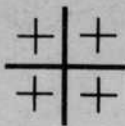


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# Stanford pulls out another victory

The Cardinal make a three-point buzzer-beater to hold off Arizona and continue with a 20-game winning streak

By Jesse Thomas  
Sports Reporter

It's becoming more common to say, "There is Stanford, and then there is the rest of the Pac-10 Conference."

After a buzzer-beater victory over Arizona on Saturday, Stanford improved its winning streak to 20 games, tying the Cardinal's best start in school history.

"I'm starting to think this group is something special," Stanford head coach Mike Montgomery said. "It was an unbelievable game. This is just another step in what's turning out to be a doggone good season."

That's one way to put it.

Questions continue to surround the No. 2 team in the country. Can Stanford run the table?

Critics say it would be better for Stanford to lose its first game before it reaches the NCAA Tournament.

How many times can Stanford get lucky and pull out victories in the final minutes?

As of now, it seems like the Cardinal can do whatever it wants and whenever.

Stanford has to play five of its final seven games on the road. Stanford must face Bay Area rival California this week, which has won its past three games and moved into second place in the conference.

### Cougars find rhythm

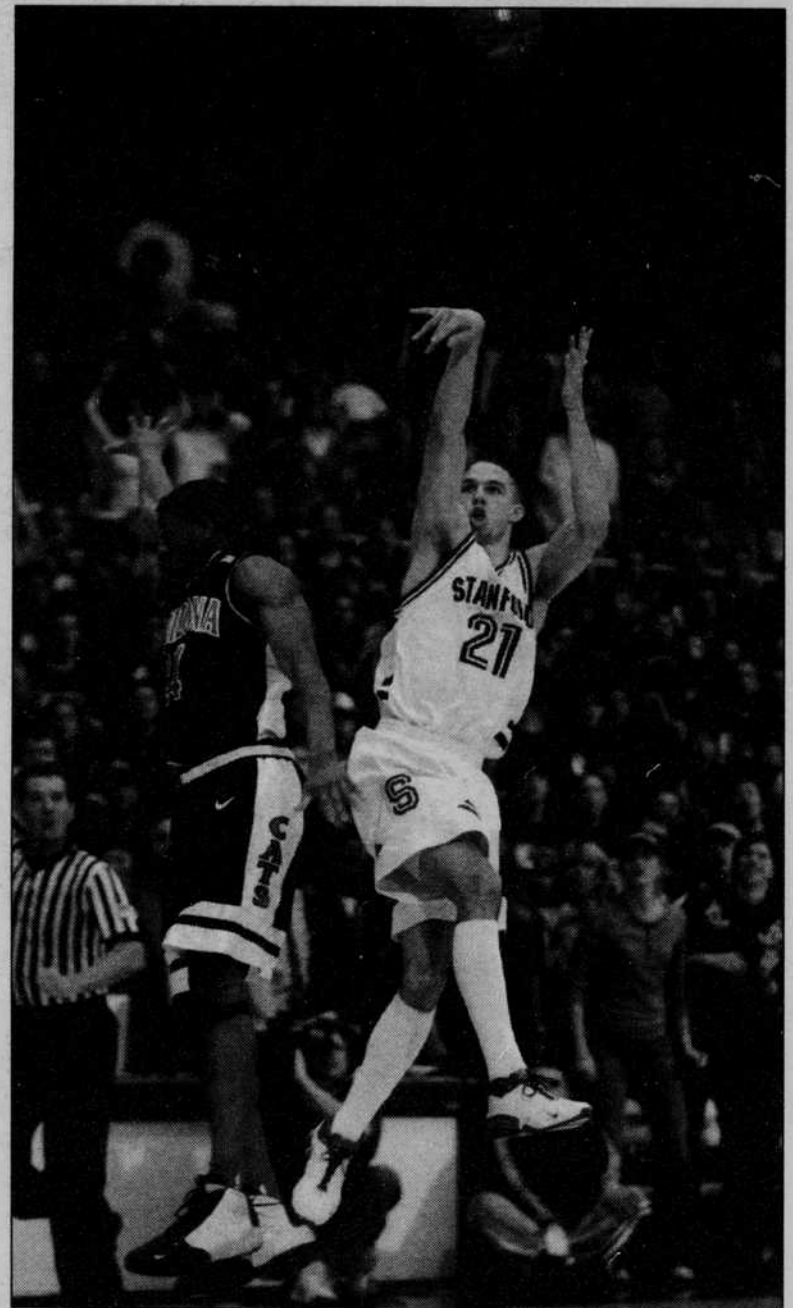
Dick Bennett's offense averaged 57.5 points this past weekend.

Nothing new, right? Except that it worked.

Washington State defeated UCLA and USC this weekend for its first-ever sweep on the road of the Pacific-10 Conference's Los Angeles teams.

The Cougars (10-9 overall, 5-6 Pac-10) are on the verge of climbing back to .500 in-conference and ended a 46-game losing streak against the Bruins in Los Angeles. Washington State had never won at Pauley Pavilion until Thursday.

"I told the team that if it is going to happen, it's right now because they are a young team in a new program," Bennett said. "This one is so important because it shows we are pointed



Nhat V. Meyer San Jose Mercury News

Stanford forward Nick Robinson made the game-winning three-pointer against Arizona.

in the right direction."

Bennett rebounded well from a case of the flu that kept him from coaching in the Arizona game on Jan. 31.

"I have a number of health issues," Bennett said. "My heart is still hard, but it's healthy at least."

Jeff Varem scored 13 points in the win for the Cougars. After the game, Varem said, "I heard a rumor we can't win here."

The Cougars used that momentum to upend the Trojans, who have lost their past two games. It was also Washington State's first two-game home-and-away sweep of the Trojans since 1986.

### Midgley gets recognized

California guard Richard Midgley was named the Pacific-10 Conference Men's Basketball Player of the Week on Monday for the week of Feb. 2-8.

A native of Burgess Hill, England, Midgley averaged 19 points in the Bears' home sweep of Arizona and Arizona State over the weekend. Midgley scored 18 points on

Thursday when he helped Cal break a 10-game losing streak to the Wildcats.

Midgley also played solid defense and held Arizona guard Salim Stoudamire to seven points. In Saturday's 85-83 victory against ASU, Midgley scored all of his 20 points in the second half.

Midgley shot 11 of 12 on three-pointers for the week, shooting better than 90 percent. It is his first weekly honor.

### Beavers far off track

Since beating Washington State on Jan. 15, Oregon State has lost six straight. The Beavers (8-12, 2-8) now sit in ninth place in the Pac-10 Conference.

After losing at McArthur Court on Saturday, where the Beavers haven't won since 1993, Oregon State will head on the road to face Washington and Washington State this weekend.

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

## SPORTS BRIEFS

### Big East hopes to squash St. John's ESPN exposure

NEW YORK — St. John's students and alumni aren't the only ones embarrassed by the Pittsburgh sex scandal that has tainted the basketball program.

The Big East also would rather keep the Red Storm out of the public eye.

The conference has contacted ESPN and is asking it to cancel the broadcast of the Feb. 24 game at 7:30 p.m. EST between St. John's and UConn at Madison Square Garden.

"Can you imagine what an embarrassment that game is going to be for them and for St. John's?" a network source said. "You can't avoid that St. John's won't have its regular team or its two top scorers. And that means talking about what happened in Pittsburgh on national

television and taking the program to task.

"It wouldn't be two hours of good television."

Six members of the Red Storm have been disciplined for an incident that began when they broke curfew to go to a strip club. Grady Reynolds has already been expelled for his role in the incident, which included bringing a woman back from the club and agreeing to pay her for sex in one of the team's hotel rooms. Elijah Ingram and Abe Keita face an expulsion hearing today. Three other players have been suspended.

"That's just one of those things that happens," St. John's interim coach Kevin Clark said. "I deal with only the things I have some control over. I won't deal with this issue."

Indeed, ESPN has control over what it will air.

"We, in the end, have to do what is

best for everyone involved, whether that means making a change or sticking with it," said ESPN director of programming Burke Magnus, who added that no formal discussion has taken place yet. "I understand where there's a lot to be considered here."

Big East officials declined comment.

— Roger Rubin  
New York Daily News

### Fitzgerald heads to NFL Draft

NEW YORK — It did not take Larry Fitzgerald long to make up his mind about his future after he was declared eligible by the NFL for the draft.

Pittsburgh's sophomore All-American wide receiver, who won the Biletnikoff Award and was the runner-up in last season's Heisman Trophy balloting, announced Monday he would be going pro.

— Dick Weiss  
New York Daily News

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