

Cardinal roll toward Pac-10 tournament

Stanford clinches its third-straight Pac-10 title and enters the tournament as the top seed

Women's Pac-10

Jesse Thomas
Sports Reporter

The regular season has finally come to a close in Pacific-10 Conference women's basketball. The seedings and schedules have been set. But the madness has just begun.

Stanford (23-4, 15-3 Pac-10) leads the way as the No. 1 seed in this weekend's Pac-10 Tournament. The Cardinal clinched the title for the third straight year with a win over UCLA two weeks ago.

Junior Nicole Powell has been the rock for Stanford all season as the leading scorer and rebounder, which has helped the Cardinal stay above the rest of the conference.

Powell averages 18.3 points per game and 9.5 rebounds per game. The Phoenix native posted 26 points, eight rebounds, six assists and two blocked shots in Stanford's final game against Arizona State.

Powell will look to lead her No. 9 Cardinal to the Pac-10 Tournament championship and deep into the heart of the NCAA Tournament.

"It's not the same as a regional championship or a national championship, but you have to win your conference to get where you want to go," Powell said. "You have to win games and do all the little things."

Even with a Pac-10 title, the Car-

dinal are far from being satisfied and understand that hard work still lies ahead in order to be successful.

"I think we're just finding ourselves," Stanford head coach Tara VanDerveer said. "I think we've got a lot more to go and a ways to improve."

VanDerveer captured her 11th Pac-10 title this season and was recently named as one of 25 finalists for the Naismith Women's College Basketball Coach of the Year Award.

Stanford's first game of the Pac-10 Tournament will be Saturday evening. The Cardinal will face the winner of the Arizona State-California matchup.

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Tara VanDerveer
Stanford head coach

Dawgs get dirty

Washington may have not clinched a Pac-10 title, but it has plenty to be proud of after destroying Washington State by 24 points Saturday.

No. 25 Washington (21-6, 13-5 Pac-10) will be the No. 2 seed in the Pac-10 Tournament after wrapping up a record of 14-0 at home. The Huskies have not gone undefeated at home since 1988-89.

The Huskies were led by Giuliana Mendiola with 20 points and five steals as the Dawgs jumped to a 26-9 lead early on their in-state rival Saturday.

At one point, the Cougars went seven minutes without a field goal and finished the game with more turnovers (18) than first-half points (17).

"It's been an amazing year and great at home," Washington head coach June Daugherty said. "I'm so proud of our ball club and the success we had all season."

The Huskies could potentially wreak havoc on the Cougars again. Washington will face the winner of the USC-Washington State matchup in their first game of the tournament.

No surprise here

She lives to break records.

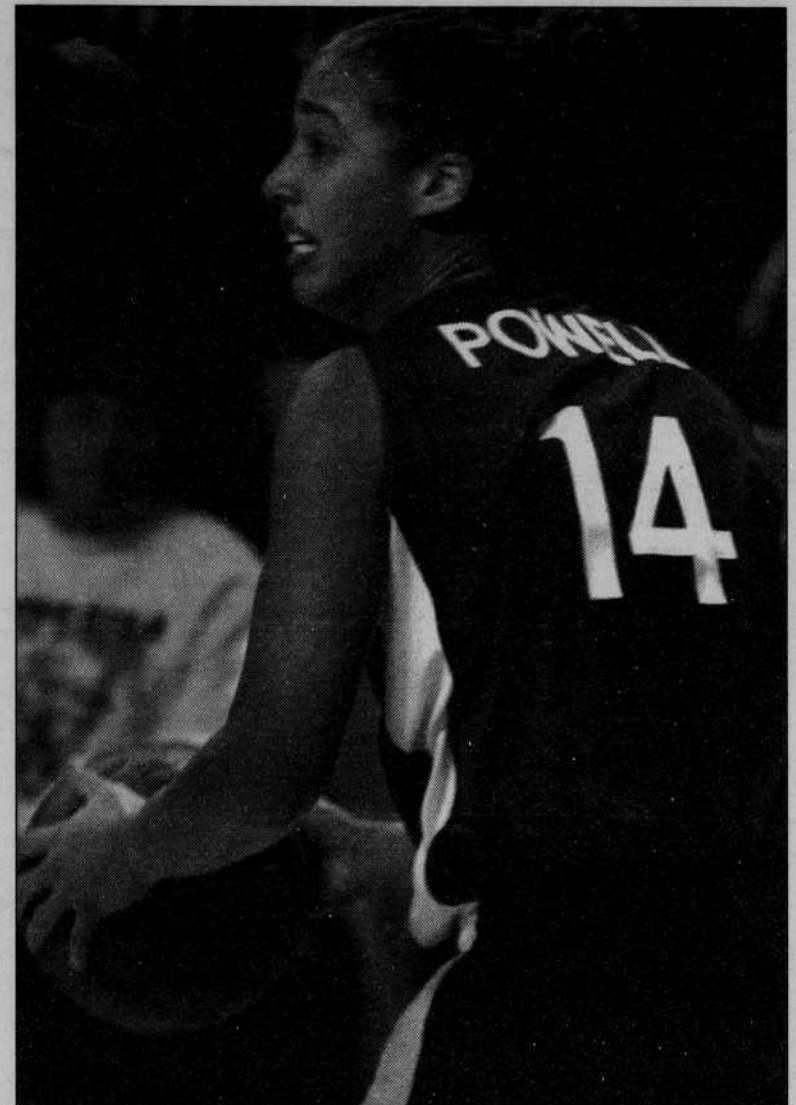
She receives Pac-10 Player of the Week honors almost every other week.

She is freshman Shawntinice Polk of the Arizona Wildcats.

Polk recently received her fourth weekly award of the year after she averaged 22.5 points, nine rebounds and seven blocks in a sweep of the Bay Area schools.

Polk broke three school records in one game on March 1, a Sun Devil defeat of Cal. Her nine blocks broke the old record set in 1980-81, before she was born. The center also set a new freshman scoring record at Arizona and a new single-season record for rebounds.

Contact the sports reporter at jessethomas@dailyemerald.com.



Adam Amato Emerald

Nicole Powell and Stanford won the regular season, and now want the tournament.

Ducks open Classic strong, fade late

The men's golf team again struggles in later rounds and finds itself eight strokes out of a top-10 finish

Golf

Scott Archer
Freelance Sports Reporter

After the opening two rounds Monday at North Ranch Country Club in Westlake Village, Calif., the Oregon men's golf team found itself tied for 13th at the Cleveland Golf Classic after shooting a 21-over-par 568 for the day. The day didn't start so rough for Oregon, which was tied

for sixth overall after the first round, before it tumbled late in the day to find itself ahead of only four of the 17 teams competing.

The Ducks were led by senior John Ellis, who shot a three-over par, to finish the opening two rounds tied for 21st. Freshman Gregg LaVoie opened the first round with an even-par 71, but struggled in the second round, adding six strokes to his opening par to finish in a tie for 47th overall at six-over par.

UCLA leads the field at two-under par following a dominant second round performance which saw the team shoot a remarkable seven-under par.

Oregon wraps up play tomorrow in the third and final round of the tournament.

Women open spring season

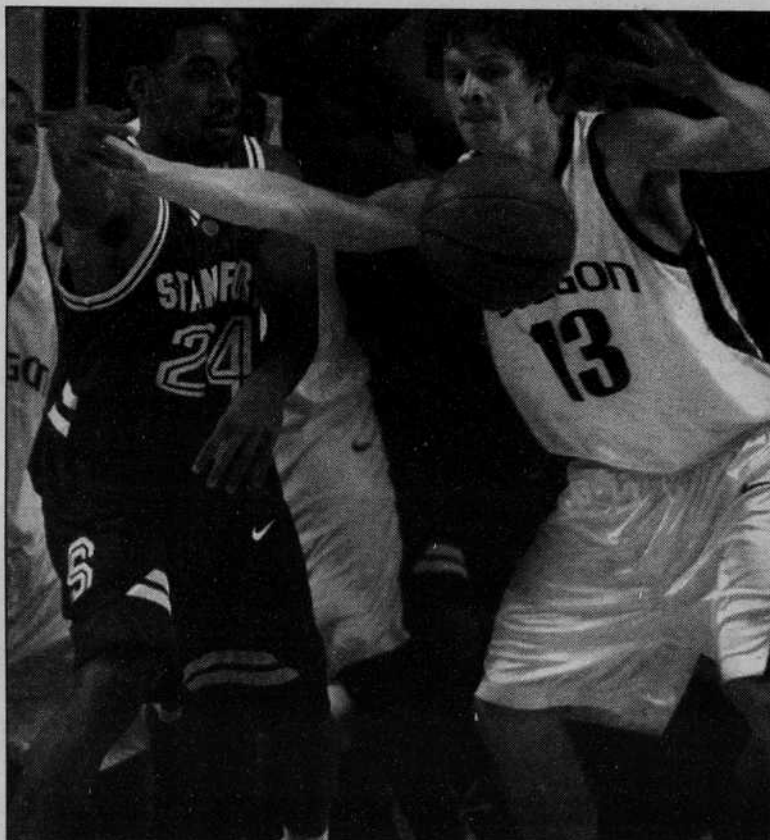
The Oregon women's golf team swings into the spring portion of its 2002-03 season today and Wednesday in the Spartan Invitational at the Corral De Tierra Country Club. The Ducks will play two rounds today and one round Wednesday at the 5,938-yard, par-72 course in Salinas, Calif.

Oregon, which faces a tough blend of competition in its first tournament since its Nov. 13 appearance in the UNLV Founder's

Day Club Tournament, will send a young group of players to the Spartan Invitational.

Traveling to Salinas for the Ducks will be freshmen Therese Wenslow, Michelle Timpani and Erin Andrews, along with sophomores Johnna Nealy, Jess Carlyon and Jaime Seefried. Wenslow finished the fall portion of the season as Oregon's No. 1 golfer with a 75.3 stroke average, followed closely by Nealy. All three of Oregon's sophomore members competed at the tournament last year, and Oregon finished 12th overall.

Scott Archer is a freelance writer for the Emerald.



Julius Barnes (24) and the Cardinal will face a rematch with Cal on Saturday. The Bears blew out Stanford in Berkeley earlier this season, but Stanford is on a hot streak heading into Saturday's contest.

Adam Amato Emerald

Men's

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will get second place in the Pac-10 and a date with the No. 7 seed in the Pac-10 Tournament, while the loser gets the No. 3 tournament.

Cal won the first matchup between the teams, 72-59, in the conference's first weekend back in December. But since that game, the Cardinal have gone on a remarkable 13-3 run that culminated with a last-second loss to No. 1 Arizona in Palo Alto on Saturday. During the streak, the Cardinal were the only team to beat Arizona, as they nipped the Wildcats 82-77 in Tucson.

All of which makes Saturday's game much bigger.

Who needs March Madness?

Bill Walton might call the possible matchups in the Pac-10 Tournament "scintillating."

Only a true Walton-ism could do them justice.

If things pan out like they should in the first round, the second day of play at this year's conference tournament could enter don't-leave-the-television-for-a-second area. The top half of the bracket will feature top-seeded Arizona against either Oregon or Arizona State, while the bottom half could feature Stanford-Cal III. The first game of Friday, March 14's action starts at 6 p.m. while the second game is slated for 8:30. The March 15 title game starts at 3 p.m.

Hold on to your reclining chairs. It's gonna be a wild ride.

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