meet 2 hours per week. If you need assistance in courses other than those listed, registry printouts are available that list qualified tutors. There is no charge for this printout.

For more information contact, ALS: 68 PLC, or call 346-3226.

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