

Remaining Pac-10 unbeatens face off Saturday

Top-ranked Southern California hosts Andrew Walter and the 15th-ranked Sun Devils in Los Angeles

BY ALEX TAM
FREELANCE REPORTER

For the second straight week, two top-ranked and undefeated teams from the Pacific-10 Conference will

square off for one of the country's biggest games.

After defeating California last week for its 14th consecutive victory, No. 1 USC (5-0 overall, 2-0 Pac-10) will

battle No. 15 Arizona State (5-0, 2-0) in Los Angeles at 12:30 p.m. on Saturday.

USC, the co-defending national champion, has won the last four meetings between the two teams including last season's 37-17 victory in Tempe, Ariz.

Nevertheless, Trojans head coach Pete Carroll said his team understands the Sun Devils pose a

dangerous threat to ending their 17-game home winning streak.

"Arizona State is flying high right now and we are excited about the challenge," Carroll said. "This is a terrific football team that we are going to be playing. We come into this game with high hopes."

The key matchup in the game will be how USC's defense handles the

high-octane Arizona State offense. The Sun Devils rank second in the Pac-10 in scoring offense (34 points per game) and passing offense (274.2 yards per game).

"Arizona State is the best team at going downfield and making you pay the price if you don't cover well," Carroll said.

GOTW, page 13B

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No. 8 California hosts suprising first-place Bruins

In other action, Oregon State looks to avoid an 0-3 start in Pac-10 play when the Beavers travel to Washington

BY SCOTT J. ADAMS
FREELANCE REPORTER

Two of the Pacific-10 Conference's four California schools square off against each other this weekend as No. 8-ranked California (3-1 overall, 1-1 conference) hosts UCLA (4-1 overall, 2-0 Pac-10) in Berkeley, Calif.

Going into week eight of the college football season, UCLA has defeated conference foes Washington and Arizona and is currently tied for first in the Pac-10 with No. 1 Southern California and No. 19 Arizona State. The Bruins continue to shock and impress the nation under second-year head coach Karl Dorrell, who feels that his squad will need nothing less than a perfect game to defeat Cal on Saturday.

"They (Cal) have the best defense/offense in the conference right now, and they look that way on tape," Dorrell said. "It's a great challenge for our program."

For marquee players in this game, look no further than the offensive backfields of both teams. This game features two of the top tailbacks in J.J. Arrington of Cal and Maurice

Drew of UCLA. Both backs are ranked number one and two in the Pac-10 in rushing yards. As well, Cal features last week's Pac-10 Player of the Week, junior quarterback Aaron Rodgers. Rodgers has been giving defenses all they can handle all season and is best-known for throwing to senior flanker Geoff McArthur, a 2003 second team All-American.

Cal comes into this game reeling in the wake of a heartbreaking 23-17 loss to USC last weekend in Los Angeles. Despite the magnitude of the loss, Cal head coach Jeff Tedford has assured his players have put the loss behind them.

"It's great that sometimes the players are more resilient than the coach," Tedford said. "They practiced very well (Monday) ... they understand we still have a lot of opportunity left ahead of us."

UCLA is riding a modest four-game winning streak after making a track meet of last week's game against Arizona, which ended in a 37-17 victory.

Last season the Bruins defeated Cal in Pasadena in an overtime

PAC-10, page 14B

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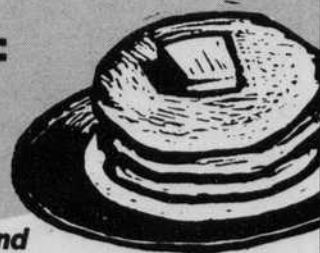


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