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Oregon Daily Emerald



Garry McGraw (23) and Kevin Mitchell take down Stanford running back Brian Allen earlier this season. After giving up 49 points to Stanford two weeks ago, the Oregon defense responded against the Pac-10's top-ranked offense last week, allowing only 17 points to the Cougars.

Game preview

When it was all said and done, the Ducks were left with a dizzying 56-55 victory that kept their Rose Bowl dreams alive for anoth-

'That game itself is just sort of a blur, but I remember the positives of it," Bellotti said. "Really amazing football games in terms of the finish (the last two years). It's hard to even describe it."

While it'd be tough to top 111 combined points in one game, the two offenses on the Autzen Stadium turf Saturday night have the firepower to produce another shootout. Arizona State, led by quarterback Jeff Krohn and tailback Delvon Flowers, are third in

the Pac-10 in total offense, while Oregon is just above them in the second spot.

"Arizona State has a winning record and they are one of the top scoring teams in the conference. They're scary."

> Mike Bellotti Oregon head coach

"Arizona State has a winning record and they are one of the top scoring teams in the conference. They're scary," Bellotti said. "Arizona State will give you 10 or 15 different looks, and we have to be prepared to not lose sight of what's

New Sun Devils head coach Dirk Koetter, a former Oregon assistant under Bellotti, knows all about the Autzen Stadium atmosphere and the challenges that the noise presents to the opposition.

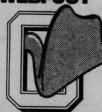
'Anybody who has ever been there knows it is one of the loudest stadiums in the country," Koetter said.

And Oregon hopes to give its crowd reasons to be even more rowdy than usual. Against Washington State, the Ducks' running game was unstoppable and their defense was top-notch for the most part. Should the Ducks continue with their goal of a Pac-10 title, they'll need both facets of their game to again be clicking.

And as for that former homewinning streak of theirs?

'We'd like to start another one,"

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Stanford benefits from experienced seniors

By Jonathan Okanes Knight Ridder Newspapers

STANFORD, Calif. - Look up and down Stanford's starting defense and try to find a player who's not a senior. C'mon, try it.

The offense? It doesn't have as many seniors, but there are nine returning starters from last season.

This year's Cardinal is one of the most experienced teams in the country. All 11 starters on defense are seniors or redshirt juniors. The offense is almost as experienced, with a handful of the impact players in their final seasons on The Farm.

With so many players reaching what should be the pinnacle of their college careers, this had to be the e an impact.

The Cardinal has done that. Stanford enters Saturday's game at Washington ranked 10th in this week's Associated Press Top 25. The Cardinal has skyrocketed to sixth in the latest Bowl Championship Series rankings.

Much of Stanford's success can be attributed to the play of its seniors. Guard Eric Heitmann and center Zack Quaccia anchor an offensive line that is among the best in the country. Running back Brian Allen is having his finest season, averaging 86 rushing yards per game. On defense, free safety Tank Williams, linebacker Coy Wire and defensive end Austin Lee are big reasons Stanford leads the Pac-10 and is 11th in the country in run defense.

"The fact that we have so many seniors, that also means we have so much

more experience within the team," Heitmann said. "I think that that experience more than anything else has helped us get to where we are right now."

Coach Tyrone Willingham said he didn't necessarily target this season as one that could be special despite so many of his best players being seniors. But some of the players said they realized as far back as their freshman seasons that this year could be special.

'We used to talk about that our freshman year," senior defensive end Marcus Hoover said. "When we used to do scout team, every time one of us would make a play, you would hear ''01, '01.' We all came in as freshmen, we all believed that we were the best recruits in the world.

The class of 2001 experienced a taste of success as sophomores, when the Cardinal went to the Rose Bowl. Heitmann said that year's senior class, featuring players such as Troy Walters and Todd Husak, had a profound effect on this year's senior class.

"I think our group of players really learned a lot from their examples and their leadership," Heitmann said. "We're just trying to convey that same message to the team at this point."

NOTES: Saturday's game will not be televised. ABC is airing the USC-Oregon State game while Fox Sports Net will show Washington State-UCLA. Stanford's game at Arizona on Nov. 10 has been moved from 6 p.m. to 4 p.m., and will air on ABC.

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