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Pac-10 Standings

1. Oregon	5-1	8-1
WSU	5-1	8-1
Washington	5-1	7-1
4. Stanford	4-2	5-2
5. UCLA	3-2	6-2
6. USC	3-3	4-5
7. Oregon State	2-4	3-5
8. Arizona State	1-4	4-4
9. Arizona	1-5	4-5
10. California	0-6	0-8



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Pac-10 race down to the wire

■ For most of the Pac-10 teams, Saturday's games mark the last matches before rivalry week

By Chris Cabot
 Oregon Daily Emerald

As the football season nears its end, this week holds potentially enormous implications for bowl selections. For the most part, the games feature some unbalanced matchups, but if any of the underdog teams can come up with wins, there could be quite a shakeup in the conference standings.

Washington at Oregon State

Oregon State (3-5 overall, 2-4 Pac-10) could really help the Ducks this weekend with a win against Washington in Corvallis. In order to beat the No. 8 team in the nation, the Beavers need to pull out of the funk that running back Ken Simonton and the rest of the team has been mired in most of the season.

Oregon State is coming off an overtime loss to Southern California, a game in which Simonton rushed for 96 yards. In addition to Simonton, the Beavers' Steven Jackson gained 119 yards, so Oregon State's head coach Dennis Erickson said he will see quite a bit of playing time against Washington. The combination of Simonton, Jackson, quarterback Jonathan Smith and a

strong wide receiver corps lead by James Newson will give the Washington defense a tough test.

Oregon State will also be looking for some revenge after losing its only game last year to the Huskies.

"We are going to be playing an inspired football team, a very talented football team, that hasn't quite hit its stride," Washington head coach Rick Neuheisel said.

Washington State at Arizona State

This game marks the 11th-ranked Cougars' last game before the Apple Cup, and they are still not getting the respect they deserve. After beating UCLA last week 20-14, Washington State (7-1, 5-1) is only favored to beat the Sun Devils by two points.

Quarterback Jason Gesser is leading the Pac-10 in total offense and is leading the Cougar offense to 38.3 points per game and 310.4 passing yards per game, both top numbers in the conference and near the national leaders.

The Washington State defense is another strong-suit for head coach Mike Price. They have intercepted a league-leading 20 passes, thanks in large part to Lamont Thompson, who has seven interceptions.

Leading Arizona State is their offensive triple threat of tailback Delvon Flowers, wide receiver Shaun McDonald and quarterback Jeff Krohn.

Stanford at Arizona

Last week's win over California snapped Arizona's 10-game conference losing streak, but with Stanford's rush defense, which is the best in the Pac-10, and powerful offense, the Wildcats will probably begin another streak.

Wide receiver Bobby Wade caught three touchdown passes from Jason Johnson in Arizona's win last week, and they should be able to connect often against Stanford's struggling secondary. But with Arizona's defense ranking near the bottom of conference in points allowed, Stanford's offense, lead by the running of Brian Allen, should keep the scorekeeper busy.

Southern California at California

The Golden Bears (0-8, 0-6) are still looking for their first win with three games remaining — this week's contest against USC, next week at Stanford and Nov. 23 at Rutgers.

Statistically, Cal has the worst scoring offense and defense in the Pac-10, while USC brings the worst total offense to Saturday's heated contest.

The Trojan defense will be the deciding factor in the game, though, as they are second in the conference in points allowed.

Chris Cabot is a sports reporter for the Oregon Daily Emerald. He can be reached at chriscabot@dailyemerald.com.

Preview

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"Getting back in charge of our destiny doesn't change the way we're going to approach this thing," said Bellotti, who is 16-3 in November. "Our kids have done a great job of focusing this year."

The last time Oregon and UCLA met in the Rose Bowl, the Bruins es-

caped with a 34-29 win, despite a mammoth fourth-quarter comeback from the Ducks.

As a freshman, UCLA quarterback Cory Paus, the projected starter for Saturday's game, threw for 332 yards and two touchdowns in that 1999 win.

The Ducks, however, are 11-2 on the road since their last visit to Pasadena, including a 4-0 mark this year.

"If you look at Oregon, they are an excellent football team," UCLA head coach Bob Toledo said. "But right now I'm more concerned about us at this point. Somehow I need to get this team refocused on what we need to do to finish up and have a good season."

Adam Jude is the sports editor for the Oregon Daily Emerald. He can be reached at adamjude@dailyemerald.com

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