

"Don't say I don't get along with my teammates. I just don't get along with some of the guys on the team."

— Eagles' wide receiver Terrell Owens

In my opinion



SCOTT ADAMS
INTENTIONAL GROUNDING

UO needs to be wary of Stanford as spoiler

The beleaguered Cardinal comes into this game after a much-needed bye week following its loss Sept. 17 at the hands of UC Davis, 20-17. The loss surprised many at Stanford (1-1), including quarterback T.C. Ostrander who had little sympathy for his team after the game.

"It's hard to pinpoint one thing," Ostrander said. "Collectively on offense we didn't get the job done. I was extremely disappointed in how I played."

The Cardinal's offense may not have gotten the job done against the Aggies, but they had quite an outing one week prior in Annapolis, Md., against Navy. Led by quarterback Trent Edwards, the offense outlasted the Midshipmen, 41-38. Edwards passed for 235 yards but has not thrown a touchdown pass this season.

Edwards saw limited action the following week against UC Davis after being sidelined in the second half with an undisclosed injury. Ostrander took over but did not play impressively, going 7-17 for 108 passing yards.

As ineffective as Stanford's passing game was in the loss, its running game did not fare better. The Cardinal running backs combined for a meager 74 yards on 30 carries. Sophomore tailback Anthony Kimble led Stanford with 51 yards. Kimble will have to put up at least 50 more if Stanford is going to have any offensive balance playing against Oregon.

Defense almost wins games

Stanford's defense has not only made big plays this season, but it has also put points on the board for the Cardinal. Last week the defense recovered a pair of first-half fumbles returned for touchdowns. In the first quarter, senior inside linebacker Kevin Schimmelmann recovered a fumble in UC Davis' endzone, putting Stanford ahead, 10-0. One quarter later, the defense struck again as fellow linebacker Michael Craven picked up a loose ball and returned it 54 yards for the defense's second touchdown of the game. Sadly enough for the Cardinal, it marked the last time it scored in the game. Stanford also recovered a fumble for a touchdown against Navy, bringing its season total to three.

First-year head coach Walt Harris said his team deserves to lose any game it plays as badly as it played last week.

"The bottom line: When you lose, you lose," Harris said. "It doesn't matter if it's Davis or USC. When you play like that, you will lose every game."

A kicker you can count on

Harris has one of the best kickers in the Pacific-10 Conference in senior Michael Sgroi. The Plymouth, Mich., native has started three years now for Stanford and drove home a 48-yard field goal against the Aggies last week. He has fully recovered from a

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Ducks set their sights on Stanford

Mike Bellotti turns to extra conditioning to help his team rebound from Saturday's loss

BY SHAWN MILLER
SPORTS REPORTER

Whether it is punishment or preparation up for interpretation, there is no question that conditioning is a major focus during football practice this week.

Even head coach Mike Bellotti was seen jogging and back-peddling to inspire the troops.

"At this point in the season there still is a need to continue conditioning," Bellotti said. "We are still getting into game shape for some of the younger players, and they have to get through some of the bumps and bruises that will slow down some of our veteran players."

Oregon is coming off a 45-13 defeat to top-ranked USC, a game in which the Duck defense allowed five touchdowns in the second half.

"Our conditioning was a factor in the second half in that we did not seem to be in shape, our defense especially, staying on the field that long," Bellotti said.

The Ducks gave up nearly 600 yards in total offense, and USC was 10 of 14 on third-down conversions.

"As players we didn't really think it was conditioning, but coach felt it was the case, so we did some extra running today," Oregon cornerback Justin Phinisee said after Monday's practice. "That's what football is all about, running around, making sure you are in shape."

It is especially important for everyone to be on the same page Saturday as the Ducks travel to Palo Alto, Calif., to face the Stanford Cardinal, a team known for playing to its competition level.



MARCUS LARSON | FOR THE EMERALD

Oregon quarterback Kellen Clemens and the Duck offense were tackled by USC Saturday. The Ducks have focused on conditioning in practice this week in preparation for playing Stanford.

"Stanford right now is probably as dangerous as they have ever been," Oregon quarterback Kellen Clemens said. "They play up or down according to the team they are playing. They play to the level of their competitors, and we will get their best game."

The Cardinal may be especially dangerous after a bye week followed a 20-17 loss to Division I-AA UC Davis, considered the most hu-

miliating defeat in Stanford history by many in the sports world.

"That's what football is all about, running around, making sure you are in shape."

JUSTIN PHINISEE | Oregon cornerback

"They've had two weeks to prepare and have to feel the agony of that loss to UC Davis," Bellotti said. "We're prepared for their best football game, and we need

to be prepared to match it because we are on the road. You can't rally or spar with the home team — you have to knock them out."

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Club Hockey

Oregon looks to defend its Pac-8 title

The reigning Pac-8 conference champions go into their season with many new faces on their roster for the second straight year

BY WILL SEYMOUR
FREELANCE REPORTER

Usually, losing 12 players to graduation isn't the best way to start a title defense. On the other hand, why change a formula for success? Despite having to replace almost half of its squad for the second consecutive year, the Oregon's Club Sports men's hockey team looks to build upon last year's success by taking advantage of an exciting blend of youth and experience.

Last season, the Ducks found themselves in more than their fair share of high scoring affairs. Oregon scored five or more goals in 17 of its 28 contests in 2004, but this year the game plan might be to aim for the shutout.

"We have such a solid group of defensemen, and that cuts down on the number of shots I see," sophomore goaltender Matt Nuernberg said. Among that solid group is senior Jordan Guffin, who is looking to build on last year's progress. "We're looking to continue our momentum," Guffin said.

He is just one of the starting defensive players returning this season. He will again be joined by fellow senior Mike Boggs and junior Mike Roley, and together they should present a formidable obstacle to opposing offenses.

The Ducks hope to be dangerous with the puck as well, thanks in large part to two of Oregon's most prolific scorers from last year's championship team. Senior Justin Savich and sophomore Cal Brackin will once again be integral parts of the Ducks' attack, having accounted for a total of 73 points (goals and assists) in last year's campaign. These two potent weapons will be featured on the same line this season, making Oregon a bigger threat to score during its shifts.

As nice as a repeat of the Pacific-8 Conference championship would be for the Ducks, they have their sights set on bigger accomplishments. The Ducks finished last year ranked as the No. 9 team in the West region, a ranking that was posted before Oregon's win over Washington in the Pac-8 title game. The top four ranked teams from each region ad-

vance to a national championship tournament. With a good showing, the Ducks would find themselves in the national picture.

"We're playing a more difficult schedule this year, hoping to get a shot at nationals" said Guffin.

Further aiding Oregon's chances for a deep postseason run, the last two spots to nationals from the West region will be awarded after an eight-team tournament, instead of being based entirely on coaches' rankings as in previous years.

The Ducks won't have the luxury of easing into the season, but they will be lucky enough to enjoy home-ice advantage for some of the most important games on the schedule. Among the biggest will be the rematch of last year's Pac-8 championship when the Washington Huskies come to Eugene for a season-opening two-game set Oct. 14 and 15. In addition to being at home for the first series of the year, Oregon is the host for this year's Pac-8 tournament to be held Feb. 10-11. The Ducks hold their games at Lane County Ice at the Lane County Fairgrounds; admission is \$5 for adults and \$2 for students. The puck for both games in the Washington series will drop at 7 p.m.

IN BRIEF

Oregon goalie captures Pac-10 weekly honor

Freshman goalkeeper Jessie Chatfield of the Oregon women's soccer team was honored yesterday as the Pacific-10 Conference Women's Soccer Player of the Week for the week of Sept. 20-26. Chatfield shut out South Dakota State Friday 2-0 at Papé Field for her third consecutive scoreless night, bringing her

shutout total this season to a school record five, good enough for first in the Pac-10.

Chatfield has set another school record at Oregon with her minutes scoreless streak of 275:45. Chatfield has played a pivotal role this year in helping Oregon (6-1-1) to its best start in school history. It was unknown whether or not she would even be starting this year at goalkeeper, but Chatfield has risen to the occasion, posting a solid 0.97 goals against average.

Heading to Laramie, Wyo., this weekend

for the Brown and Gold Tournament, Chatfield, like her teammates, is impressed with her team's success and would like to see them continue playing smart on the road.

"I'm definitely excited about our start," Chatfield said. "The elevation and weather in Wyoming will be a factor for us, but if we play a controlled game we should be fine."

The Player of the Week honor is the first for Chatfield in her sprouting career as a Duck and Oregon's third weekly honor all-time.

— Scott J. Adams