

Stanford, Arizona meet in heated top 5 match

This week, No. 4 Stanford faces off against No. 3 Arizona in Tucson, where the Cardinal won last season

By Jesse Thomas
Sports Reporter

Arizona head coach Lute Olson will look for career victory No. 701 on Saturday after passing another milestone against rival Arizona State last weekend.

It won't be an easy task as his No. 3 Wildcats face their toughest opponent so far this season — No. 4 Stanford. The Cardinal is unbeaten at 11-0, and Arizona's only loss was by one point against then-No. 8 Florida.

Arizona (9-1 overall, 1-0 Pac-10) comes off a blowout win over Ari-

zona State on Saturday. Junior guard Salim Stoudamire had 26 points for the Wildcats.

After the game, Arizona State head coach Rob Evans took a shot at Olson, saying that the Stanford team coming on Thursday would be a much more worthy opponent.

"The team we play next is better than this team," Evans told the Arizona Daily Wildcat.

It is not unusual for the Cardinal to be off to a quick start. Stanford opened the 1998 season at 18-0, the 2000 season at 12-0 and the 2001 season at 20-0.

The Cardinal comes off two victories over Washington and Washington State with senior forward Justin Davis leading Stanford in scoring. Davis recorded his third double-double of the season against the Huskies with 17 points and 13 rebounds.

Junior forward Josh Childress saw his first action this season against

the Washington schools. Stanford head coach Mike Montgomery said he will see limited action this week as well.

Arizona finished atop the Pac-10 Conference last year with only one loss. That loss came against Stanford and took place in Arizona.

"That's not an issue," Olson said on Tuesday. "We were 17-1 in the league last year and we were disappointed that we lost to Stanford here, but we still have the Pac-10 trophy in our trophy case."

Long range conference

Note to all other NCAA conferences: Don't let any Pacific-10 Conference team shoot the long ball unless it can't be avoided.

Why?

Not only has Oregon already led the nation in three-point shooting percentage, but ten different players hit three or more three-pointers in a game during the opening weekend

of conference action.

Leading the way was Oregon's James Davis, who scorched USC by shooting 7 of 10. Stoudamire made six against Arizona State, and California's Amit Tamir had 10 in his opening two games.

Oregon's Aaron Brooks had three against USC.

Cal made 26 three-pointers in its first nine nonconference games — averaging a league low 2.89 three-pointers per game. In the opening weekend, the Golden Bears notched 15 from downtown.

Rubin receives recognition

Junior guard Janou Rubin of UCLA is finally having his chance in the spotlight.

Rubin — a walk-on from Union City, Calif., who was put on scholarship this season — was awarded the Pac-10 Player of the Week honors after leading the Bruins to victories over Oregon and Oregon State.

He averaged 21 minutes off the bench and posted an average of 13 points, 2 rebounds and 2.5 assists.

Over the weekend Rubin shot 9 of 14 from the field, an impressive 83 percent, and made five three-pointers.

Rough beginning for Bears

California isn't off to the start that some would have expected.

The Golden Bears sit in a tie for fourth in conference play at 1-1, but the team's 5-6 overall record is the worst in the conference. The Bears played one ranked opponent in the preseason, losing to then-No. 12 Saint Joseph's 59-57 in Oakland.

Cal's schedule will not get any easier for the time being with three straight road games coming up. It faces the Arizona schools this weekend and then heads to Stanford.

Contact the sports reporter at jessethomas@dailyemerald.com.

Molitor, Eckersley inducted into Hall on first ballot

Both players received more than the 380 votes needed for admission into the Hall

By Ken Daley
The Dallas Morning News (KRT)

DALLAS — Hitting machine Paul Molitor and door-slamming closer Dennis Eckersley on Tuesday became the 39th and 40th players to win induction into baseball's Hall of Fame in their first year of eligibility.

Molitor, whose 3,319 hits rank eighth on the all-time list, was

named on 431 of the 506 ballots returned by 10-year members of the Baseball Writers Association of America (85.18 percent). This year, 380 votes were needed to meet the 75 percent support required for induction July 25 in Cooperstown, N.Y.

"It's a great relief," Molitor said, "and certainly a great honor."

Eckersley, whose career was reborn when he became one of history's most efficient closers at age 32, drew 421 votes (83.2 percent). That enabled him to join Hoyt Wilhelm (1985) and Rollie Fingers (1992) as only the third relief pitcher in the

Hall.

"It's just an honor to be in the Hall of Fame, let alone to think of some of the guys who aren't in, like Bruce Sutter and Goose Gossage and Lee Smith," Eckersley said. "I feel fortunate they let me in, because I know it's not an easy thing."

Sutter, a six-time All-Star who pioneered the split-finger fastball as his out pitch, picked up 35 more votes in his 11th year on the ballot. But his total of 301 left him well short of induction at 59.49 percent.

Gossage, who followed Fingers as the second closer to amass 300 saves, lost three votes in his fifth

year on the ballot. His 206 votes equated to 40.74 percent, down from 42.1 percent last year.

And Smith, baseball's all-time leader with 478 career saves, lost 25 votes from his 2003 total, slipping to 185 (36.56 percent).

Save totals have become inflated since Eckersley revolutionized the role of the one-inning closer during his nine seasons in Oakland. But he also completed 100 of his 361 starts earlier in his career and won 197 games.

"Maybe that helps set me apart," Eckersley said. "I tell Goose, 'I went

nine.' I know Gossage and Sutter pitched more innings and get saves, and it's not Lee Smith's fault he went one inning a lot at the end of his career. Maybe this will help them. I respect what they did, because saving games was much more difficult when they did it."

Molitor overcame a similar voting bias by becoming the first Hall of Famer who played a significant number of games (1,174 of 2,683) as a designated hitter.

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STARTERS

continued from page 7

The women know they aren't off to the best of conference starts, but they are well aware that the season isn't over just because of a few losses.

"We're not done," guard Chelsea

Wagner said after Sunday's loss to UCLA. "We had a rough start with the Pac-10, but we've still got a ways to go."

High school reunion

Center Andrea Bills squared off against a familiar face in Sunday's

game against UCLA.

Bruins sophomore Emma Tautolo, a former high school teammate, matched up against Bills for about five minutes of the UCLA victory. Both players were called for a foul during the second half in skirmishes at each end of the court.

Tautolo and Bills played together at Moreno Valley High School in California.

Surgical holiday

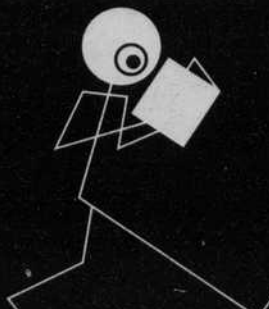
Kraayeveld had surgery on her right knee Dec. 26 for the torn anterior cruciate ligament that she suf-

fered in practice on Dec. 3. The 6-foot-4 former All-American candidate returned to the sidelines to support her teammates at the Jan. 2 game against USC, complete with a large brace on her right leg.

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

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