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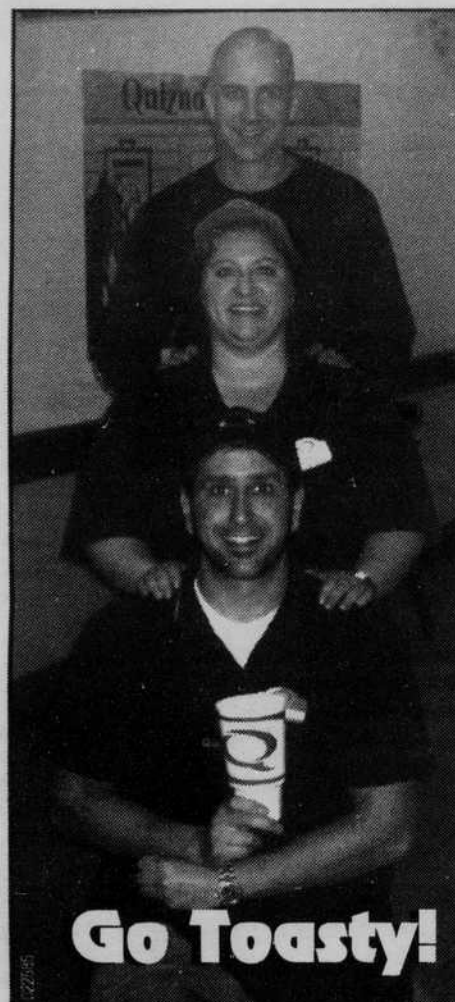
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■ Pac-10 game of the week

Beavers and Sun Devils face off in Corvallis showdown

Oregon State looks to rebound against ASU after losing to Louisville

BY JEFFREY DRANSFELDT
SPORTS COPY EDITOR

The first quarter was merely a respite. The 63 total Louisville points against Oregon State, including 56 in the final three quarters, were scored with ease.

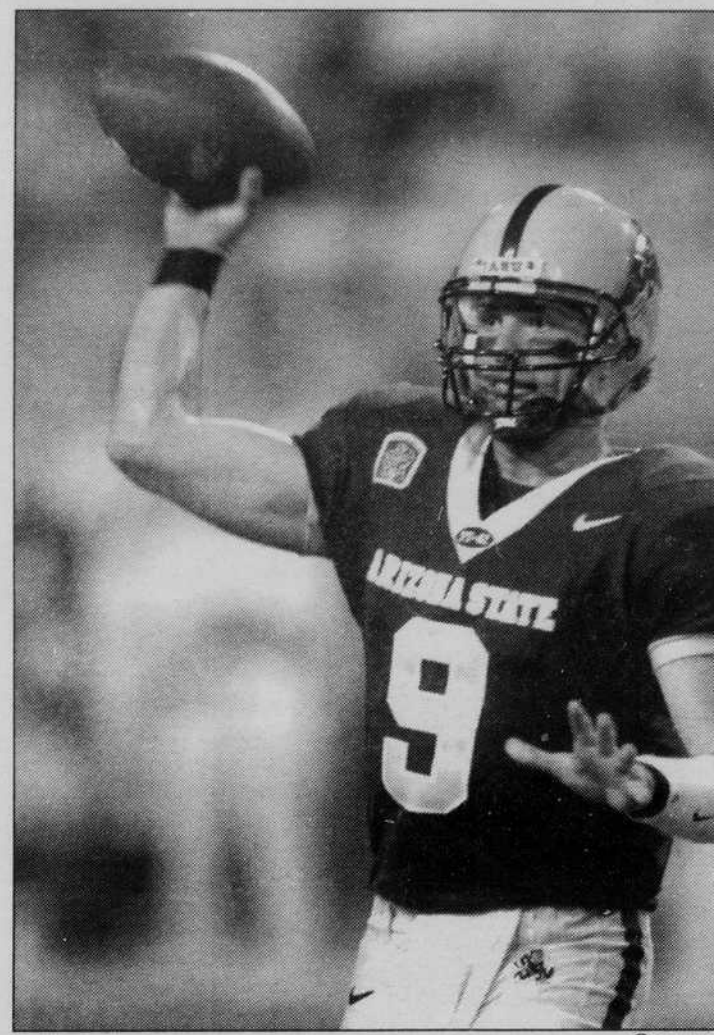
Looking at time of possession shows the efficiency of the Louisville offense — Oregon State at 39:24 and Louisville with 20:36. Louisville maximized the emergence of quarterback Brett Brohm, who passed for 368 yards, and three Cardinal running backs, who combined for 131 yards.

This is what it looks like when the momentum from a 2-0 start evaporates in the onslaught of Louisville's high-powered offense. Oregon State (2-1), after holding a 10-7 first-quarter lead, was overpowered in a 63-27 loss Saturday against undefeated host Louisville.

Oregon State won't get much of a chance to recover as Arizona State's high-powered offense, averaging 48.7 points per game, comes to Corvallis Saturday afternoon.

After Arizona State, Oregon State hosts Washington State (3-0) and visits No. 13 California (3-0) and a revitalized No. 25 UCLA (3-0), which dominated Oklahoma 41-24 Saturday.

First up, though, are the Sun Devils, who totaled a school-record 773 yards in a 52-21 rout of Northwestern Saturday night. Its offense is run by quarterback Sam Keller, who has thrown for 1,448 yards and 15 touchdowns in four career starts dating back to last season. The Arizona State offense doesn't merely rely on Keller's arm but has help from freshman running back Keegan Herring, who has gained 367 yards, and wide receiver Derek Hagan,



Arizona State quarterback Sam Keller ranks sixth nationally in total offense (355.3 yards). Keller leads the Pacific-10 Conference in passing average (359.3).

COURTESY

who has 238 yards in three games.

The only thing holding Arizona State back last week was penalties. It had 15 penalties for 142 yards against Northwestern, a number it'll have to cut down to compete with the likes of USC.

"We do whatever we do when we want to do, and we still had a bunch of penalties," Keller said. "If we do everything better, we would probably have 900 yards."

Herring's arrival helps Arizona State's high-flying offense, giving the

Sun Devils an excellent running attack. The 5-foot-10, 179-pound running back, hailed by Internet and newspaper publications as one of the best running back recruits in 2005, is smaller than other running standouts, including Oklahoma's Adrian Peterson (6-foot-2, 210 pounds) and Oregon's own Jonathan Stewart (5-foot-11, 228 pounds).

"When Keegan gets going and gets holes, he just runs," Keller said.

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■ Pac-10 preview

Current, former Notre Dame coaches lock horns in Seattle

Washington coach hosts old team for first time; Cal plans for offensive success against Aggies

BY LUKE ANDREWS
SPORTS REPORTER

Four Pacific-10 Conference teams will utilize the bye week and be out of action during week four of the college football season. This week also marks the final few non-conference games as teams gear up for the upcoming conference schedule. Four teams — Oregon State, Arizona State, Oregon and No. 1 Southern California — will begin Pac-10 play opening their respective conference schedules.

Notre Dame (2-1) vs. Washington (1-2, 0-1)

The good news for the Huskies is they picked up their first win of the season last weekend against Idaho. The bad news is that, similar to last season, that one win came against a sub-par team, and the road gets tougher here on out. It begins with Notre Dame, a team coming off a home loss to Michigan State a week earlier.

The Irish defeated Pittsburgh and formerly ranked top-10 Michigan on the road, but the Spartans spoiled Notre Dame's homecoming, winning

44-41 in overtime despite the heroic efforts of quarterback Brady Quinn. The junior signal caller completed 33 of 60 passes for 487 yards and had a school record of five touchdown passes.

But there is another story line to this game.

Current Husky and former Irish coach Tyrone Willingham has undeniably been highlighting this date after his firing from Notre Dame and subsequent hiring at Washington. Many speculated that Willingham's dismissal was unwarranted, and a win against his former team may prove that.

For Washington to have a chance against the Irish, wideout Sonny Shackelford and the Husky offense must create the big play, similar to Matt Trannon (five receptions, 136 yards) and the Spartan offense did Saturday. Michigan State scored four touchdowns of more than 15 yards against the Irish.

Undoubtedly, Willingham, the ultimate motivator, will have his Husky team and the Husky faithful inspired to play against Notre Dame, but the unequal talent level will favor the Irish.

California (3-0, 1-0) at New Mexico State (0-3)

In three losses this season, New Mexico State has allowed an average of 37 points per game. Adding insult to injury is the fact that two of those three games were against UTEP (2-0, 1-0 Conference USA) and New Mexico (3-0). Against Jeff Tedford and No. 13 Cal's high-powered offense, which averages 44 points per game, New Mexico State could be in for a long day.

Though Cal struggled early Saturday against Illinois, trailing 17-7 at halftime, the Golden Bears rallied with 21 unanswered points, eventually winning 35-20.

Even without Marshawn Lynch, one of the Pac-10's best running backs, the Cal ground game was effective, gaining a combined 294 yards. Sophomore Justin Forsett paced the Bears' attack with 187 yards on 16 carries and two touchdowns against Illinois.

New Mexico State is led offensively by its big play receiver, Paul Dombrowski, who has hauled in 22 passes for 303 yards and two scores this season.

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