

■ Pac-10 preview

After UCLA upset, Cal turns to Beavers

Washington State will face No. 12 UCLA; Stanford will travel to Arizona to take on the Wildcats

BY KIM GAVIGLIO
FREELANCE REPORTER

The start of the second half of the season increases the pressure on the Pacific-10 Conference teams — save for USC — to start winning more conference games if they want to be considered to play in a bowl game.

This week OSU takes on No. 18 Cal, Washington State battles No. 12 UCLA and Stanford travels to Arizona.

Oregon State (3-2, 1-1) at No. 18 California (5-1, 2-1)

Freshly bruised and beaten Cal had its pride stripped away — as well as its No.-10 ranking — in the surprise upset against UCLA last weekend. The No. 18 Bears have had a week to lick their wounds and prepare to redeem themselves with a home game against the

Beavers this week in Corvallis.

The Beavers are coming off a bye week which gave them time to focus on picking up their defense. The Bears are known for their outstanding offense, which is ranked 15th in the nation with 473 yards per game on average.

Oregon State won't be an easy win for Cal; the Beavers have the potential to bring a high-powered air attack on the Bears. The Beavers are fifth nationally in passing offense and they have a not-so-secret weapon, Mike Hass. Hass leads the Pac-10 with an average of 9.4 receptions per game and his 166.2 receiving yards per game is the best in the nation.

"(Hass is) strong, he can catch the ball all over the place in his

hands, and then he's very good after the catch because he's got a great first step, like a guy that plays basketball," Oregon State head coach Mike Riley said. "As soon as he hits the ground after a catch, he's gone. Those are the kinds of qualities that he's got going, but he's improved through his play and confidence."

No. 12 UCLA (5-0, 2-0) at Washington State (3-2, 0-2)

The last time these two teams met, the Cougars fought off the Bruins for a 31-29 victory. The Cougars' win was thanks to running back Jerome Harrison, who rushed for 247 yards on 42 carries, including a 25-yard dash on the Cougars' first snap of the game. Forgetting the past, UCLA is on a winning streak right now after upsetting Cal in a close 47-40 win last weekend. The Bruins are on fire with a 5-0 record and rising from No. 20 to No. 12 in

the AP poll. Defeating Cal was the first time UCLA had won against a top-10 team since 2001.

The Cougars will have to keep running back Maurice Drew and tight end Mercedes Lewis under control if they want to have any chance of winning. Last weekend against Cal, Drew had 299 all-purpose yards, which was the second-most in an NCAA game this season.

"We have not played well at Washington State for a number of years," UCLA head coach Karl Dorrell said. "That is a tremendous focus for our team this week. They are a very good football team. A very explosive football team. They are very balanced on offense."

Stanford (2-2, 1-1) at Arizona (1-4, 0-2)

Stanford's Buddy Teevens and Arizona's John Mackovic were the head

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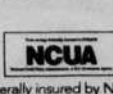

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