

Pac-10: Top-ranked USC ventures to Pullman

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was very pleased with Ostrander's performance.

"The pressure was on, and he made some good decisions," Teevens said. "He threw the ball, he scrambled, he reset his feet and found some guys."

No.1 USC (7-0, 4-0) at Washington State (3-4, 1-3)

USC head coach Pete Carroll understands the value of closing a season with fundamentally sound football. He also understands that there are no mulligans this season in conference play as his squad visits a hostile Cougar crowd at Martin Stadium on Saturday.

"Washington State has been up and down a little bit," Carroll said. "But they've shown some really good stuff on both sides of the ball. We've got to play really well, make sure we bring our game and get it done." Last week USC had no problem shutting out Washington en route to a 38-0 route in Los Angeles. The Trojans allowed a mere 113 total offensive yards as senior defensive tackle Shaun Cody and

junior defensive end Frostee Rucker wreaked havoc in the Husky backfield all game. The Cougar offense may be in for a long night unless they can have a solid game out of freshman quarterback Alex Brink.

Cougar sophomore wide receiver Jason Hill now leads the conference in touchdown receptions and yards per catch and will need to find a way to outplay the talented Trojan secondary.

Stopping USC's offense will be no less difficult for Washington State than it has been for any team all season. Junior quarterback Matt Leinart is compiling a solid Heisman Trophy campaign this season. The Trojan offensive line needs to continue opening mammoth running lanes for sophomore tailback Reggie Bush to keep Washington State guessing.

As recent history has shown, winning in Pullman has not been easy for USC, and this Saturday should be no exception.

Oregon State (3-4, 2-2) at Arizona (1-6, 0-4)

Oregon State is riding on momentum after last week's win against Pacific Northwest foe Washington State.

Head coach Mike Riley is trying to avoid letting Arizona's run-stopping defense force his team back into a one-dimensional offense.

"I think it's important we continue to strive to run the football," Riley said.

The Beavers have been trying all season to establish a respectable running game and will have their hands full trying to do so against Arizona. Look for Riley to use both Dwight Wright and Ryan Cole at tailback as he did last weekend to try and take the pressure off of quarterback Derek Anderson.

The Wildcats defense continues to gain respectability from conference foes who have had trouble running the ball.

Second-year head coach Mike Stoops emphasized playing against the pass this week in practice in preparation for Anderson. Arizona will need to focus on improving its mediocre offense. Sophomore quarterback Kris Heavner ranks ninth in the Pac-10 in passing yards and efficiency.

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Jones: Washington has nothing to lose

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been told in the locker room about this incident. If they didn't hear it from fellow players, they will probably hear it from yahoos like me who bring it up.

Fullback Dante Rosario admits some animosity about that game.

"I wasn't here then, but I believe there are some bitter feelings because this is our home, and you can't let somebody come in and do that," Rosario said.

Those are the feelings Bellotti is trying to subdue.

"I have to guard that we aren't over

enthused about some particular aspect outside of football," Bellotti said.

Translation: I have to make sure my players don't do anything vengeful and regress from last week, and "stupid" penalties don't reappear because of an incident that happened in 2002.

Oregon would be smart to take the high road in this situation.

What do you get out of taunting players that made idiots of themselves? Nothing.

Remember, Oregon, you have a chance to have a successful season.

A chance to go to a bowl game.

I hate to say it, but even a chance for

the Pacific-10 Conference title.

What does Washington have a chance for?

An early start on winter break.

That is what makes Washington dangerous this week.

The Huskies have nothing to lose and everything to gain coming to Eugene Saturday. A Husky player said the team is like an injured animal in the corner ready to attack, and I agree.

Now it's the job of Oregon players to either take the dawg out, or have it jump up and bite them in the rump.

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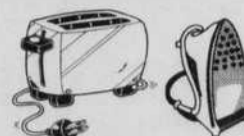
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