

IN BRIEF

Marice Drew appers as Heisman contender

In a town where the names Leinart and Bush have dominated Heisman Trophy speculation, along comes Maurice Drew.

The fleet-footed tailback raised his profile considerably in the No. 12 Bruins' 47-40 victory over California last weekend in Los Angeles. He scored on a long punt return, rushed for three touchdowns and caught a pass for the go-ahead TD in the closing moments.

"He's just one of those guys that when the ball is in his hands, he makes plays. His team believes in him, and he believes in his teammates," UCLA head coach Karl Dorrell said. "He just wants to perform for them. He has incredible ability."

Drew leads the nation in punt return average at 33.8 yards, and has returned three punts for scores.

He ranks eighth nationally for all-purpose yards with an average of 172.4, and he's in a three-way tie for first in scoring with an average of 14.4 points a game (with Louisville's Michael Bush and Northwestern's Tyrell Sutton).

Drew's five touchdowns against Cal matched his own career-high: He had five against Washington last year.

"In open space, with people spread out, the guy is very, very difficult to tackle," Cal head coach Jeff Tedford said. "He was very impressive, no question about it."

With the loss, Cal dropped eight spots in the AP poll to No. 18. UCLA jumped eight places to its highest ranking since the Bruins reached No. 9 in 2001.

Drew has grabbed attention and respect in a conference (and a city) dominated by No. 1-ranked Southern California and its high-profile stars, Matt Leinart, the reigning Heisman winner, and teammate Reggie Bush.

Dorrell said he was impressed with Drew the first time he saw him

back in high school.

"He's been doing those things for a while — that's just God-given talent," Dorrell said.

Both the Bruins and the Trojans are 5-0 overall. Up next for UCLA is Washington State, where the Cougars are coming off a loss to Stanford.

Southern California plays at No. 9 Notre Dame.

Senior moment

Stanford coach Walt Harris sat down with his seniors last week and told them it was time to play up to their grade level.

The result? The Cardinal beat Washington State 24-21 in Pullman. It was the Cougars' second-straight loss.

"I did talk to the seniors so they would understand how important they were to the team and to me," Harris said.

The victory rescued a Stanford team that had been horribly embarrassed from a loss to Division I-AA UC Davis earlier in the season. Before their team got beat, Cougars fans chanted "UC Davis, UC Davis" for the Stanford players.

"It's been a hard road. We've played — not very good, quite honestly," Harris said. "And been very disappointed in ourselves."

Harris took over at Stanford this year for Buddy Teevens, who was fired after three losing seasons. Harris led Pittsburgh to a bowl game in each of the last five seasons, including a berth in the Fiesta Bowl last year.

With the victory over the Cougars, Stanford moves to 2-2 overall. Interestingly, their two wins have come on the road, with two losses on The Farm.

"It's the best we have played in any game, (or) scrimmage since we've been here," Harris said. "They did an excellent job."

Washington State coach Bill Doba

said about Stanford: "Doggone, they finally got it put together."

The Stanford Cardinal visits Arizona (1-4) in Tucson on Saturday.

Chasing the championship

It's known as the Northwest Championship, a mythical honor going to the Pacific-10 Conference team in the Northwest corner of the country that can defeat each of its neighbors.

Last year Oregon State claimed the fictitious honor created by former Washington coach Rick Neuheisel a few years back to inspire the Huskies.

The Beavers had not defeated all three conference rivals — Oregon, Washington and Washington State — since 1973.

As No. 20 Oregon (5-1) prepares to host Washington (1-4) this weekend, there was a lot of chatter about how the competition between all four of the Northwest teams has grown throughout the years.

"There are a lot of fans who'd like me to say Washington is a bigger rivalry than Oregon State," Oregon head coach Mike Bellotti said. "All three of our Pac-10 Northwest neighbors are huge rivalries."

Washington and Oregon are each playing the first game of the season against a Northwest rival. Oregon State knocked Washington State out of the race with a 44-33 victory on Oct. 1, in the first game between the four teams.

"There is a certain segment of our fans who believe that this (Saturday's game) is the most important rivalry that we have. There is another group that believe Washington State is the most important rivalry that we have. So, I have kind of split myself accordingly. This week, this is the most important rivalry that we have," Washington head coach Tyrone Willingham said.

— The Associated Press

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Pac-10: Well-matched Stanford, Arizona meet

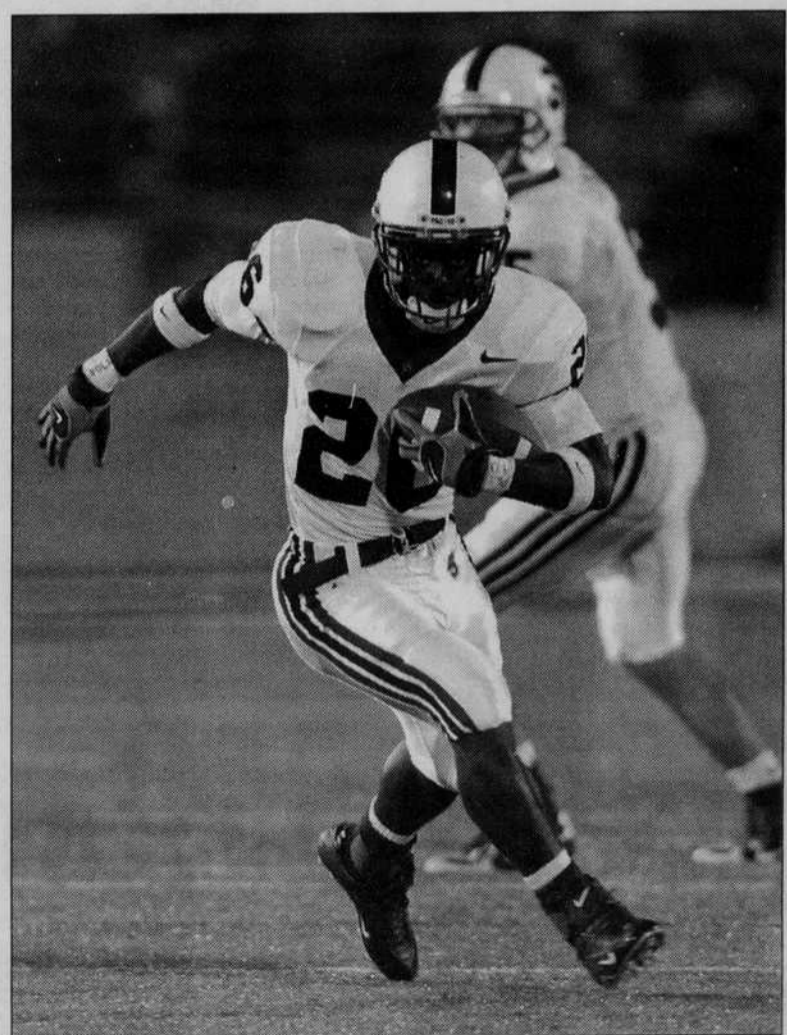
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coaches when the Cardinal and Wildcats met last in 2002. Now Stanford has Walt Harris and Arizona has Mike Stoops in the head positions.

The winner of this weekend's game will be determined by who wants it more. These teams are evenly matched, regardless of what the record says. Arizona had the misfortune of taking on Cal and USC back-to-back early in the season, giving them a losing record right away.

Stanford surprised just about everyone when they defeated Washington State last weekend 24-21. This marks the first Pac-10 victory for the Cardinal in nearly a year. The remaining games left on the Cardinal schedule include No. 1 USC, No. 12 UCLA, No. 18 Cal and No. 9 Notre Dame.

"Arizona has good personnel on defense," Harris said. "They make you drive it; they don't give up hardly any big plays. Even as explosive of a team that USC is, they made them drive it (in last weekend's game). They did a really good job keeping it to 28-21 into the fourth quarter. They look like a very talented football team with a lot of athletes. Their quarterback (Richard Kovalcheck) has some good size with experience under his belt. Defensively, they are very impressive with their speed at safety and up front. They also have an outstanding punter (Danny Baugher) that's leading the nation in punting."



DAVID GONZALES | STANFORD ATHLETICS

In a battle of unranked teams, running back Anthony Kimble and Stanford travel to Arizona Saturday. Arizona is the worst in the Pacific-10 Conference in scoring offense (20.0 points per game), while Stanford is ninth in scoring defense (30.8).

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