



Emerald

Kyle Boller (7) and the rest of the Golden Bears will have to jump much higher if they want to climb out of the Pac-10 cellar. Cal is 0-7 this season.

Pac-10

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they have a chance to renew their season against USC.

Meanwhile, once national champion contender and powerhouse USC must come back and win their second game in a row for the first time this season. They will have help with one of the Pac-10's best signal callers in Carson Palmer. So far, he has thrown for 248.2 yards per game, second best in the conference. His 10 interceptions, however, are the second most in the Pac-10, behind only Arizona's Jason Johnson.

"Carson is a good football player," USC head coach Pete Carroll said. "He is going to make some plays when you put the ball in his hands. He made some terrific throws in the game, and the two picks he threw were both deflected balls. He did a nice job for us. He throws the ball so well."

Arizona (3-5, 0-5) at California (0-7, 0-5)

Those who go to this game may have to pinch their noses, for the stink that comes from it will be immense. Two teams who belong in Division II — based on this year's

results — face off at Memorial Coliseum to see who can get out of the conference's doghouse.

California, coming off their best week of the season in a 19-10 loss to Oregon State, feature running back Joe Igber and quarterback Kyle Boller. Boller, however, has been feeling the effects of a hit from the Oregon defense and may not get a chunk of playing time. Reggie Robertson, a complete unknown to the rest of the conference, will get some, if not most of the snaps.

"We anticipate that Reggie will get a lot of reps, and if Kyle can take reps and get as many as he can," Cal head coach Tom Holmoe said. "We'll see how Kyle responds. He threw a little bit on the side when we were on the trip, and we think he's back, but I don't think it's a great idea just to rush him back into it right away."

Arizona features the seventh-ranked offense in the Pac-10, while California is last. Enough said.

The Cal faithful might as well say good-bye to Holmoe as well. His 15 overall wins in six seasons at the Golden Bears' helm will not be enough for him to keep his job at the end of this year.

Kickers

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six notches ahead in field goals.

But Siegel and Arroyo have done enough to earn their jobs. Siegel has connected on 5-of-8 field goal attempts, while Arroyo has punted 43 times for an average of just under 40 yards. They know, though, that those numbers can improve and that they can't afford to be complacent with every kick potentially meaning so much in the flow of a game.

"Obviously, there's still room for improvement with us, but I think we've answered people's questions and done a relatively good job," Siegel said. "When things are going well, people have a tendency to ignore the special teams. But the kicking game plays a big role in every game and is something you can never take for granted."

And as Oregon's recent history with Arizona State proves, with Oregon's 20-17 win in 1999 and ridiculous 56-55 double overtime win in 2000, the special teams could play a pivotal part when the two teams meet again Saturday night at Autzen Stadium.

"Their kickers are rated more highly than ours in the league stats, but they haven't kicked on our surface in our stadium, so we'll see," Oregon head coach Mike Bellotti said. "It's going to be two evenly matched teams so I really do believe that the special teams will be a huge factor in this game."

Regardless of the outcome, both Siegel and Arroyo will have each

other to talk to on Sunday morning about their performance the night before. The two are roommates and have developed a friendship that helps them deal with their newfound pressure of starting for a high-ranked Division I football program.

"On Sundays, we usually run through all the different punts and kicks and analyze the game together," Siegel said. "It's kind of fun to have someone there that you can talk to that obviously understands the high demands of your job and the ups and downs that come with it."

"We're always there for each other and have helped each other handle all the pressure and the media," Arroyo said. "I think there's also a friendly competition as roommates which helps motivate us."

Having that type of support will be crucial as the season rolls into the month of November with the Ducks one of five teams perched atop the Pac-10 standings with only one loss.

The kicking game will continue to be scrutinized, as it could be the deciding factor between an Oregon trip to the Fiesta Bowl or a vacation to El Paso, Texas, for the Sun Bowl.

"I can't think of any other conference that is as dominant as the Pac-10 this year," Siegel said. "So there isn't a game on our schedule that you can take for granted. And that's exciting as a kicker."

"It's been a lifelong dream to be where I'm at, and I'm sure Jose feels the same way. So we're just thrilled to be in the position that we're in."

Even if those positions are ones with little glory and the potential for plenty of blame.

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