

■ Game of the week

Utah travels to face Arizona

Wildcats take on their first true test at 17th-ranked Utah Saturday

CLAYTON JONES
SPORTS REPORTER

This weekend's most intriguing game in the Pacific-10 Conference is No. 17 Utah's match with the Arizona Wildcats that will give Arizona's Mike Stoops his first real test as a head coach.

The Utes of Utah are coming off an impressive 41-21 win over Texas A&M, and second-year coach Urban Meyer's spread offense thrashed the Aggies for 582 yards of total offense.

Stoops was the co-defensive coordinator for the Oklahoma Sooners for the previous four seasons under older brother Bob Stoops, including their national championship season in 2000.

Stoops' troops are fresh off a 21-3 victory over Division I-AA Northern Arizona. While they allowed NAU only 280 yards on offense, the Wildcats amassed only 307.

"I dislike how we stepped on ourselves offensively," Stoops said.

One bright spot for Arizona was the rushing of tailback Mike Bell. He rushed the ball a career-high 31 times for 118 yards and two touchdowns and added three receptions for 17 more yards.

But the key for Arizona in this game is slowing down the Utah offense and its explosive quarterback Alex Smith. The junior ravaged Texas A&M's defense for 435 yards of offense, including a career-high 359 passing yards (topping his 340-yard passing performance against Oregon last year).

Smith also ran 13 times for 76 yards, and accounted for all five Utah touchdowns.

For his performance Smith was named The Sporting News Magazine and Radio College Football Player of the Week to go along with being selected as the Mountain West Conference Offensive Player of the Week.

Smith's favorite weapon in the game was Oregon transfer Paris Warren. Warren caught seven passes for 116 yards.

Stoops could only hope to have the success that Meyer had in his first season at Utah in 2003. Meyer led the Utes to a 10-2 season in 2003, including an upset over then No. 19 Oregon and a win over Southern Miss in the Liberty Bowl. The Utes finished the season ranked No. 21, marking the first time Utah finished in the top 25 in 10 years.

The defensive star for the Wildcats was freshman cornerback Antoine Cason. Cason recorded his first collegiate interception while forcing two fumbles and tallied 13 tackles, including one for a loss. He was named the Pac-10 Defensive Player of the Week.

But it's the offense that hopes to shine more for Arizona, and according to Stoops, they haven't opened up their offense as much as they are capable of.

"We have a multiple of things, shifts, movements that we can go to and we will have a variety this week," Stoops said to the Tucson Citizen. "We will move our people and make Utah think about what we are doing and not just let them line up and play against us."

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Running game a big factor for Hoosiers

Big plays on defense and offense led to Indiana's first victory last week

ALEX TAM
SPORTS EDITOR

The Hoosiers boast key depth in the running game behind sophomore BenJarvus Green-Ellis and juniors Chris Taylor and Yamar Washington. All three scored a rushing touchdown last weekend and totaled 203 yards on the ground.

Last season, Indiana averaged 155.2 yards per game and only 3.2 yards per carry.

The running game has been a focus ever since Dinardo brought in offensive coordinator and line coach Steve Addazio and running back coach Gerald Brown two years ago. In 2002, Hoosiers' running backs garnered a total of 1,398 yards. Last season, Indiana increased their total to 1,863 yards.

Each of the three running backs have taken a team-first approach to the situation and are looking to continue it when they face Oregon this weekend, Taylor said.

"As far as coming off the bench, it does not matter to me," said Taylor,

who had 53 yards on 11 carries last Saturday. "I know I can make plays and whenever I am in the game, that's all I think about."

"It gives us a lot of momentum but as the weeks progress, we still need to

keep working hard and improve."

Green-Ellis is Indiana's main ball carrier after rushing for 97 yards on 28 carries against Central Michigan. Washington ran for 30 yards on six carries.

Freshman impresses in Indiana debut

At a school and state which has made its mark in the basketball

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Indiana running back BenJarvus Green-Ellis (7) is the Hoosiers' top back this season. Last weekend, Green-Ellis rushed for 99 yards on 28 carries and scored one touchdown.

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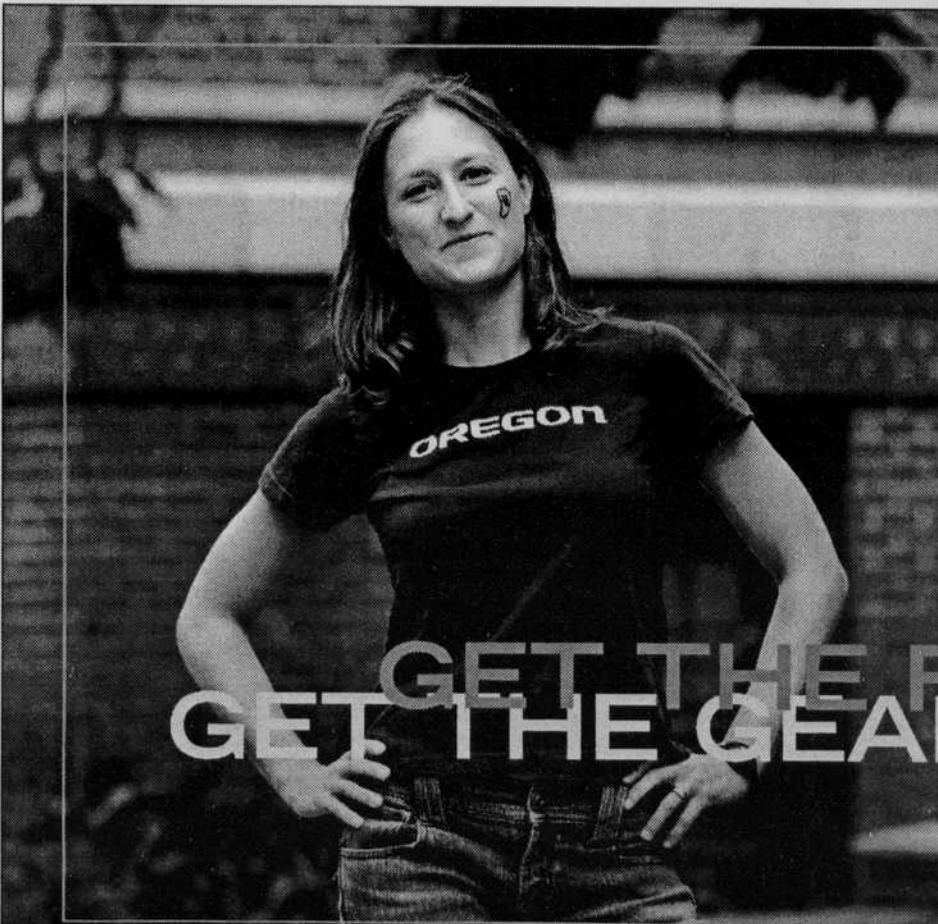
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