

Pac-10 Football

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Stanford cracks top 25

Saturday's 21-16 victory over Southern California propelled Stanford into both the AP and coaches polls for the first time since the end of the 1999 season.

The Cardinal (3-0, 1-0), ranked 22nd by the AP and 24th by the coaches, are off to their first 3-0 start in 15 years.

"I don't worry about the rank-

ings," Cardinal head coach Tyrone Willingham told Knight Ridder. "We worry about winning football games."

Quarterback Randy Fasani, who was 11 of 25 for 194 yards against USC, had a different thought about the recognition, though.

"I don't think we get respect going into any season," Fasani said. "We're always ranked 30, 40. We talk about that and it gives us a little motivation."

Golfers 7th after two rounds

■ At the Husky Invitational, the Oregon men's golfers are 18 strokes behind leader UW

By Jesse Thomas
for the Emerald

The Oregon men's golf team has had a rough start after the first two rounds of the Husky Invitational played Monday, where the Ducks sit in seventh place out of 10 teams

The Ducks started with rounds of 373-374 for a 747 total at the 7,035-yard, par-72 Olympic Course at Gold Mountain. The team has a difficult climb ahead to work its way

to the top of the team standings, as it was 18 strokes off the pace set by Washington, who came out firing with a 729.

Defending team champion Pepperdine is not far off the pace, as the team was five strokes back with a 736, with Washington State and Nevada close behind at 739. Colorado sits in fifth with a 742 and Oregon State is sixth at 743.

Individual standings have the

Huskies' John Robertson in first after tying the course record with an opening-round 67. On his next 18 holes, he shot 71 to give him a three-shot lead entering today's final round.

Oregon junior John Ellis, the defending individual champion, shot just under par with a 1-under 143 to tie for fourth after rounds of 72-71. Ellis is five strokes back from Robertson. Other Oregon highlights include senior Aaron Byers's two-over 146, tying him for 12th place.

The Ducks final round began this morning at 7:30 a.m.



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Sports briefs

Texas' Brown faces career test Saturday against Oklahoma

FORT WORTH — Texas coach Mack Brown didn't sleep Saturday night despite the warm afterglow provided by a 42-7 romp over Texas Tech.

Sure, the fifth-ranked Longhorns turned in their most complete performance of 2001 while rushing for 209 yards, passing for 224 and holding the Red Raiders 35 points below their season scoring average. But Brown, like Texas fans, is haunted by a recurring question:

Is that enough to bridge the chasm that separates Texas from Oklahoma?

He'll find out Saturday in the Cotton Bowl when the fifth-ranked Longhorns (4-0, 1-0) and third-ranked Sooners (4-0, 1-0) meet in a contest that could decide both the Big 12 and national championships. Win or lose, Brown's coaching skills will be tested and scrutinized to a level unseen in his

four seasons at Texas.

Brown said Sunday he's ready for the challenge of atoning for last season's 63-14 black eye that ignited the Sooners' march to a national title and relegated the Longhorns to the role of pursuer in the Red River Rivalry.

"As far as pressure, if you coach at Texas and feel pressure every day, you won't enjoy yourself, and you're not going to win," Brown said. "I plan to enjoy this week and make this team the best it can be. I fought my whole life to get a job at a school where winning was really important. To me, that's a good thing."

If Brown's team falls flat for a second consecutive year in Dallas, he may want to rethink how good that is. No matter how much Brown attempts to downplay it, everyone wearing orange in the Cotton Bowl will define the success of this season by Saturday's outcome.

Because of a user-friendly schedule, antsy Texas fans view the Oklahoma game as a make-it-or-break-it proposition in returning the Long-

horns to national prominence in the college football world. That's not entirely true, but there is no question that avenging last year's trouncing at the hands of the Sooners has been uppermost in the minds of Texas players for the past 360 days.

"I still think about that game every day," said linebacker D.D. Lewis, reflecting on last year's debacle in Dallas. "It's what drove me to prepare myself the whole off-season. We have a mission we need to complete."

Brown, in turn, can silence his critics by becoming the strategist who ends the Sooners' 17-game winning streak. That would allow Brown to shake the "Coach February" label that pays homage to his recruiting skills but raises questions about his abilities at the chalkboard.

— Jimmy Burch
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