



Ed Suba Jr. Akron Beacon Journal

Cody Pickett and the Huskies host Idaho on Saturday. The Huskies are 1-1 this season.

Top-ranked team headlines week for Pac-10 foes

As the last week of complete nonconference action plays out, the Pac-10 has its hands full with Top 25 teams

By Jesse Thomas
Sports Reporter

The Pacific-10 Conference continues its non-conference play this week as four teams face off with ranked opponents from one of the most respected conferences in football.

The Conference of Champions is set to do battle with the Big Ten. UCLA undoubtedly has the biggest task as it heads to Memorial Stadium to face No. 1 Oklahoma. Arizona, after losing by 38 points to No. 22 Oregon last week, must attempt to get its second win on the road against No. 25 Purdue.

No. 16 Arizona State will also head East this weekend for a Top-25 matchup with No. 18 Iowa in what should be a good game in front of 70,000 at Kinnick Stadium.

UCLA (Overall 1-1, 0-0 Pac-10) at No. 1 Oklahoma (3-0, 0-0 Big 12 Conference)

UCLA has won 11 of its last 13 nonconference games over the past four years, but chances are nobody in Las Vegas will be placing their money on the Bruins as they face the best team in college football.

The Bruin defense should be given credit for allowing just 9.5 points per game and 264 yards of total offense, but will now receive its first test against a Sooner offense that accounts for more than 36 points per game and 434 yards of total offense.

Bruin linebacker Brandon Chillar, who leads the Pac-10 with 13 tackles per game, will have to do it again against quarterback Jason White, who is averaging 281.7 passing yards per game.

Arizona (1-2, 0-1) at No. 25 Purdue (1-1, 0-0 Big Ten)

The Wildcats will attempt to even their record this weekend, but they must do it in front of more than 62,000

fans at Ross-Ade Stadium against the No. 25 ranked Boilermakers.

This is not an easy task for a school that sits at the bottom of the conference and must recover from nearly a 40-point defeat in its first conference game against the Ducks last week.

The two have never met, and Arizona can take some solace in wide receiver Biren Ealy, who posted career-best numbers last week with seven catches for 90 yards. Yet, the Wildcats still sit at ninth place in the Pac-10 for total offense at 269 yards per game.

Boise State (2-0, 0-0 Western Athletic Conference) at Oregon State (2-1, 0-0)

It will be a battle of streaks Saturday at Reser Stadium. The Beavers have won 16 straight nonconference games in front of the home crowd, and Boise State trails only Ohio State nationally with a 13-game winning streak.

"I think it means a lot," Oregon State head coach Mike Riley said in a press conference Tuesday. "A team that has won a number of games in a row has confidence in winning. They expect to win."

The Broncos head to Corvallis behind tailback David Mikell, who is averaging 167 yards rushing, and quarterback Ryan Dinwiddie, who will face off with Oregon State's Derek Anderson. Anderson is attempting to re-establish himself after completing 45 percent of his passes the first three games of the season.

Stanford (1-0, 0-0) at BYU (2-1, 1-0 Mountain West Conference)

If quarterback Trent Edwards can come out like a spark plug and rally his team as he did in Stanford's first game, the Cardinal stands a strong chance against the Cougars.

The redshirt freshman threw for 278 yards and two touchdowns in his collegiate debut against San Jose State and will now start for the Cardinal. And with BYU having some struggles defending the pass in its

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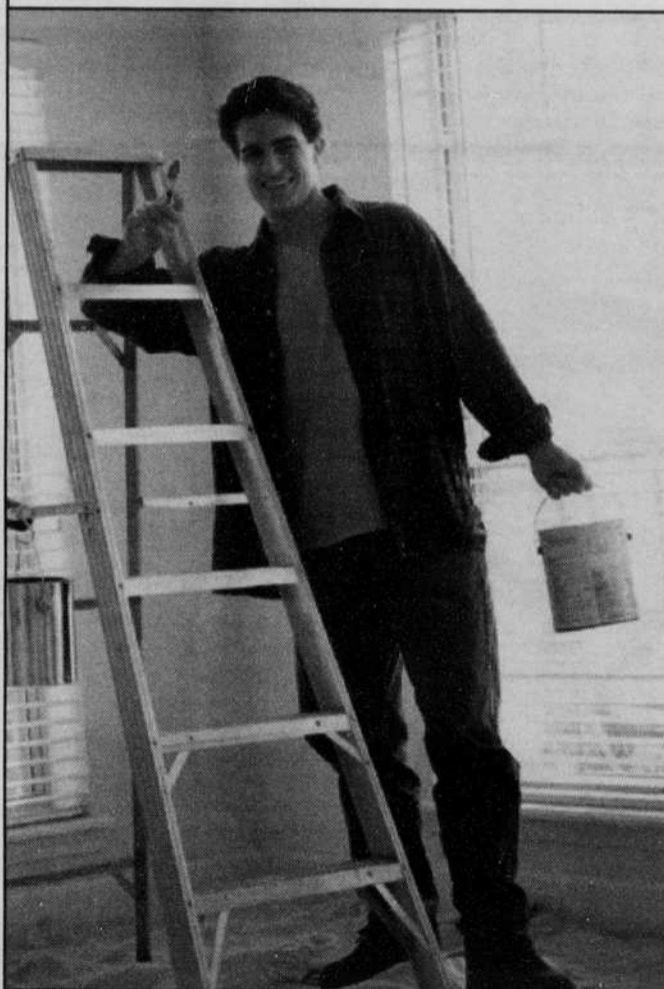
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