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WEDNESDAYS - LIVE BLUES JAM (BEGINNING OCT. 17)

It's a make-or-break week■ With every team in action, the
Pac-10 features some
interesting matchups SaturdayBy Chris Cabot
Oregon Daily Emerald**Washington State
(5-0 overall, 3-0 Pacific-10
Conference) at No. 23
Stanford (3-0, 2-0)**Coming into the game tied with
the most wins in the Pac-10, Wash-
ington State faces its biggest test of
the season. The Cougars have piled
up wins against Idaho, Boise State,
California, Arizona and Oregon
State, but Stanford has faced
tougher competition to come away
with its three wins (Boston College,
Arizona State and USC).The Cougars have not won in
Palo Alto in 13 years.The Washington State defense is
the top-ranked rush defense in the
Pac-10, so Stanford running backs
Brian Allen and Kerry Carter have
their work cut out for them.Even if the Cougars can stop the
running attack, Stanford's passing
offense could carry them. Quarter-back Randy Fasani, arguably the
Pac-10's most underrated passer,
has thrown 10 touchdowns and
only one interception. His 10
touchdown passes have been dis-
tributed to eight different receivers.**Arizona State (3-1, 0-1) at
Southern California (1-4, 0-3)**Don't let Southern California's
record deceive you. The Trojans
are favored in this game and are
coming off a heartbreaking loss to
Washington.The Trojans have lost four
straight games by a total of 14
points, to teams all currently
ranked in the top 25."We need to keep our heads up,"
running back Sultan McCullough
said. "We're going to win some
ballgames."The sparks for Arizona State are
quarterback Jeff Krohn, who leads
the Pac-10 and is sixth in the na-
tion in total offense at 294 yards
per game and has thrown for 15
touchdowns, which also leads the
Pac-10. Receiver Shaun McDonald
is averaging 24.6 yards per catch
for the Sun Devils and has seven
touchdowns.

If USC quarterback Carson

Palmer can lead the Trojan offense
to the end zone efficiently and the
defense stays strong in the second
half, something it didn't do
against Washington last week,
USC should come away with its
first Pac-10 win.**Arizona (3-2, 0-2) at
Oregon State (1-3, 0-2)**Oregon State has lost two consec-
utive games for the first time since
1999, and unless the Beaver offense
can emerge from the funk they have
mired themselves in so far this sea-
son, Arizona will keep OSU win-
less in Pac-10 play.Last week, running back Ken Si-
monton continued his disappoint-
ing season, rushing for just 19 yards
on 12 carries. He needs one more
point to become the leading non-
kicker on the Pac-10 scoring list."We're both 0-2, so it's a critical
game for both football teams ... to
stay in the race and have opportu-
nities to be involved in bowls,"
head coach Dennis Erickson said.Arizona, who is coming off a
sound defeat by Oregon, brings the
eighth-ranked offense and the sev-
enth-ranked defense in the Pac-10
into Corvallis.**No. 10 UW, No. 7 UCLA meet up in L.A.**■ Washington and UCLA will
face off in the Rose Bowl
in what ultimately could decide
the Pac-10 ChampionshipBy Chris Cabot
Oregon Daily Emerald**Washington (4-0 overall,
2-0 Pacific-10 Conference)
at UCLA (4-0, 1-0)**This battle of undefeated teams
should be a dandy. The winner of
this game of the week should
contend with Oregon for the Pa-
cific-10 Conference champi-
onship at the season's end.No. 7 UCLA has looked strong
with wins against Alabama, Kansas,
Ohio State and Oregon State, whileNo. 10 Washington is looking for its
13th consecutive win.The Huskies are coming off a last-
second 27-24 win against USC in
Seattle, where the Dawgs had to rely
on kicker John Anderson for a 32-
yard field goal with three seconds to
play. Washington quarterback Cody
Pickett separated his shoulder, and
it is doubtful that he will play
against UCLA. Backup Taylor Bar-
ton is an excellent fill-in for head
coach Rick Neuheisel's offense.Cornerback Omare Lowe also
has an injured shoulder but is ex-
pected to play."I am a little concerned about the
health of the team, given the in-
juries we have sustained,"
Neuheisel said. "But, we are not go-
ing to make any excuses."

Washington's defense will have

to control UCLA running back De-
Shaun Foster if they want to come
out of the Rose Bowl with a win."We have got to be pretty stout
against their run if we want to
stay in the conference race,"
Neuheisel said.The key for UCLA, along with
setting Foster loose, is their de-
fense. Dubbed "The Blizzard of
Westwood" by L.A. Times colum-
nist Bill Plaschke, they have not
allowed any opponent more than
17 points this season. UCLA has
the top-ranked defense in the
Pac-10, allowing just 151.5 pass-
ing yards per game."Defensively, we are playing ex-
tremely well and that always gives
you a chance to win the game,"
head coach Bob Toledo said.

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