

# Stanford, Arizona meet for Pac-10 title

The Wildcats upend the Huskies to set up a title matchup with the Cardinal, who beat UCLA Sunday to get into the final

## Women's basketball

**Hank Hager**  
Sports Reporter

SAN JOSE, Calif. — After three days of intense competition, there's really no surprise as to what teams will be in the championship game of the Pacific-10 Conference Tournament.

Well, not that much of a surprise, anyway.

No. 3-seed Arizona, 74-51 winners over No. 2 Washington Sunday at HP Pavilion, takes on top-seeded Stanford, which defeated UCLA 69-64, at 7:30 tonight to decide who receives the conference's automatic bid into the NCAA Tournament.

Both teams are expected to receive a bid anyway, but a win would ensure a postseason treat.

Stanford survived a scare from UCLA to advance to its second straight Pac-10 Championship game. Nicole Powell led the Cardinal — which lost to Arizona State in the title game last season — with 18 points, while Kelley Suminski had 17.

Shawntinice Polk and Krista Warren dominated down low in Arizona's win over the Huskies. Warren had 14 points, while Polk became the seventh player in Arizona's history to score more than 500 points in a season after pounding in 22.

Andrea Lalum led Washington with 14 points, while Loree Payne, who scorched Oregon for 24 points earlier this season, was held to 3-of-15 from the field, including 2-of-9 from beyond the three-point arc.

The teams split their series during the regular season. Stanford won, 82-74, on Dec. 29 in Palo Alto, while Arizona took game two, 79-64, on Feb. 27.

"I think Arizona is just a great team," Stanford head coach Tara VanDerveer said. "I think that the loss at Arizona should work to our advantage. Our team plays well when there's an extra incentive, and that should be an extra incentive."

The first day of the tournament saw close battles and not too much intrigue. No. 7 USC easily edged out No. 10 Washington State Friday, 53-46, led by Ebony Hoffman's 17 points and tournament-record 20 rebounds.

"I was really determined to step up my rebounding, that was my goal for the tournament," Hoffman said. "My team needed me to rebound."

In the second game of the after-

noon, No. 9 California upset No. 8 Arizona State, 46-38. Nihan Anaz had 18 points in the win and left a sour taste in the mouths of many Sun Devil players.

"I'm going to remember this feeling right now for the rest of my life, and I just don't want to have it ever again," ASU freshman guard Jill Noe said.

The Bruins and Trojans both came out Saturday, hoping to post upsets in their respective games.

Close, but no cigar.

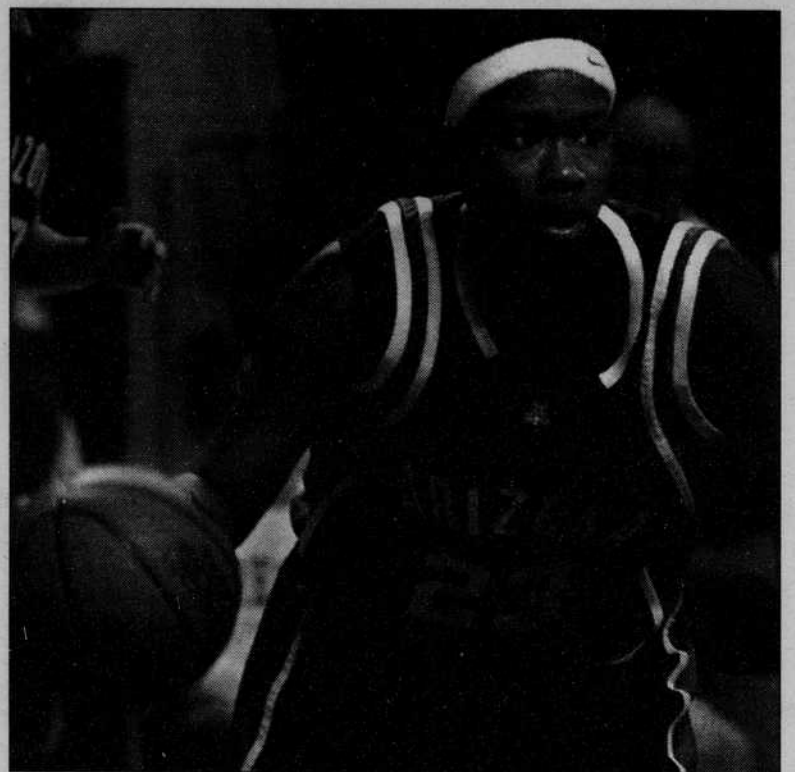
USC led as late as 1:29 in the second half against Washington Saturday, but saw Giuliana Mendiola and Loree Payne ice the game late. Meghan Gnekow posted a layup with one second left, but the Huskies dashed USC's upset hopes, 64-63.

California, playing against archrival Stanford, never really stood a chance, trailing 29-14 at halftime in the third game of the day. The Cardinal eventually came away with a 60-35 victory.

In the second game of the day, and first relative blowout of the tournament, Arizona started off its run to the championship with a 70-56 win over No. 6 Oregon State. Krista Warren had 20 points in the victory.

The loss ends the Beavers' run in the tournament, although their 14-14 overall record leaves them eligible for the WNIT.

"It was a really hard fought



Jeremy Forrest Emerald

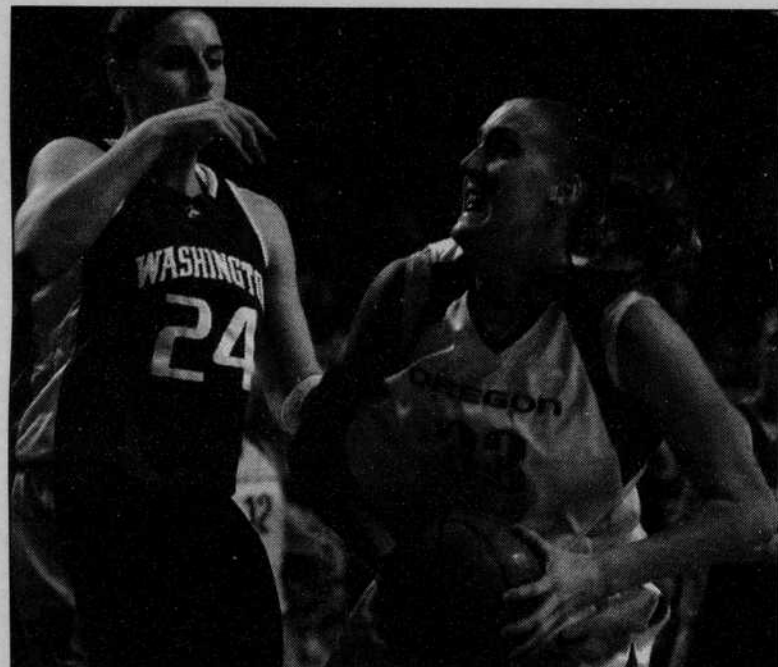
Arizona advanced to the title game behind the play of Natalie Jones and others.

game, and I was really proud of our team for being ready to play," Oregon State head coach Judy Spoelstra said.

The Bruins iced No. 5 Oregon Sat-

urday, 71-58, en route to its showdown Sunday with Stanford.

Contact the sports reporter at [hankhager@dailyemerald.com](mailto:hankhager@dailyemerald.com).



Jeremy Forrest Emerald

Cathrine Kraayeveld (33) said the Ducks "didn't match (UCLA's) intensity at times" as Oregon dropped its first game of the Pac-10 Tournament to the Bruins.

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out of 13 Pac-10 games.

But Oregon should take some comfort in the fact they were ranked fifth in tournament. After a shaky start to the season, the Ducks found themselves as low as ninth place in the Pac-10 standings.

Still, the Ducks' performance against UCLA was nothing to write home about.

Oregon continued its late season dominance on the boards, grabbing 39 rebounds to UCLA's 37. But 25 turnovers ultimately led to the Ducks' doom.

"We just didn't match their intensity at times," Kraayeveld said. "They just outplayed us at times, and we didn't step up to that."

UCLA (18-10) employed a full-court defense for much of the first half and the last 10 minutes of the second. That led to Oregon's inability to keep its offense flowing, especially

in the first 10 minutes of the game.

The Ducks scored just two points in the first eight minutes of the contest and began the game 1-of-9 from the field.

"Our defense is definitely what makes us go," UCLA head coach Kathy Olivier said. "Oregon did a very good job of working the ball inside and we had to go back to the full court press."

"That's when we're a better team. Our perimeter really likes getting after it."

The Oregon posts were able to get 30 points in the paint, compared to the Bruins' 18.

Much like their previous loss to UCLA, the Ducks started off strong in the second half, but cooled down midway through the stanza. That led to a 11-0 UCLA run that ended with just over seven minutes left.

"Turning the ball over really hurt us," Smith said. "The fatigue factor is there as well. Certainly, I think we got a little tentative and didn't attack."

Oregon, already down to nine players due to the Kayla Steen's season-ending ACL injury last week, nearly lost Kraayeveld early in the first. After a tumble under the Oregon basket, Kraayeveld came up limping. Her left ankle was looked at on the sidelines, but she came back to start the second half.

The end of the first half saw the Ducks creep to within three, 29-26, but not for long. Greco banked-in three-pointer with less than a second left, sending UCLA to a six-point lead at the break.

UCLA's Whitney Jones started the game off with a three-pointer at the 19:35 mark. Kraayeveld came on with a jumper at 19:02 to score Oregon's first points.

The teams combined to shoot 4-of-21 from the field in the first seven minutes of the game.

Contact the sports reporter at [hankhager@dailyemerald.com](mailto:hankhager@dailyemerald.com).

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