

# Steelers grab ninth straight Monday night victory

By Rick Gosselin  
The Dallas Morning News

PITTSBURGH, Pa. (KRT) — The Pittsburgh Steelers don't ask Kordell Stewart to be a Pro Bowl quarterback. They just ask him to be the best quarterback on the field on game day.

Quietly and surprisingly this season, Stewart has done just that. And the Steelers are riding a five-game winning streak as a result.

Stewart outdueled Pro Bowler Steve McNair on Monday night in Pittsburgh's 34-7 victory over the Tennessee Titans.

It's not the plays that Stewart is making that are separating him from his competition. It's the plays he isn't making — the fumbles, interceptions and sacks, the plays that lose football games. The plays that have plagued Stewart throughout his career.

In the five-game winning streak

that has thrust the Steelers to the top of the AFC Central, Stewart has thrown only two touchdown passes. But he also has thrown only two interceptions and taken 12 sacks.

Opposing quarterbacks have thrown five interceptions and taken 23 sacks in that same stretch. They also have combined for only three TD passes against the Steelers.

Pittsburgh is sound enough on

defense and in the running game that it doesn't need Stewart to win games. All the Steelers ask is that he doesn't lose games. He's been executing that game plan with few flaws.

Stewart posted his first 200-yard passing game of the season with no turnovers against the Titans. He passed for one touchdown and ran for another to give the Steelers their ninth consecutive Monday night victory in Pittsburgh, but the

first at Heinz Field. McNair passed for 175 yards and threw two interceptions.

Stewart completed two passes for 30 yards to tight end Mark Bruener and one for 11 to Plaxico Burress to lead a game-opening 78-yard drive that produced a short Jerome Bettis touchdown run.

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## Sports briefs

### Arnaud falls in consolation bracket

Oregon women's tennis senior Adeline Arnaud dropped a 6-3, 6-3 match Sunday morning in the consolation bracket to Fresno State's Courtney Jantz at the ITA Rolex Regional in Palo Alto, Calif.

"It was a good tournament for Adeline," fifth-year Oregon head coach Jack Griffin said. "She gained

a lot of experience that will pay off at the end of the season. She could have a very good year."

### King's streak ends

The Oregon men's tennis team had a slate full of matches in the second day of the ITA Regionals held at Santa Clara University. Johan Paalberg was the only Duck to come out victorious, but the match experience was very valuable to the young team.

Sophomore Chris King's seven-match winning streak came to a

halt in the third round of main draw singles when he lost to Chris Lamb of Santa Clara 6-0, 6-4.

"We got a lot of matches in. Were getting some much needed experience," Oregon head coach Chris Russell said.

The Ducks' doubles tandem of Chris King and Johan Paalberg were defeated in the third round.

— From staff and wire reports

### Golfers prepare for Hawaii tournament

The Oregon women's golf team is

returning to warm weather and the white sandy beaches for the Hawaii Fall Golf Classic.

The tournament will be played today and Wednesday at the par-72, 5,900-yard Kapolei Golf Course, the site of one of the Ducks' best performances last year. In team scores, the Ducks finished sixth at 929, which was their best finish last fall.

The competition for the tournament is very diverse this year. The classic has a 19-team field, including Brigham Young, Central Flori-

da, Colorado, Oregon State and San Jose State, just to name a few. No. 13 Arizona and No. 30 California are the only two ranked teams competing.

"It's our last midterm of the fall and we're looking to end on a good note. We're also looking for some momentum going into the spring," Oregon head coach Shannon Rouillard said. "The course is pretty straightforward and fairly flat. It's a very scoreable golf course."

— Jesse Thomas for the Emerald

## Pac-10

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"We've got a wide open race."

Head-to-head matchups between teams is the first tiebreaker to determine who will gain the Pac-10's top spot for the berth in the Fiesta Bowl against the Big 12 champion.

But in the case of Washington and Oregon, because the two rivals don't play this year, the next tiebreaker would be its non-conference record. The Ducks went 3-0 in that department, while the Huskies are currently 2-0 with a huge contest at top-ranked Miami looming on Nov. 24.

Bauman and the Ducks know that none of these scenarios mean anything if they don't beat Arizona State this week, UCLA on Nov. 10 and Oregon State on Dec. 1.

"All we can do is take care of our business, man," Bauman said. "It's a toss-up every week to see

who's going to coach better, play better and see who can get their boys riled up the most for the big games.

"It's no cakewalk."

### Oregon cracks the top-10 in BCS

Five Pac-10 teams remained in the Bowl Championship Series rankings released Monday. Stanford heads the list at No. 6 with UCLA dropping down to No. 9. Oregon is in there at the 10th spot followed by No. 11 Washington and No. 12 Washington State.

Nebraska earned the top spot with its win over Oklahoma, which dropped to second. Miami, which is ranked first in the Associated Press poll and the coaches' poll, is third.

The top two teams in the final BCS rankings on Dec. 9 will be the opponents in the Rose Bowl.

## Volleyball

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ence, the second half of Pac-10 play is boiling up to be one for the ages.

### Oregon State still in the hunt

In what may be the biggest surprise of the Pac-10 season, the Beavers are still in the hunt for the Pac-10 title. At three games behind Stanford, Oregon State has a slight chance to capture the conference lead, but is very much alive to make the field of 64 for the NCAA Tournament. After losing a tough match against Washington State on Thursday, the Beavers came back to Gill Coliseum and took on Washington.

Make that win No. 7 in the conference, and 14th overall, after the Beavers slipped by the Huskies in five games. But game five proved to be a tough one for the squad from Corvallis.

After losing game four in convincing fashion, 30-20, the Beavers came back strong and nudged by the Huskies, 15-11.

"Game five was the difference," Oregon State head coach Nancy Somera told Washington's The Daily. "We were up big early on, and there was never a question of who was going to win that game. After Washington's offensive performance in game four (when it hit .553), we knew we couldn't allow them to carry that momentum into game five. We jumped out to a 4-1 lead and halted their momentum. We were able to maintain the lead the rest of the game."

### The road ahead

While every week in the Pac-10 can be tough, this week will represent a critical point for most squads in the conference.

In the first big matchup, No. 8 UCLA visits tough non-conference opponent Pepperdine today. The

Waves are ranked No. 13 in the country, but have yet to play a Pac-10 squad.

USC will have a chance to move back into first place with matches against Washington and Washington State at Lyon Center in Los Angeles on Friday and Saturday. The Trojans won both matches against the Pacific Northwest schools earlier this season in convincing fashion, defeating the Cougars and Huskies in straight sets.


And finally, Oregon State will have a chance to prove its worth when Stanford comes calling Saturday.

The Cardinal blitzed Oregon State in three games in early October, but the Beavers stayed with Stanford for most of game one only to see it fall through their hands. Oregon State setter Laura Collins will need to be at the top of her game for the Beavers to stand a chance against the No. 3 team in the nation.

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