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player has ever had more than one career triple-double; Powell has three. "She is special," VanDerveer said after Powell posted eight points, nine rebounds and six assists in Stanford's win over Fordham last week. "She rebounds, pushes the ball well in transition, and is a special playmaker. Very unselfish." In what could be the biggest game of the Pac-10 season to date, Oregon (9-6 overall, 4-2 Pac-10) travels south to take on the Cardinal on Sunday. The winner of that game may hold an inside edge to the conference's regular season championship.

Huskies, Trojans do battle

What do you get when you throw two of the conference's top teams into the same arena? Well, in the case of Washington and USC, you get a game that goes down to the wire. Down 79-78 with 4.8 seconds remaining in the game, Washington (4-1 overall, 9-5 Pac-10) junior Loree Payne drove to the hoop and put the Huskies ahead by one with a lay-in. She was fouled on the play, but missed the free throw, setting the table for USC (4-2, 8-7) to come back.

However, it was not to be as freshman Rachel Woodward missed a half-court shot just before time ran out. "I am very excited about this win tonight, because it proves that our intensity level has risen," Washington head coach June Daugherty said. "We are blossoming against tough teams. Everyone played hard at their position, and I am proud of this team for battling so hard."

Washington's win pushes them into sole possession of second place in the Pac-10, just a half game behind Stanford. USC fell to a three-way tie with Oregon and Oregon State for third place.

USC lands Craig

Known as one of the top athletically minded schools in the country, USC has attracted some top players in its past. Mark McGwire played baseball for the Trojans, Keyshawn Johnson was a star wide receiver and Cheryl Miller once ruled the hard-court for the Women of Troy. But the recent past has not been kind to the Trojans. USC football has fallen a bit, the baseball team is not a nationally prominent program anymore, and basketball has not been its strongest suit. All that is beginning to change.

Jaime Carroll, daughter of head football coach Pete Carroll, is a member of the USC volleyball team. She has not had a major role on the squad yet, but looks to be a prominent force for the team in her next two seasons. And with help from future transfer Rometra Craig, women's basketball may soon return to the Pac-10 powerhouse. Yesterday, the Trojans announced the signing of Craig, who will transfer from Duke. Because she announced her plans to transfer in December, the soon-to-be redshirt sophomore will be eligible to play for the Trojans midway through next season, and will have two years left. "I wish Duke the best for the rest of the season, but this was a decision I had to make," Craig told ESPN.com when she announced her plans to transfer. "It has been really hard being away from my family and I just want to be closer to home." If the name sounds familiar, it's because she is the daughter of famed NFL running back Roger Craig. Her cousin, Corey Maggette, starred for Duke during the 1998-98 season, and now plays for the NBA's Los Angeles Clippers.

E-mail sports reporter Hank Hager at hankhager@dailyemerald.com.



Stanford forward Nicole Powell goes up for a shot against the Ducks at McArthur Court last season as guard Kourtney Shreve (5) defends.

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long break in good position to challenge for a spot in this season's NCAA Tournament in March, if Kent can keep the right half of the blueprint. Uh, OK, whatever. While the Arizona players remained relatively quiet heading into last Friday's rematch with Oregon in Tucson, one reporter provided plenty of trash talk.

Arizona Daily Star columnist Greg Hansen ripped on Mac Court, oddly enough on the day of the game at the McKale Center. "Oregon's Mac Court is overrated for several reasons, mostly because it is so old, 75 years," Hansen wrote. "Mac Court is loud, yes, but what place isn't?" Adding insult to this injuring statement, Hansen continued. "McKale is always loud. Not so at Mac Court," Hansen wrote. "On Page 52 of Oregon's media

guide, Duck standout Freddie Jones is pictured shooting a jumper at the old gym — and the background is a sea of empty seats, most of them up-close, behind-the-bench seats purchased by older people." The Emerald took a look at the offending photo. In the picture, which is one of the smaller photos in the media guide, 14 empty seats are visible. Meanwhile, 45 other seats are filled. The next page features a photo of Jones

dunking in the same preseason contest against Mississippi Valley State, and those 14 empty seats are all filled. Pit Packing. Pac-10 play is back. The Students are back. Add the two together, and The Pit Crew is the result. Oregon's student-fan organization is back, and giving out T-shirts as they have in previous years. But this season, the T-shirt won't just be something to wear out to parties. This year, those

fans wearing Pit Crew shirts will be allowed to enter games five minutes before the doors open to the non-shirted crowd, giving the yellow-clad folks a leg up in the race for floor seats. Also new this year, the Pit Crew is asking students not to stand on top of seats, but to instead step down. This will allow fans in the first row above the student section to see the game more clearly. E-mail sports reporter Peter Hockaday at peterhockaday@dailyemerald.com.

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