

## SPORTS

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**Best bet**  
European soccer:  
Ajax at Inter Milan,  
1:30 a.m., ESPN2

Tuesday, November 12, 2002

# Cougs want to join national title party

WSU jumps to No. 3 in the BCS and has not given up on playing in the Fiesta Bowl

## Pac-10 notes

**Adam Jude**  
Senior Sports Reporter

Sure, the Washington State Cougars are getting a bit thorny, but they have their sights set a little bigger.

One win away from securing a trip to the Rose Bowl, the Cougs have not given up hope of playing for the national championship at the Fiesta Bowl. After defeating Oregon 32-21 Saturday in Pullman, Wash., the Cougs jumped to No. 3 in the latest Bowl Championship Series poll, released Monday.

Just two teams, No. 1 Ohio State and No. 2 Miami, remain unbeaten in college football. At the end of the regular season, the top two teams in the BCS will play for the national title.

WSU is ranked No. 3 in The Associated Press poll — its highest ranking ever — and No. 4 in the USA Today/ESPN coaches' poll.

"We're in uncharted territories now and it's kind of exciting," WSU head coach Mike Price told The Seattle Times.

With their romp through the Pac-10, the Cougs are also on the brink of making history.

At 6-0 in the Pac-10, Washington State (9-1 overall) could become just the sixth team to finish the regular season undefeated since the Pac-10 was formed in 1978. UCLA was the last team to go undefeated, in 1998.

The Cougars take this week off before hosting Washington on Nov. 23 for the Apple Cup. WSU finishes the Pac-10 season Dec. 7 at UCLA.

## Trojans rising, too

At No. 8, USC (7-2, 5-1) is the only other Pac-10 team ranked by the BCS.

With three games remaining — against Arizona State, at UCLA and against Notre Dame — the Trojans could be headed for a BCS bowl. But USC will likely have to get past Notre Dame, No. 7 in the BCS, to earn a major bowl bid.

Even if the Trojans get to a big bowl, they may not be happy with it. They haven't been content with much lately.

After crushing Stanford, 49-17, in Palo Alto, senior quarterback Carson Palmer — who set the school record for career touchdown passes in the win — acted like the Trojans had lost.

"I'm mad, I'm frustrated, and I'm angry. The whole offense is," Palmer told reporters. "We should have scored every time we had the ball."

Imagine what he would have said if they did lose.

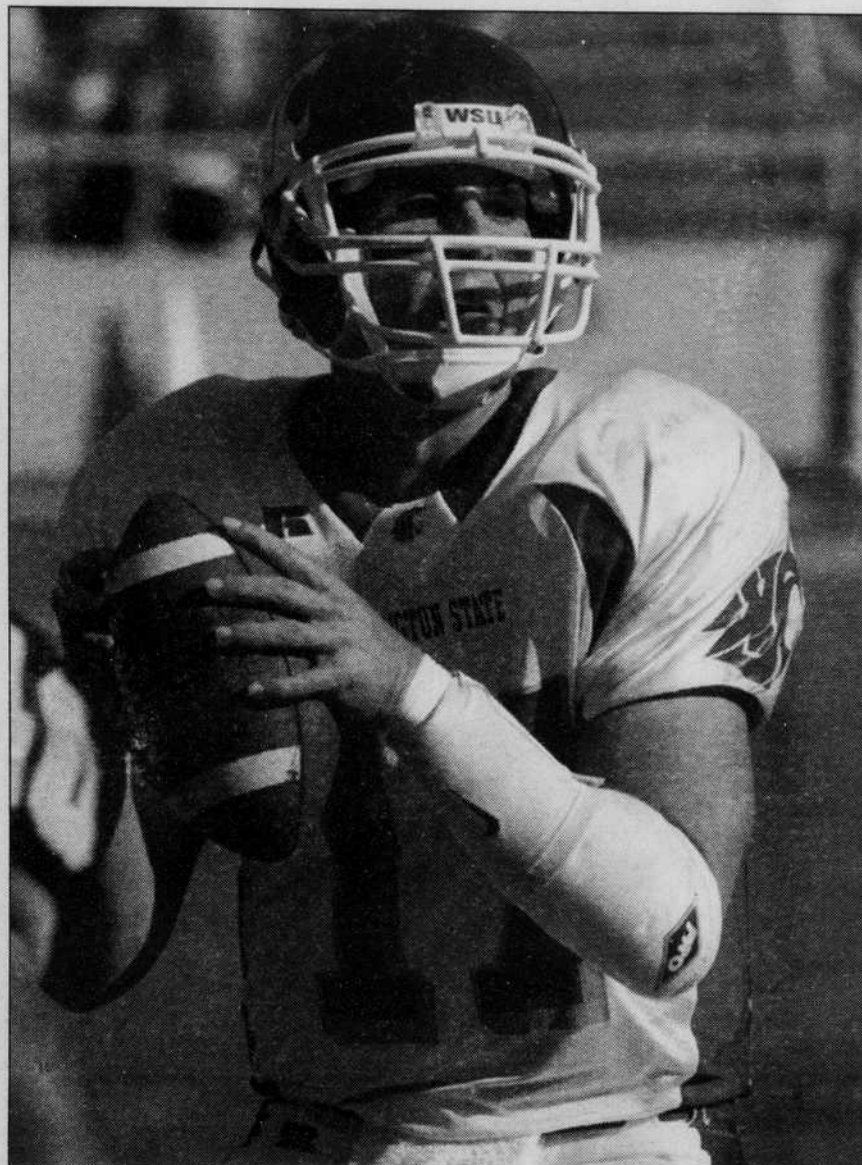
## Passers passing records

With four touchdown passes against Oregon, Jason Gesser tied Cade McNown (UCLA, 1995-99) for third on the Pac-10 career touchdown list with 66. John Elway (Stanford, 1979-82) heads that list with 77 career TD passes.

Palmer has 61 career TD passes, seventh-best in conference history. He also stands second in career passing yards (10,622) and total offense (10,421).

California's Kyle Boller, who tossed five TDs in the Bears' win over ASU, has 60 career touchdown passes, which ties him with former Oregon quarterback Bill Musgrave for eighth on the Pac-10's all-time list, one ahead of former Oregon quarterback Joey Harrington.

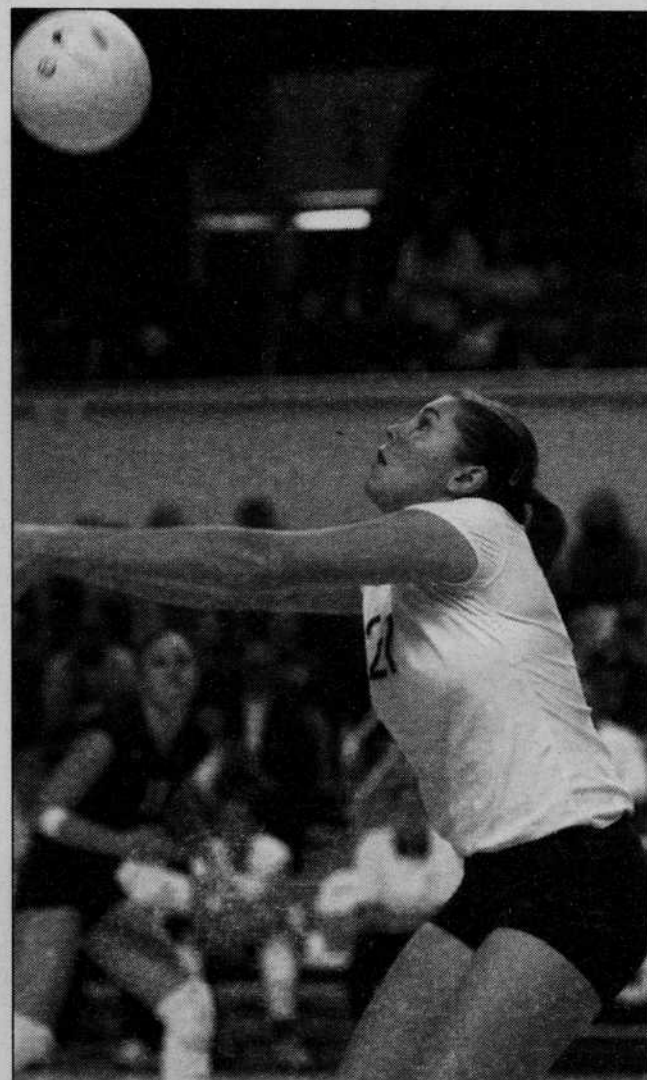
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Courtesy Washington State Media Services

Jason Gesser and Washington State moved to third in the latest BCS standings.

# Ducks impress in losses



Adam Amato Emerald

Sydney Chute had two kills and 21 assists against the No. 19 Bruins as UCLA pulled out a four-game victory Saturday.

The Oregon volleyball team comes up short against the Southern California schools

## Volleyball

**Hank Hager**  
Sports Reporter

Freshman Dariam Acevedo posted 21 kills and senior Lindsay Closs pitched in with 20 on Saturday against UCLA in front of 1,133 fans at McArthur Court, but Oregon could not pull out a victory against the No. 19 Bruins.

Still, the Ducks (11-17 overall, 1-13 Pacific-10 Conference) — who lost to No. 2 USC in three sets Friday — played their best volleyball of the season in the two losses.

"I'm not disappointed in anything tonight except for the fact that we didn't beat a top-25 team," Oregon head coach Carl Ferreira said after the Ducks lost to UCLA in four games (30-24, 30-25, 28-30, 30-27). "We're chasing something now that we weren't before and these players believe they can win."

The Oregon offense was on target against the Bruins (15-10, 8-7), posting a .400 hitting percentage in Game 3 en route to a .256 overall percentage. In addition to Acevedo and Closs' dominance, freshman Kelly Russell had 11 kills while sophomore Lauren Westendorf had 10.

Westendorf also had a career-high 15 digs in the loss, while Acevedo matched her season high with 20.

"I felt that we played our hearts out," Westendorf said. "We did everything we

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# Not your father's polo

The only horses on the Oregon water polo team are in the water

**Scott Archer**  
Freelance Sports Reporter

After finishing the season third in its division, the Oregon men's Water Polo team is fine with how the season ended. With only two tournaments scheduled during its season, the polo players said it is hard to come together and compete with so few matches and so little rest in between.

"Our whole season is tournaments," team coordinator Matt Baumann said. "We have a regional placing tournament and a regional tournament."

The regional placing tournament pits teams from the Northwest Division of Club Collegiate Water Polo against each other, and the teams compete to determine who earns what seed in the regional tournament. Oregon traveled to Pullman, Wash., on Oct. 5 for this year's seeding tournament. The Ducks haven't had much success in Pullman this year — in any sport.

Facing Washington in the first round, Oregon sank the Huskies, 10-5. Then the Ducks cruised to a victory over Western Washington and beat Washington State to set up the fourth and final round game, a showdown with in-state rival Oregon State.

**Club Sports Tuesday**

The Beavers prevailed, dropping Oregon to 2-2 on the day, and earning the Ducks a third-seed berth for the important regional tournament.

The regional tournament was where the winner of the division would be determined, and was held in the familiar setting of Corvallis.

Again the Ducks squared off with Washington, but Oregon came up short. Next up was the Beavers, and again Oregon couldn't come up with a win. In the final game, Oregon matched up with Western Washington, and the Ducks swam to victory.

When all was said and done, Oregon finished third in its seven-team division. Included in the Northwest division are Oregon State, Puget Sound, Western Washington, Washington State, Washington and the Ducks.

"We had a pretty good season," said Baumann.

And with that, the 2002 fall season started and finished in a heartbeat.

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