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# Smith selected as Pac-10's Player of the Week

■ The Oregon sophomore tailback's career day against the Cougars earns him recognition from the Pac-10

By Jeff Smith  
Oregon Daily Emerald

Not surprisingly, the Pacific-10 Conference took full notice of the record-breaking performance of Onterio Smith on Saturday.

Smith was announced Monday as the Pac-10's Offensive Player of the Week after running all over Washington State in Oregon's 24-17 victory in Pullman, Wash.

The sophomore backup tailback sat out the first quarter before exploding for 285 yards in the final three quarters.

The rushing total was 36 yards more than the previous Oregon school record set by Bobby Moore, now Ahmad Rashad, in 1971. Smith also surpassed Rashad in the record books by returning three kickoffs for 57 yards for a total of 342 all-purpose yards.

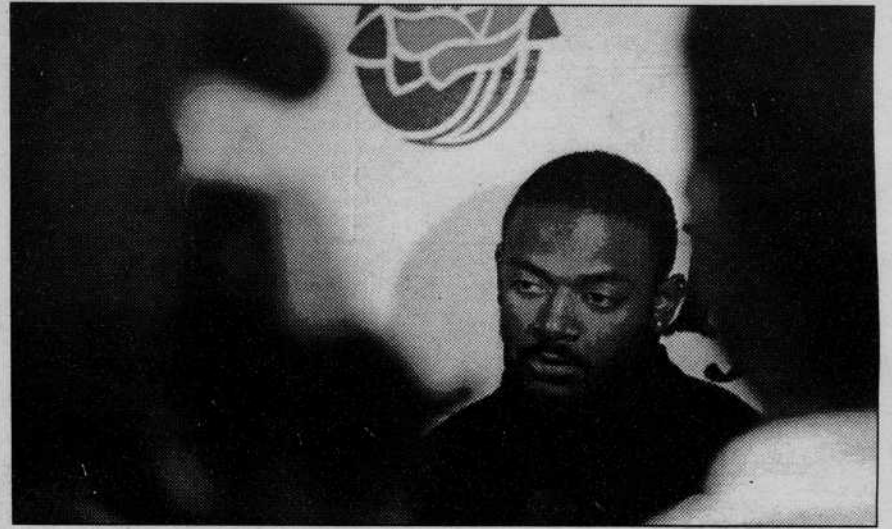
Smith reached the end zone three times Saturday, with his 73-yard scoring sprint in the fourth quarter giving the Ducks a 24-10 lead.

"Looking up at the playback board and seeing all those guys behind me made my face light up," Smith said.

He has had games like this before Saturday, but they occurred back when he was setting single-season school records for Grant High in Sacramento, Calif. As a senior, he ran for 3,154 yards and 60 touchdowns, earning him SuperPrep All-American status.

"Yeah, it reminded me of those days a little bit once I started getting the ball, getting the ball and getting the ball," Smith said of his performance Saturday. "I hadn't touched the ball that much in a long time, probably three years."

Smith became the fifth Oregon player to be honored by the Pac-10 this year, following Keith Lewis, Steve Smith, Joey Harrington and Keenan Howry.



Thomas Patterson Emerald

Sophomore tailback Onterio Smith scored three touchdowns and ran for a school-record 285 yards in Saturday's 24-17 victory over Washington State in Pullman.

## Five teams vying for Pac-10 title with one month to play in season

■ The Pac-10 race is up for grabs with the Cougars and Bruins losing, leaving five teams with only one defeat each

By Jeff Smith  
Oregon Daily Emerald

Washington State has one loss after losing to Oregon.

Oregon has one loss after losing to Stanford the week before.

Stanford has one loss after losing to Washington State the week before that.

Then there's UCLA, which suffered its first setback at Stanford on Saturday.

And don't forget about those Washington Huskies, who remained with just one loss after coming from behind — again — to defeat Arizona State, 33-31.

In all, there's a four-way tie for first at 4-1, with UCLA right behind with a 3-1 Pacific-10 Conference record.

With the season winding down and the different scenarios of bowl games running the full gamut, the Pac-10 can cause quite a few headaches.

Which is why players like Oregon defensive back Rashad Bauman prefer to just take it all in and enjoy the quality of the conference rather than worry about all the pesky little details.

"We can't worry about whether UCLA loses or Stanford loses next week because we have no control over it," Bauman said. "But you know what? It makes it more fun. Oh definitely. It's always fun to be in a race to the finish line."

"And that's what's great about playing in the Pac-10. You just never know."

Bauman points to other conferences around

the nation where the one or two "big dogs" always win it by beating up on their inferior opponents.

"Where's the fun in that?" Bauman said. "To be honest, I would much rather be where we are now in the Pac-10 than have us be 8-0 and everybody else at 3-5. Week-in and week-out, there's memorable wins that mean so much."

True, one week a team might be a serious contender to play for the national championship in the Rose Bowl, and the next week, bowl plans range from the Fiesta Bowl to the Las Vegas Bowl.

UCLA appeared to have the inside track at playing in its home stadium on Jan. 3 before losing Saturday to backup quarterback Chris Lewis and the Stanford Cardinal, 38-28.

Oregon fans' first reaction might have been to celebrate a Bruins defeat, but in reality, the Ducks need a Stanford league loss to avoid losing a tiebreaker with the Cardinal because of the head-to-head matchup.

Stanford travels to Seattle this week to face the Huskies in its last real Pac-10 test before finishing out the conference schedule against Arizona (0-5 Pac-10) and California (0-7 overall).

"I think, in my own BCS calculations, it would have been better if (UCLA) won, but what can you do?" Oregon quarterback Joey Harrington said. "Now we've got a situation where we beat Washington State who beat Stanford who beat us. And then you throw UCLA in the mix."

Turn to Pac-10, page 6



Adam Amato Emerald

Tailback Kerry Carter, who scored four touchdowns in Stanford's 49-42 victory over the Ducks on Oct. 20, and the rest of the Cardinal are one of five teams with only one loss in the Pac-10.

## Conference volleyball race begins to heat up for the stretch run

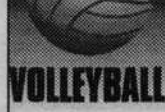
■ As usual, the Conference of Champions is proving to be the talk of the nation

By Hank Hager  
Oregon Daily Emerald

Just as football in the Pacific-10 Conference begins to heat up, volleyball is doing the same. And what once was a sure thing, is no more.

With two crucial wins, including one against conference rival and hated foe California, Stanford improved to 10-1 in conference play and 18-2 overall. More importantly, the conference win bumped the Cardinal a half-game ahead of USC

(15-2, 9-1) for the conference lead after the Trojans lost to Arizona. The Cardinal easily defeated the Golden Bears (7-12, 2-9), sweeping the match in only 80 minutes.



"It's good to know that we have good defense to fall back on," Stanford freshman Ogonna Nnamani told the Stanford Daily. "It changes the momentum of the game and it gets people going and excited in the match."

As for the No. 5 Trojans, a tough

loss to Arizona slid them back a step, but they came back strong Friday at Arizona State. A three-game loss shocked the women of Troy, but they returned to play and dominated Arizona State in another sweep.

"We met a lot (Thursday) night and (Friday) morning and we talked about what happened," USC hitter Lauren Killian told the Daily Trojan about the team's dismal performance against the Wildcats. "It hurt to lose but I think it was a game that we learned from and it will help us in the future."

USC will need all the help it can

get. Arizona, which also defeated UCLA (11-5, 6-4) Friday, now has a seven-match winning streak on the line after defeating the Los Angeles schools. The streak has allowed the No. 4 Wildcats to slip back into the Pac-10 race, and is now 10-3 in conference play, only one game back of Stanford.

The Cardinal, however, control their own destiny because they have to play two matches more than Arizona. But the Wildcats visit Palo Alto, Calif., on Nov. 17 for their last Pac-10 match.

For the first time this season, the Wildcats are finally beginning to

play up to their potential. But don't expect them to suffer from a let-down.

"All I look at is getting better," Arizona head coach David Rubio said. "When we were struggling to look ourselves in the mirror in the morning, it makes you appreciate where we have come from. I am going to absolutely drill them this week, so they don't get overconfident. I don't want them to think they can relax, and it is my job to set the tone."

With six to seven matches remaining for most squads in the confer-

Turn to Volleyball, page 6