

Men's

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the Ducks in scoring.

This year's award marked the second in two years for Ridnour, who was last season's Freshman of the Year. He joined Stanford's Casey Jacobsen, Arizona's Jason Gardner and UCLA's Jason Kaponas as former Freshmen of the Year to make this season's All-Pac-10 Team.

Rounding out the all-conference team were Arizona's Luke Walton, Stanford's Curtis Borchardt, Arizona State's Chad Prewitt and Washington's Doug Wrenn.

Joining Jackson as honorable mentions were USC's David Bluthenthal and Brandon Granville, UCLA's Dan Gadzuric, California's Joe Shipp and Washington State's Marcus Moore.

Joining Stoudamire on the All-Freshman team were his Wildcat teammate Channing Frye, California's Amit Tamir and Jamal Sampson, USC's Errick Craven and honorable mentions Cedric Bozeman of UCLA, Josh Childress of Stanford and Chris Hernandez, also from Stanford.

All the awards handed out Wednesday night were voted on by the 10 conference coaches. The ceremony took place in Los Angeles, where eight conference teams will start play in the Pac-10 Tournament today.

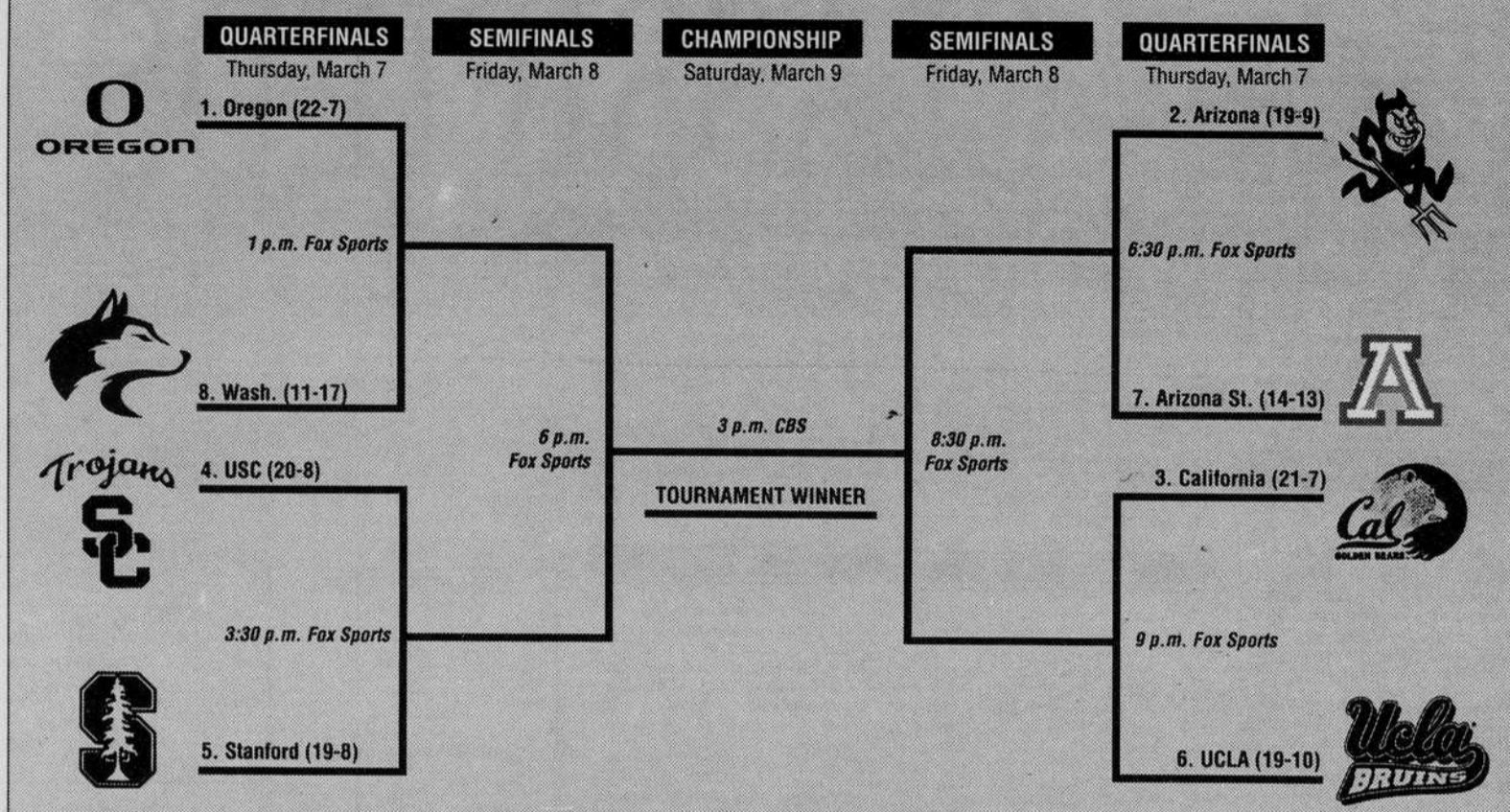
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Pac-10 Awards

- Coach of the Year:
Ernie Kent, ORE
- Player of the Year:
Sam Clancy, USC
- Freshman of the Year:
Salim Stoudamire, ARIZ
- Oregon selections:
Freddie Jones, All-Pac-10 Team
Luke Ridnour, All-Pac-10 Team
Luke Jackson, All-Pac-10 Honorable Mention

2002 Pac-10 men's tournament bracket

March 7 - 9 at the Staples Center in Los Angeles



Scott Abts Emerald

Pac-10

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have split the series 3-3.

Get ready for the 2002 North-west Battle, round three.

Washington always manages to have one loaded weapon reserved for the Ducks, and this season that weapon is sophomore forward Doug Wrenn. The transfer from the Connecticut notched 32 points in the Huskies' 97-92 win in January, then scored 27 in Oregon's 90-84 win in Eugene in February.

But other than Wrenn, Washington has little offense. Center David Dixon averages 8.3 points and 7.7 rebounds per game. Forward Grant Leep averages 7.8 points per contest. Meanwhile, Oregon has three starters averaging more than 15 points per game.

No. 4 USC vs.

No. 5 Stanford, 3:30 p.m.

The big-name players on the Trojan and Cardinal teams abound. Casey Jacobsen; Sam Clancy; Curtis Borchardt. But those big names have supporting casts, which should make this game a classic.

USC has gotten the best of Stanford in the series this season. The Trojans managed a 90-82 win in Los Angeles in January, then blew out the Cardinal, 77-58 at Stanford's Maples Pavilion.

Clancy led the Trojan charge in both contests. The senior All-American candidate scored 24 points and grabbed 13 rebounds in the first matchup, then scored 17 points and added 11 rebounds in the second game.

That second USC-Stanford game was followed by the Cardinal's 95-92 loss at home to UCLA. After dropping those two games, Stanford could have been in danger of heading to the NIT, but the Cardinal recovered and beat Arizona and Arizona State on the road to solidify their NCAA Tournament chances.

Now the Cardinal, like the Trojans, will be looking to improve their NCAA seeding by winning in the Pac-10 Tournament. The winner of the game will face the winner of the Oregon-Washington matchup Friday.

No. 2 Arizona v.

No. 7 Arizona State, 6:45 p.m.

This is a Duel in the Desert — if

Los Angeles is a desert.

Arizona and Arizona State will square off in a battle of youth versus experience, and the game may come down to who wants it more.

So who wants it more? Probably the Sun Devils, who need to win the conference tournament in order to punch a ticket to the Big Dance. Arizona is riding the tide of a 19-9 regular season that included enough wins against top-25 teams to fill an ocean liner, essentially cementing a high NCAA Tournament seed for the Wildcats.

Arizona also has a coach, Olson, who is vocally opposed to the Pac-10 Tournament. Olson says that, among other things, the tournament is too brief and tiring, and too hard on academics.

Arizona State has already had success in the Duel of the Desert this season. The Sun Devils won on their home floor, 88-72, then played the Wildcats to a close 83-75 loss in Tucson, in a game that Arizona State led late in the second half.

Part of the Sun Devils' success against the Wildcats could be due to Arizona State's depth and experience matching up with Arizona's youth and inexperience. The Sun Devils have three starters averaging more than 12 points per game but also have four other players averaging more than five points. Five of those seven players are juniors or seniors.

The Arizona schools will take

their desert show to Los Angeles tonight at approximately 6:45. The time could change if other games run longer than expected.

No. 3 California v.

No. 6 UCLA, 9 p.m.

By 9 tonight, the floor of the Staples Center will have seen a lot of good basketball. But California and UCLA should light up the building once more, especially if all the Bruin fans in Los Angeles come to support their team.

But the Golden Bears have some factors in their favor as well. In the teams' last meeting, California destroyed UCLA in Berkeley, 69-51. The Golden Bears are still looking for national respect even after a 21-7 regular season, and they need a good conference tournament showing to jump to a high NCAA Tournament seed.

The Bruins have two of the components necessary for a deep conference tournament run: experience and depth. UCLA coach Steve Lavin starts an all junior-senior lineup except for freshman guard Cedric Bozeman. The Bruins will also be looking to improve their NCAA seed with conference tournament wins, after finishing 11-7 in Pac-10 play.

The winner of the UCLA-California game will face the winner of Arizona-Arizona State on Friday.

E-mail sports reporter Peter Hockaday at peterhockaday@dailyemerald.com.

A Party That's Been 63 Years In The Making



Head Coach Ernie Kent and the Men's Basketball team invite you to

Mac Court on Sunday, March 10, to celebrate the first outright Pac-10 Championship since 1939.

Admission is FREE. Doors open at 1:45pm. Festivities begin at 2:15pm.

We'll cut down the same nets that produced a 16-0 home record. We'll handout FREE popcorn and Pepsi. We'll show the NCAA Selection Show at 3:00pm, then you can stick around for the taping of Oregon Basketball with Ernie Kent on KEZI.

No need to RSVP. Ernie knows you'll be there.

Women's

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Przekwas out

Only one day after the completion of the Pac-10 Tournament and three days after the Cougars were ousted by Oregon, Washington State head coach Jenny Przekwas was fired Tuesday.

The coach, who had been paid \$125,000 this season and had two years left on her contract, was often criticized by current players for being a rugged and sometimes unfair tactician.

Coming to Washington State

from St. Francis College of Pennsylvania in 1999, she led the Cougars to a three-year record of 17-68, including a 2-27 mark this season.

"Her coaching is not in question," said Jim Sterk, Washington State athletic director. "The program has been unable to attract and retain the athletes to be competitive in the Pac-10."

In her three-year tenure, eight players left the team or were suspended for academic or disciplinary reasons. Of those eight, three were recruited by Przekwas.

"The mental abuse wasn't worth it," Rebecca Jordan told the Spokesman-Review in January. "She made me lose my passion

for the game."

Sterk admitted that comments from former players did play a part in his decision to remove Przekwas from her post. In addition, her three assistants — Pippa Pierce, Cassie Sawyer and Mary Markey — will also be let go.

"I'd be lying if I said (the media reports) didn't influence (the decision) somewhat," Sterk told the Seattle Times. "There's hard feelings, obviously, to make someone want to leave a program. For whatever reason, it didn't work, and we're moving on."

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