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# 'Special' season shaken at hands of Washington

Stanford stumbles at the chance of being the first Pac-10 team to finish a perfect conference season

By Jesse Thomas  
Sports Reporter

The once immortal Cardinal lost to an unranked team last weekend. Pretty hard to believe, isn't it?

## PAC 10

There should have been some indication Thursday night that Stanford (26-1 overall, 17-1 Pac-10) was beginning to struggle. Matt Lottich's buzzer-beater saved the Cardinal from its first loss in a 63-61 win over Washington State in Pullman two nights before the team's matchup with Washington.

The Huskies never let Stanford get close enough for last minute heroics in a 75-62 victory. Now St. Joseph's (27-0) remains the only undefeated team in the country.

"We were one game away from something pretty special, and we didn't get it done," Stanford head coach Mike Montgomery said. "It will take a while to get over that."

It's only the second time that Washington has upset a No. 1 team. The Huskies did it in 1979 in an upset of UCLA.

Washington forced Stanford into 18 turnovers and the Cardinal made only three trips to the free-throw line. Washington connected on 24 of 30 free throws.

"I said repeatedly that one day I saw this coming," Washington head coach Lorenzo Romar said. "I didn't know it would happen this year. I thought it would be great if we could knock off the No. 1 team and get into the tournament. It's awfully exciting to be in this position."

Despite the loss, Stanford is still the Pac-10 regular season champion and is still seeded No. 1 for the Pac-10 Tournament, which starts Thursday.

### Coming to a close

In a 63-60 loss to USC on Saturday, Oregon State's season came to a close without a bid to the Pac-10 Tournament.

In a blowout 106-81 loss Saturday, Arizona State's season also came to an end at the hands of in-state rival Arizona.

Oregon State (12-16, 6-12) and Arizona State (10-17, 4-14) finished in ninth and 10th place, respectively. Only the top eight teams play in the conference tournament.

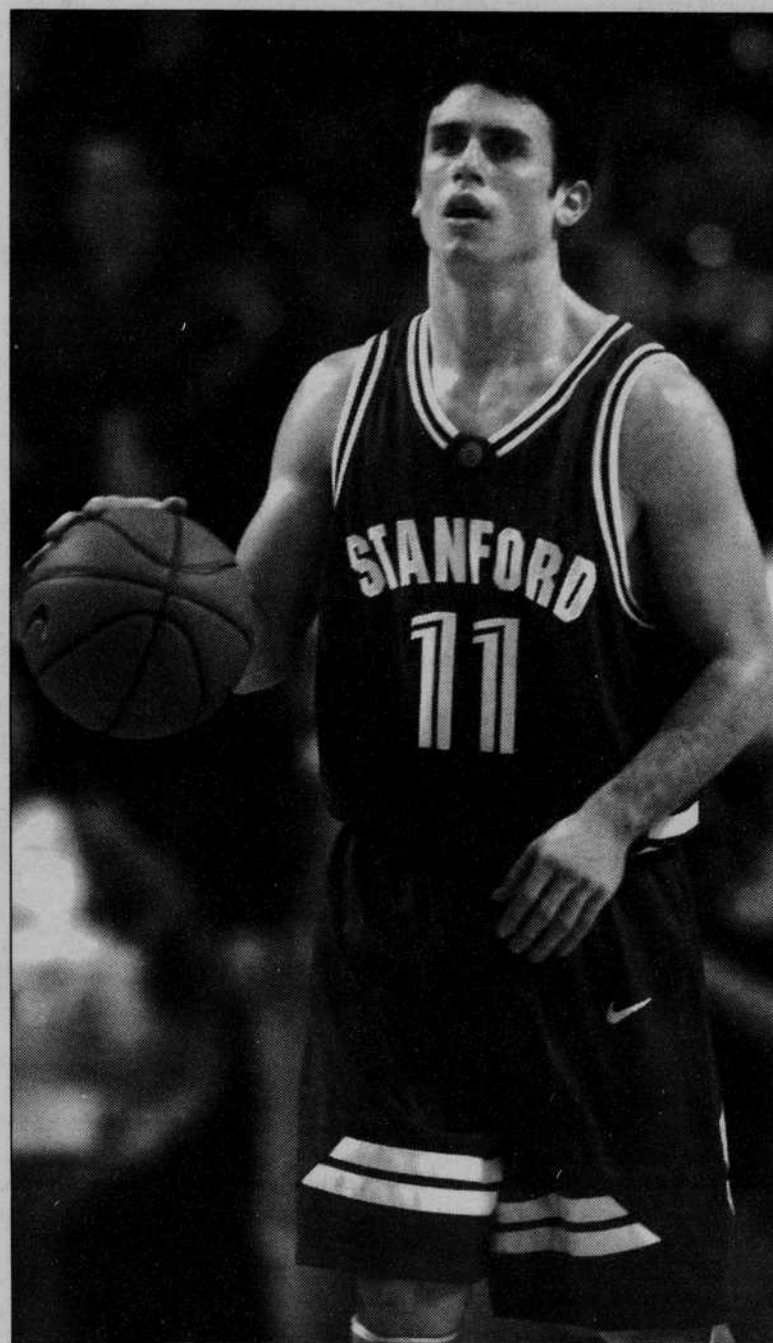
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was that she did it while playing with a torn lateral meniscus in her left knee, an injury she suffered in the loss to the Huskies.

Wagner's injury was one of many that hampered the Ducks this season. Point guards Corrie Mizusawa and Kayla Steen battled through knee troubles and Ganes played most of the season with a sore ankle.

Despite everything that went wrong



Erik R. Bishoff Photographer

Chris Hernandez and the Cardinal lost for the first time this season last week to Washington. Stanford finished the Pac-10 season 17-1, easily finishing first in Pac-10 play.

### McMillan named Newcomer of the Year

Southern California junior forward Jeff McMillan was named the 2003-04 Pacific-10 Conference Men's Basketball Fred Hessler Award winner, honoring the conference's Newcomer of the Year.

McMillan is averaging 11.3 points and a team-high 8.7 rebounds per game for the Trojans. He also leads the conference in shooting, posting a 63.8 percent mark from the field.

McMillan came to the team prior to the 2003 season from Fordham. NCAA transfer rules stipulated that he

sit out last season.

McMillan is the third Trojan to be honored as Pac-10 Newcomer of the Year since the award began in 1993. Oregon's Andre Joseph received the honor in 2003.

### Cougars make the tourney

With a 70-58 win against California on Saturday, Washington State qualified for the Pac-10 Tournament.

The Cougars (13-15, 7-11) return to the Pac-10 Tournament for the first time since 1990, when all 10 teams played.

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

"Our future is very strong, based on the people we have coming back," Smith said. "... Between now and our spring training we have three or four (players) who need to get healthy and we need to take time for them to do that. Once we get that done, we have to make sure that absolutely every one of us, as individuals, are looking to get better so that we can take a bigger step next year."

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

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