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**THE SALVATION ARMY**



Quarterback Carson Palmer (3), back for his fifth season at USC, leads the Trojans into battle against Auburn on Saturday. Adam Amato Emerald

**Pac-10**

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**Baylor at Cal**

The similarities here are creepy. Baylor and Cal are both the Bears, and they both stink. Period.

Cal is coming off a one-win season, while the Big 12's Baylor went 3-8 last year. Neither team won a game in their conference.

Surprisingly, the Cal Bears have sold tickets to this game (how, exactly, remains a mystery). The Bad News Bears (Cal) look to start head coach Jeff Tedford's tenure on a good note. Unfortunately for Cal, there will be 11 opposing players on the field.

About all you need to know is that you shouldn't watch this game.

**Northern Arizona at Arizona**

Not a sure-fire win for the Wildcats of Arizona, but this matchup does again feature a small school against a big Pac-10 thug. The

Lumberjacks (8-4 last year) and Wildcats will meet for the first time in 57 years.

Northern Arizona — ranked No. 20 in the ESPN/USA Today Division I-AA poll — is familiar with tough competition. The Lumberjacks play in the Big Sky Conference, which has four teams ranked in the preseason and boasts the defending Division I-AA national champs, Montana.

Northern Arizona finished 8-4 and advanced to the D-I-AA playoffs in 2001. The Wildcats were 5-6 and led by running back Clarence Farmer, the Pac-10 rushing leader last year.

**Eastern Washington at Arizona State**

After getting blown out at Nebraska last week, the Sun Devils (0-1 overall) look to take out their aggression on the Eagles, a Division I-AA school that finished last year 7-4 overall.

ASU was embarrassed by its inability to stop the Nebraska run in Lincoln.

"We weren't tested in the passing game," Sun Devil coach Dirk Koetter told The Arizona Republic. "I feel more comfortable with our defense against a pass-oriented team" like Eastern Washington.

**Auburn at No. 20 USC**

In a rare Monday game, the Trojans look to show why many favor them as a dark horse in the Pac-10 this season. USC begins the year with a tough stretch of games — facing Colorado, Kansas State, Oregon State and Washington State — so it must build some confidence against Auburn for the stretch run.

Auburn cannot be overlooked, though. The Tigers were 7-2 last season before star running back Carnell Williams went down with a season-ending injury. Auburn lost three straight games to end the season, but Williams is back and looks to lead the Tigers to the top of the Southeastern Conference West division.

Contact the senior sports reporter at [adamjude@dailyemerald.com](mailto:adamjude@dailyemerald.com).

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**Oregon vs. Mississippi State Key Players**

**Oregon: Onterrio Smith**

Born: Raymond Lloyd Smith on Dec. 8, 1980, in Sacramento, Calif.  
 High School: Was a two-time all-state running back at Sacramento's Grant High School. Set school records for single-season yards (3,154) and touchdowns (60).

Oregon: Sat out one season for eligibility reasons in Eugene before exploding onto the Pac-10 scene last year. Rushed for 1,058 yards despite only starting one contest behind starter Maurice Morris. Broke Ahmad Rashad's single-game Oregon rushing record with 285 yards at Washington State.



**MSU: Kevin Fant**

Born: Kevin Dwayne Fant on Oct. 24, 1980, in Pascagoula, Miss.

High School: Passed for 1,269 yards and 13 touchdowns in his senior season at Moss Point (Miss.) High School, despite missing three games with a knee injury. Led Moss Point to state championships in his sophomore and junior seasons. Led Moss Point to a 34-6 record in games he started.

Mississippi State: Played in 15 games for MSU, starting three times. In nine games last season, completed 55 percent of his passes to go along with a 127.0 pass-efficiency rating. In his first full season as starter, is expected to pick up where former starter Wayne Madkin, a proven veteran, left off.



Wayne Madkin, a proven veteran, left off.