

Pac-10

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straight games, dating back to 1976. To top it off, the Golden Bears have not beaten Rick Neuheisel's squad at home in nine years.

Running back Joe Igber and the rest of the Cal offense must be at the top of its game or the Bears may not even make it out of the gate. Quarterback Kyle Boller has not looked sharp this season and is far from filling the potential he came to Cal with three years ago.

Despite Cal's offensive woes, the squad is still potentially dangerous. "Certainly there has been lots of comments and conversation about Cal and the beginning of their particular season that makes an imposing coach very leery in that this is a team that has lots of pride, given the games that we have had with them over the last couple of years, and they will fight tooth-and-nail to get a victory and end a long streak," Neuheisel said.

On the flip side, Washington's offense, led by first-year starting quarterback Cody Pickett, has looked strong in wins over Michigan and Idaho. While Pickett has passed for a mediocre 178 yards per game, the Huskies squeaked by the Wolverines and demolished the Vandals. But against Cal, the offense is expected to shine. The Golden Bears' defense was stellar last season, but is last in the Pac-10 in turnover margin, pass defense, scoring defense and total defense this season.

If California can't give Washington much of a game, Golden Bears head coach Tom Holmoe may not see the day when the Ducks come calling on Oct. 13.

Stanford (2-0, 1-0) at USC (1-2, 0-1)

After a let-down in the final minute against Oregon, many expect Southern California to come out flat against the Cardinal. This will not be the case.

Quarterback Carson Palmer threw for 411 yards against the Ducks, only to see his team lose in the final 12 seconds. But you can bet the same won't happen this week. USC head coach Pete Carroll is an experienced coach who knows how to get his team in shape after a tough game.

"Last week was very difficult," he said about the last-minute loss. "We had the game in hand and we did not finish it the way we wanted to. It's unfortunate because it really illustrates the great margin of a couple of points — if we win, we're in

first place in the Pac-10, but we had to settle for the other end."

Stanford, on the other hand, swept through Arizona State last weekend, pummeling the Sun Devils en route to a 51-28 win. However, USC is a far stronger team, and poses a greater threat to the Cardinal, especially on offense.

Stanford quarterback Randy Fasani is a virtual unknown in the Pac-10 and the rest of the nation, although he shouldn't be. Two games into the season, Fasani is fourth in the nation in passing efficiency at 186.7. He is also 20th in the nation with 270 yards per game of total offense.

San Jose State (0-2, 0-0) Western Athletic Conference) at Arizona State (1-1, 0-1)

This is perhaps one of the more intriguing games of the week featuring a Pac-10 squad. Arizona State is on a down year, but dominated San Diego State 38-7 before losing to Stanford last week. However, San Jose State will prove to be a challenge for the Sun Devils, mostly in the form of senior running back Deonice Whitaker.

"The guy is special, he's one of the best in the country," Arizona State head coach Dirk Koetter said. "Maybe the best we'll play, if not he's in the top two. An excellent, excellent back."

"What more motivation do we need than to start off by telling our guys that San Jose State has beat Stanford the last three years in a row. I don't think it's going to take much more than that to get our guys motivated."

The Spartans have looked shaky in games against USC and Colorado, but if Whitaker, who has had two sub-par performances so far, can get back on track, the Sun Devils need to look out.

Utah State

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"The challenge for us obviously is to line up and not be intimidated by who they are or how they are perceived, but to play our game as well as we can play it," Dennehy said.

Other than White, Curtis and Fuentes, who has thrown for at least 200 yards in eight straight games, the Ducks need to watch out for linebacker Tony Newson and Joe Solosabal on special teams.

Fuentes sprained his ankle in the loss to Wyoming, but he should be ready for the Duck game.

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