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Arizona State, Iowa battle as diverse offenses collide

Arizona State and Iowa play a non-conference battle that will take place on ESPN2

By Jesse Thomas
Sports Reporter

This week's top match-up pits ranked opponents No. 16 Arizona State (2-0) and No. 18 Iowa (3-0).

One of the two will suffer its first defeat.

The Sun Devils must try and get the win on the road, possibly in front of 70,000-plus screaming fans at Kinnick Stadium.

Despite that possibility, Arizona State head coach Dirk Koetter looks to it as an advantage.

"We're going to a difficult competitor and it's going to be different, but

that's one of the great things about college football," he said Monday in a press conference. "I think our guys are going to be pumped up, they know Iowa is a team that wins. I think we'll play better, we know we're playing against an excellent team."

The two match up well in the statistical categories, as the Sun Devils average 404.5 yards of total offense to the Hawkeyes' 348.7 yards per game. However, it comes from different angles, as Iowa gets its majority on the ground and Arizona State goes to the air with quarterback Andrew Walter.

Walter has thrown six touchdown passes in his first two games and the junior has averaged 250.5 passing yards per game with a 57.4 percent completion percentage. Walter threw only one interception in his first two

games and knows that turnovers are not an option against Iowa.

"No question, we can't have turnovers, period," he said Monday in a press conference. "The sloppiness against a team like that won't work. To score first would be a good way to start it off."

Iowa is averaging 231.7 yards on the ground and has outscored its three opponents 117-31, allowing none of the three to score in the second or third quarters.

Tailback Fred Russell will remain key to the Hawkeyes' offense, as he has averaged 113.3 yards per game. If Iowa is to remain undefeated, Russell, who averages 5.7 yards per carry, will have need to keep up his current pace.

Contact the sports reporter at jessethomas@dailyemerald.com.

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On the other side, Oregon's defense has all but stopped opponents' running games. They have given up 215 yards on the ground this season and will have to continue that success against Michigan. Perry alone averages 183 yards rushing per game, while his teammates add 124 yards per game.

"We're going to play an excellent Oregon team," Carr said. "They're very difficult to beat at home. The crowd is, from every report I get, from every coach I've spoken with, it's a real factor."

After three home games with an average crowd of more than 110,000, Michigan now makes its first ever trip to Eugene and hostile Autzen Stadium.

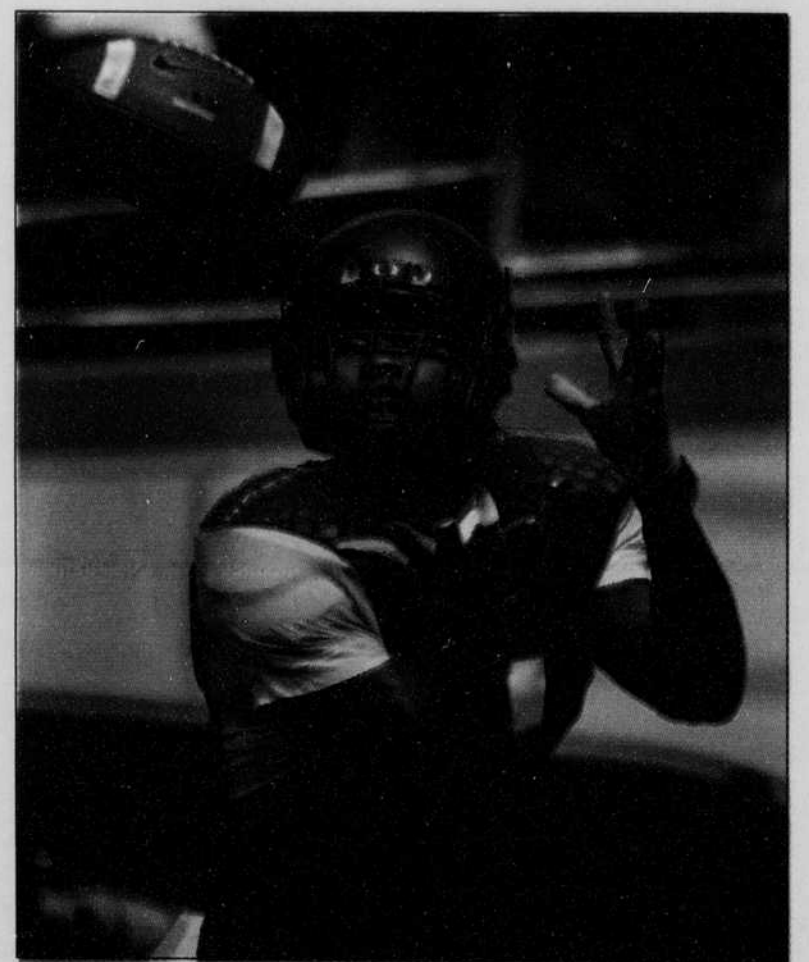
Saturday is the sixth time in Autzen history that a team ranked No. 3 or higher has faced Oregon. All other highly-ranked opponents have been Pacific-10 Conference teams.

This helps set the scene for a battle of two undefeated schools. Michigan just dealt Notre Dame a 38-0 blow Saturday while Oregon traveled to Arizona and emerged with a 48-10 win to open the conference season.

The biggest blow for the Ducks in Arizona was another injury.

Parker, who sprained his right ankle in Saturday's victory against Arizona, has done limited workouts this week, but expects to see time on the field Saturday. He wants to face the Wolverines as much as his teammates do.

"This is a good opportunity for us to showcase what we can do," Parker said. "It's going to be on national TV so everybody can see what the



Adam Amato Photo Editor

Sammie Parker is expected to play Saturday despite spraining his ankle in the Arizona game.

Ducks are all about."

While it is unknown if what the Ducks are about will include the lightning yellow uniforms, it is known that they will have something to dazzle everyone.

"We're going to tackle them," outside linebacker Anthony Trucks said. "We're going to go out and play."

Contact the senior sports reporter at mindirice@dailyemerald.com.

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