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SPORTS

Best bet
NBA: Houston at LA Lakers
7:30 p.m., TNT

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Lavin's empire crumbles in Los Angeles

Kareem Abdul-Jabbar has expressed interest in the head coaching job at UCLA when Lavin vacates it after this season

Mens Pac-10

Peter Hockaday
Sports Editor

First it was a rumor, then it was a question, now it's almost fact.

Steve Lavin is done at UCLA.

The only rumors now are about who will take over his job, and one of the brightest stars in Bruin history, Kareem Abdul-Jabbar, has expressed interest in the job.

In an interview with ESPN's Andy Katz last week, Lavin, the UCLA head coach, all but admitted he will be fired once the season is over. That could be sooner rather than later for the Bruins, who are in real danger of missing the Pacific-10 Conference Tournament.

"I'm approaching every game as if it's my last time somewhere," Lavin told Katz. "The last time at (California's) Haas Pavilion, the last time at Mac Court. I've got a lot of good memories and experiences."

"I'm approaching every game as if it's my last time somewhere. The last time at Haas Pavilion, the last time at Mac Court."

Steve Lavin
UCLA head coach

After that interview, Lavin's Bruins lost two more games, by a combined 52 points, to No. 1 Arizona and Arizona State. That puts them at 5-16 overall, 2-10 in conference play.

The Bruins currently trail Washington by one game for the eighth and final berth in the Pac-10 Tournament. UCLA still has to play the Northern California teams and Oregon, while Washington has only Oregon as a big

road block in their schedule. Still, when Washington and UCLA meet in the season's final game on March 8, the eighth seed in the Pac-10 Tourney could well be on the line.

Meanwhile, Abdul-Jabbar expressed interest in the possible opening at UCLA. In a conference call with reporters in which he announced he has been hired as a commentator for CBS, Abdul-Jabbar called the UCLA head coaching position "a dream job."

"I haven't spoken to anybody at UCLA, but if things change at the end of the season and there is a position open, I hope they would consider me," Abdul-Jabbar said.

The former UCLA star — playing as Lew Alcindor — Abdul-Jabbar averaged 26.4 points per game and is the second-leading scorer in Bruin history despite playing only three seasons. He will announce first-and-second round NCAA Tournament games for CBS this March.

Maybe the water's tainted

UCLA isn't the only struggling Southern California team. USC also lost both games to Arizona and Arizona State, and the Trojans are now two games behind Oregon for fifth in the conference.

USC isn't listed as a "bubble team" by ESPN, and it looks like the Trojans, who have a 10-11 overall record, will miss the NCAA Tournament.

This comes a week after USC beat Oregon, UCLA and UNLV and had its NCAA Tournament hopes revived. But even if the Trojans win the rest of their games and the Pac-10 Tournament, they'll finish 19-11.

Oh well. There's always spring football looming on the horizon.

Rank and file

Once again, parity is the dark horseman wreaking havoc on the Pac-10 conference.

At least, that's how it looks when you see the latest rankings.

No. 1 Arizona, No. 18 California and No. 21 Stanford were the only Pac-10 teams in the Associated Press rankings for the second week in a row. The

Turn to **Men's**, page 10



Adam Amato Emerald

Steve Lavin's Bruins lost both games in Arizona and now sit a game out of the last spot in the Pac-10 Tournament.

Cougar women break losing streak against Cal

Washington State ends the second-longest losing streak in Division I history at 45 games

Womens Pac-10

Jesse Thomas
Sports Reporter

When Washington State hosted California on Feb. 24, 2001, life was good.

The Cougars defeated the Golden Bears by 15 points.

And when the Cougars went into the locker room, they never expected to lose their next 34 conference games.

But they did. Washington State didn't win another game until Feb. 13, 2003.

Cal started the streak, and when the Bears returned to Friel Court on Thursday night, they ended it. The Cougars triumphed, 67-64.

For head coach Sherri Murrell, it was a sigh of relief. One team can only get kicked around for so long.

"When you get punched in the head 21 times it's fun to get that one blow back," Murrell said after recording her first career coaching victory with Washington State. "It's been two years for our players. It's been a long time coming and I am so proud of them."

The Cougars had a 45-game losing streak overall — the second longest in Division I history.

Washington State (1-22, 1-14 Pacific-10 Conference) can thank juniors Bianca McCall and Lindsey Egeland, as the two

Turn to **Women's**, page 10



Members of the Oregon ski team live it up on the wintery slopes, despite a lack of snowfall this season.
Courtesy Oregon club ski team

Lack of snow doesn't keep Oregon ski team from fun

The Ducks have had success this winter despite starting training late because of low snow levels in the fall

Jon Roetman
Freelance Sports Reporter

Snow falls from the sky as a skier prepares to launch down a steep hill.

Heart racing and adrenaline flowing, there is a struggle to remain focused.

Breathing rapidly, the skier weaves through tightly placed gates at high speeds.

In most cases, it would take fear or lack of de-

Club Sports Tuesday

termination to impede a skier's progress. For the Oregon Club Ski Team, fear and lack of determination have never been issues.

There just hasn't been any snow.

The Ducks usually start training at the

Turn to **Club skiing**, page 10