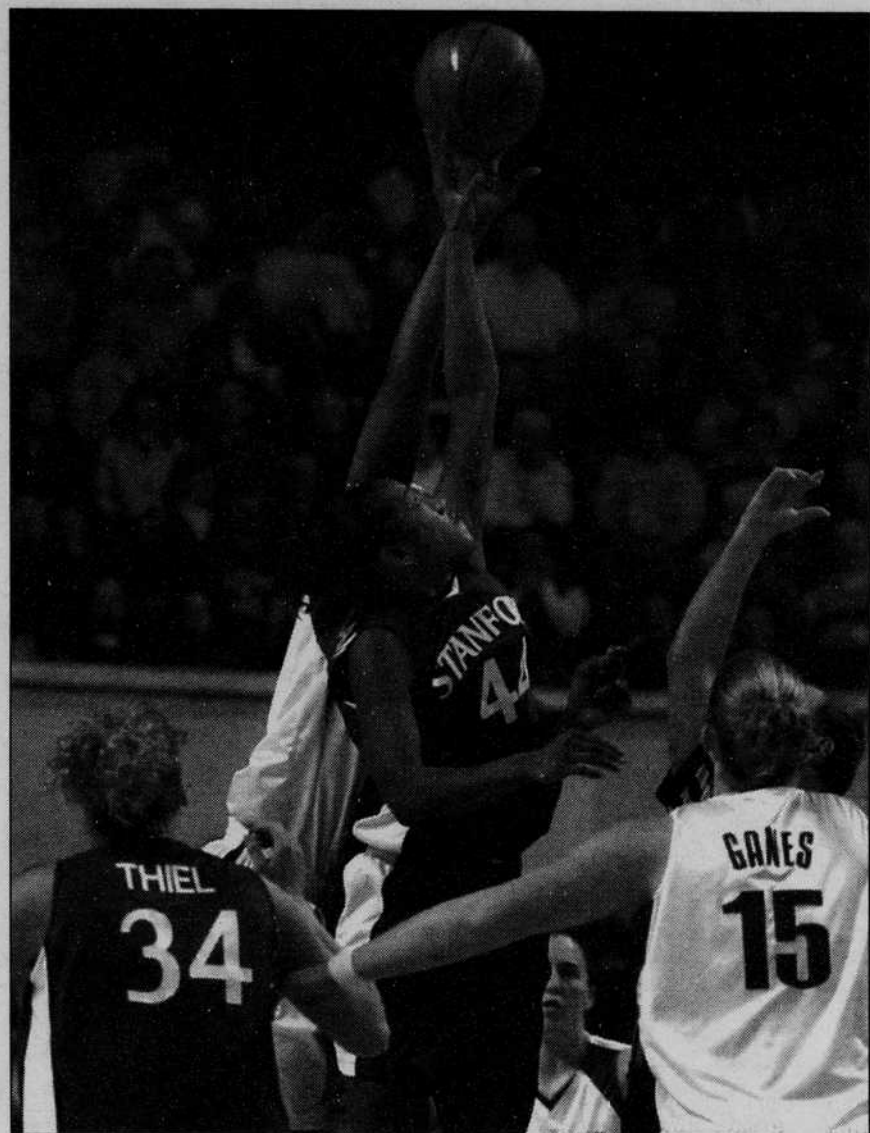


SPORTS

Best bet
NBA: Portland at Seattle
7 p.m., KEVU

Tuesday, March 11, 2003



Stanford's Azella Perryman (44) and T'Nae Thiel are seen here in action against the Ducks earlier this season, but Stanford was in action again Monday, winning the Pac-10 Tournament title.

Adam Amato Emerald

No shocker this year:
Cardinal win tourney

A year after ASU upset Stanford in the title game, the Cardinal dispatch Arizona for the crown in Monday night's finale

Women's Pac-10

Hank Hager
Sports Reporter

SAN JOSE, Calif. — It hadn't been that often that Stanford had been held to under 60 points this season, heading into Monday's game against Arizona.

But in the championship of the Pacific-10 Conference Tournament, 59 was all the top-seeded Cardinal needed.

Behind Nicole Powell's 19 points, Stanford defeated No. 3 Arizona, 59-49, in front of a tournament-high 5,757 fans at HP Pavilion to take the second annual tournament championship.

"We're very proud to be Pac-10 Champions," Stanford head coach Tara VanDerveer said. "It's a tough league and we had to work to get it."

The win ensures the Cardinal will receive the conference's automatic bid into the NCAA Tournament. That tournament is set to begin on March 22, and Stanford is expected to play at its host facility, Maples Pavilion, to open up. Maples will also host the Western Regional.

Despite the loss, Arizona — ranked 21st in the nation, is also expected to receive a bid to the tournament.

"We know that in the second half, at least, we've proven that we can play with Stanford and we're just as good as they are and we just hope that carries over in the NCAA Tournament," Arizona's Krista Warren said.

Powell was named the tournament's most valu-

able player after scoring 18 points against both California and UCLA earlier in the tournament. Kelley Suminski, named to the All-Tournament Team, posted 11 points Monday against the Wildcats.

Arizona had three players named to the All-Tournament team as well. Warren had 10 points against the Cardinal, although she failed to score in the second half. Dee-Dee Wheeler had 13 against Stanford, while All Pac-10 Freshman Team member Shawntinice Polk was held to just five points on 2-of-6 shooting.

Stanford, ranked 9th in the nation, began the game on a torrid pace. The Cardinal led 11-2 after four minutes on the strength of two three-pointers by Suminski and a third by Powell.

"From the beginning of the game, we were back on our heels," Arizona head coach Joan Bonvicini said. "Stanford was hitting some great three-pointers."

Powell connected on five of her first six shots, and scored 13 of Stanford's first 18 points.

Stanford led by 14 points as late as nine minutes into the first half, but both teams went on a scoring drought for more than four minutes before Stanford's Chelsea Trotter nailed a layup with 6:49 left.

The Wildcats eventually chipped away the Cardinal lead with an 11-2 run in the final three minutes of the half. Stanford still went into halftime with an 11-point lead, 35-24.

In the second frame, the Cardinal had its largest lead of the half early on at 11 points, but couldn't pull away. Arizona got within five with 1:18 left, but Stanford kept the Wildcats off the scoreboard for the rest of the game.

Polk's five points represented a season low for the Hanford, Calif., native. She was, however, able

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Oregon sailing
combines hard
work with fun

The Duck sailors practice a lot and strive to be like powers Washington and Portland State, but in the end they're about trips to the reservoir under the sun

Club Sports
Tuesday

Jon Roetman
Sports Freelancer

It's 3 p.m. and the Oregon club sailing team is heading to Fern Ridge Reservoir.

Nobody minds the 20-minute drive because soon, everyone will be on the water.

Upon arrival, skippers and crews rig their respective boats. It's quiet, the sun is shining and there is a nice breeze.

Welcome to sailing practice. Besides being a time for Duck sailors to improve their skills, practice doubles as something some find even more important: an escape from everyday life.

"You're not worrying about finals, you're not worrying about tests and you're not worrying about what you didn't get done during the day," student coordinator George Yioulos said. "You're just totally relaxed."

There is a serious side to sailing as well. With the majority of the team being relatively inexperienced, hard work is needed to develop the skills necessary for each member to fulfill responsibilities.

The Ducks sail in 14-foot boats called Flying Juniors. Each boat is sailed by two people, a "skipper" and a "crew." A skipper steers the vessel and makes calls to his or her crew on how the boat should be balanced. A crew is in charge of keeping the boat balanced while adjusting the jib and main sails. Communication between the two is essential.

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WSU fires men's basketball coach

The Cougars cut ties with Paul Graham, who had a 9-63 Pac-10 record in four seasons at WSU

Men's Pac-10 notes

Adam Jude
Senior Sports Reporter

After accumulating just three conference wins in the past two seasons, Paul Graham was fired Monday as head coach of the Washington State men's basketball team.

Washington State Athletic Director Jim Sterk said at a press conference Monday that he told Graham of his decision a week ago. Graham reportedly told his players Saturday after the Cougars' season-ending loss to UCLA in Los Angeles.

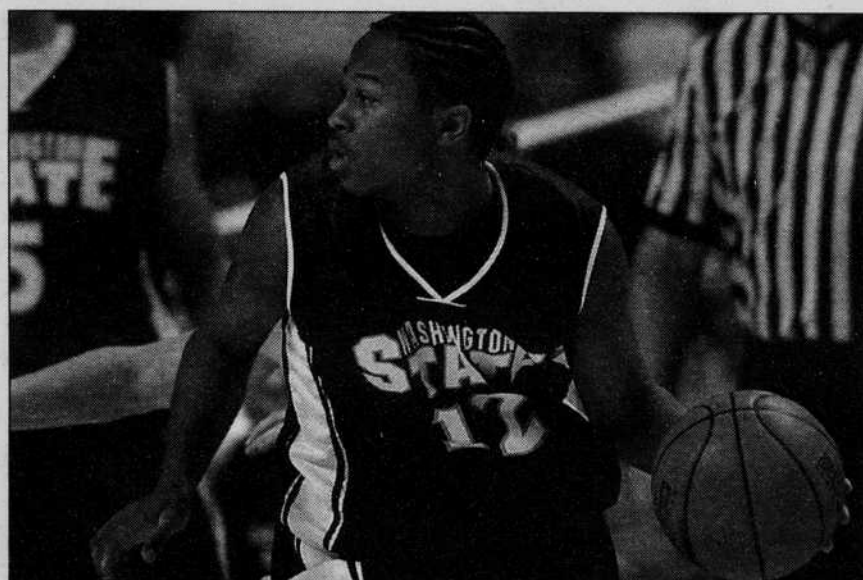
In four seasons in Pullman, Graham had a 31-79 overall record and was 9-63 in Pacific-10 Conference games. This season, the Cougars finished 2-16 in conference play after going 1-17 last season. The Cougars' average home attendance was 2,310 this season, just more than the 2,292 average from last year — the worst figure in school history.

"The decision is based upon the last four years ... the overall picture of the basketball program," Sterk said at the press conference.

Graham, who turns 52 today, had one year left on a five-year contract. The school will buy out the final year for \$130,000, Sterk said.

Graham's potential replacements include Eastern Washington's Ray Giacometti and former Cougar assistant Don Newman, now an assistant coach with the Milwaukee Bucks.

"We think someone can come in and build upon what has been done in the



Adam Amato Emerald

Freshman Randy Green and the rest of the Cougars will play for a new coach next season.

past, and the players that we have here," Sterk said. "We want men's basketball ... to be competitive in the Pac-10 and to be competitive nationally."

All-Pac-10 awards

Oregon point guard Luke Ridnour was named Monday the conference Player of the Year, and nine others, including teammate/roommate Luke Jackson, were selected to the all-conference team.

Joining Ridnour and Jackson are Arizona seniors Jason Gardner and Luke Walton; Arizona State freshman Ike Diogu; Cal's Joe Shipp and Amit Tamir; Oregon State's Phillip Ricci; Stanford's Julius Barnes; and UCLA's Jason Kapono.

Diogu is the Freshman of the Year, while Stanford's Mike Montgomery and Arizona's Lute Olson share the Coach of the Year award.

"The decision is based upon the last four years."

Jim Sterk

Washington State athletic director

Tourney time

With Selection Sunday just a few days away, the Pac-10 Tournament, beginning Thursday at the Staples Center in Los Angeles, could make or break a team's season.

Specifically, Oregon and Arizona State need a victory to ensure an invitation to the Big Dance. Otherwise, it might be NIT time.

The No. 4-seed Sun Devils (19-10 overall, 11-7 Pac-10) and the fifth-seeded Ducks (20-9, 10-8 Pac-10) meet at approximately 3:30 p.m. Thursday in a rematch

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