

Pac-10 plate full of light fare in second weekend

Pac-10 powerhouses continue to beef up their schedules with easy opponents as the football season heads into Week 2

Around the Pac-10

Hank Hager
Sports Reporter

So while the first week of the college football season is over, there are still questions about the Pacific-10 Conference.

Can Washington overcome its untimely miscue that allowed Michigan to kick a game-winning field goal? Can Kyle Boller show the rest of the collegiate football world that California's 70-22 win over Baylor wasn't a fluke?

Then there's Stanford and UCLA, the two teams that stayed off the gridiron during the first week. How will they look?

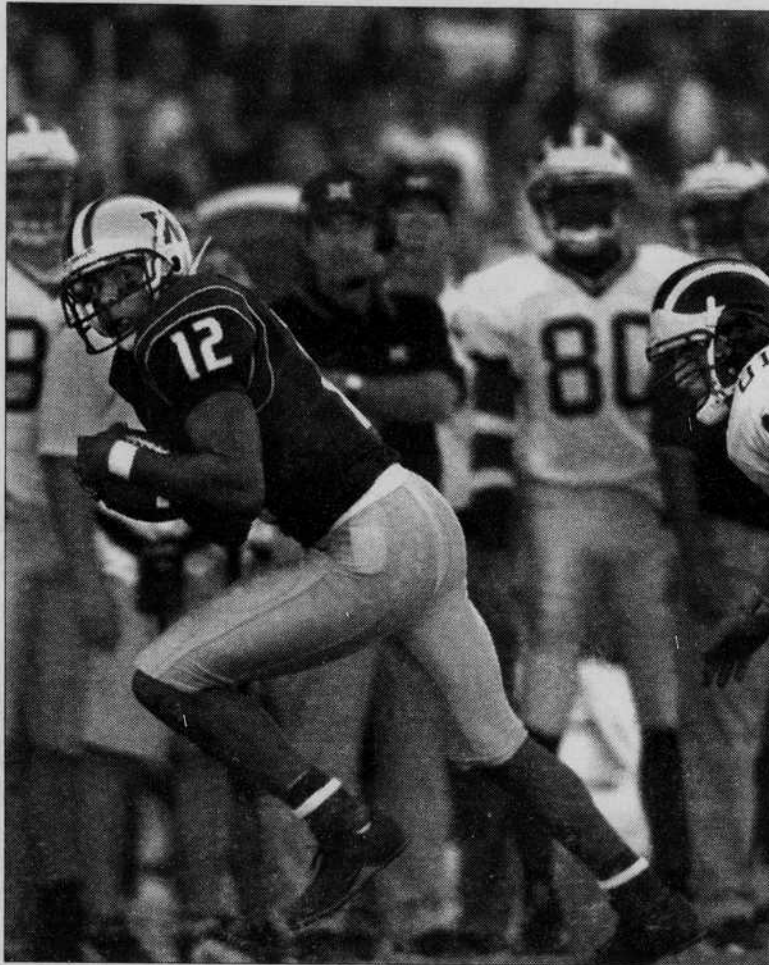
Those questions, unfortunately, won't be answered this week as the Pac-10 tradition of playing "soft" opponents early in the season continues, with just a few teams playing quality opponents.

Week 2, here we go.

Oregon State (1-0) at Temple (0-0)

Oregon State's convincing win, a 49-10 bashing of Eastern Kentucky in Week 1, was hardly anything to get excited about.

It allowed signal caller Derek Anderson a chance to get used to NCAA-caliber play after hardly seeing



Steve Ringman Seattle Times (KRT)

Washington's Omar Lowe picks off a pass in the Huskies' 31-29 loss at Michigan last week. UW will try to get back on track by playing WCC weakling San Jose State.

ing the field last season, but it shouldn't offer much of a glimpse into the Beavers' future.

The Big East's Temple shouldn't be a real test for Oregon State, but the Owls' home field advantage could

make it interesting.

San Jose State (1-0) at No. 14 Washington (0-1)

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UCLA faces surprising Rams

UCLA looks to get its season off on the right foot against the surprising Colorado State Rams

Game of the week

Hank Hager
Sports Reporter

No. 19 Colorado State (2-0) at UCLA (0-0)

This game features the surprise team of the week versus the team that hopes to surprise the rest of the Pacific-10 Conference.

Colorado State's victory over then No. 6 Colorado, 19-14, Saturday in Denver could easily rank among the most important wins for any single team this season. The Rams were expected to come out of Invesco Field torn and tattered, but instead made the Buffaloes look like the underdog.

"Before the game, we knew we would win if everybody stepped up and played their assignments, everybody did what they had to do to win the game," Colorado State quarterback Bradlee Van Pelt said. "We knew going into the game that this CU team wasn't unbeatable."

The Rams return just four starters on offense and six on defense from a team that finished 7-5 in 2001. But one starter, Van Pelt, will be the key to Colorado State's offense this season. He should provide matchup problems with the UCLA defense, which is not accustomed to athletic quarterbacks.

Colorado State could roll to 3-0 after its game against the Bruins.

UCLA, meanwhile, has yet to strut its stuff this season, and it now plays its first game two weeks after the Rams and Cavaliers touched off the 2002 year.

Running back DeShaun Foster is

gone, quarterback Cory Paus is a question mark in terms of playing ability and desire, and Rickey Manning Jr., the team's top defensive player, was arrested on Aug. 27 for his part in a bar fight in April.

Head coach Bob Toledo has got to be up to a challenge. Last season's 7-4 finish looked to be as bad as it could get. Maybe not.

"You talk about chemistry and attitude; two of the problems that we had off the field affected this football team (last year)," Toledo told the Daily Bruin. "When you had as many seniors as we had and as many good football players as we had who are going to go onto all-star games and professional football, they start focusing on the future and forget about now."

"Our goals (this season) are team unity and to win the upcoming game."

Contact the sports reporter at hankhager@dailyemerald.com.

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