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Jeremy Forrest Emerald

Freshman Jason Harrison (28) helps lead the Bruins when they travel to Seattle to take on conference foe Washington at Husky Stadium.

Northwestern exposure: conference powers clash

All of the Pac-10 action this week is focused on the north as four contests take place here

Around the Pac-10

Jesse Thomas
Sports Reporter

The Pacific-10 conference will see all its action in the Pacific Northwest this week, as all four games are being played in northern outposts.

This week's matchups feature Arizona searching for its first conference win and Washington hoping to change history from last year's Rose

Bowl. Arizona State and Washington State face each other as the only unbeaten teams in the conference. Cal and USC take a break this week, each with a bye, but both will be in action next weekend.

UCLA (5-3, 2-2 Pac-10) at Washington (4-4, 1-3), 4 p.m.

The UCLA Bruins head to Seattle this week in search of their sixth Pac-10 win. Washington will not only be seeking a win but revenge from last year's beating.

The last time these two teams met was at the Rose Bowl last sea-

son. UCLA and Washington were each 4-0 and ranked in the top 10 when they went head-to-head on national television.

But when any single player rushes for more than 300 yards, it is difficult to beat his team. The Rose Bowl ended with highlights of Deshaun Foster, as the UCLA tailback helped lead the Bruins to a 35-13 win. Foster ran for 301 yards, the third-highest mark in Pac-10 history and a UCLA record.

The Bruins held Washington to minus-8 yards rushing and snapped the Huskies' 12-game winning streak.

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Cougs, Devils battle for top spot

When Arizona State and Washington State meet, one unbeaten team will lose

Game of the week

Jesse Thomas
Sports Reporter

Arizona State (7-2, 4-0 Pac-10) at Washington State (7-1, 4-0), 12:30 p.m.

It's a showdown in Pullman this weekend as the two remaining undefeated teams in the Pacific-10 Conference face off to prove who is deserving of the top spot and who will fall.

Arizona State meets Washington State for a matchup that has Rose Bowl implications and could lead to a Pac-10 championship ring.

The Cougars won last year in Tempe to snap a four-game ASU

winning streak in the series, but the Sun Devils lead the series 6-5 in Washington and have won the last two in Pullman.

In 2001, WSU quarterback Jason Gesser connected with wide receiver Jerome Riley twice to key the Cougar offense. Riley pulled in six receptions for 158 yards in helping WSU to the win. For ASU, All-Pac-10 wide receiver Shaun McDonald reeled in five receptions for 169 yards.

The Sun Devils will play three of their last four on the road, beginning this week. ASU, at 4-0 in conference play, has not been off to this strong of a start since its 1996 Rose Bowl season. And speaking of the Rose Bowl, the winner of this game will be in the driver's seat for this year's game.

All-Pac-10 defensive end Terrell Suggs leads the nation with 17.5 sacks and had 4.5 sacks in the win against Washington last week. With Suggs leading the team, the Sun Dev-

ils easily lead the Pac-10 in quarterback sacks with 40 this year.

For the Cougars, they can rest comfortably at home with three-straight games in Pullman, starting this week, and only one more on the road.

Gesser led the way for WSU with 279 yards of total offense against Arizona last week, making him the Cougars' career yardage leader. Gesser is tied for seventh on the Pac-10 career touchdown list with 59 and has thrown at least one touchdown in 20-straight games.

In 21 conference games played this season, 16 have been decided by 11 or fewer points, with 10 of those by eight or fewer. This game should be a close one to the end, as both teams battle for the top spot in the Pac-10 and a smooth path to the Rose Bowl.

Contact the sports reporter at jessethomas@dailyemerald.com.

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