

STANFORD CARDINAL

Saturday, October 25, 12:30 p.m. (PDT)
Autzen Stadium, Eugene

Series Record: Stanford leads, 43-22-1

Head Coach: Buddy Teevens (2nd year), 2-9

2002 Record: 2-9, 1-7 (tied for ninth in Pac-10)



FREE SAFETY
OSHIOMOGHO
ATOGWE

This is Year Two of the Buddy Teevens Experiment at Stanford. His predecessor, Tyrone Willingham, was very successful (four bowl games in seven seasons and a 9-3 record in 2001) running a conservative, run-based offense. Following his departure to Notre Dame, Stanford made what many considered to be a curious hire in Teevens, the former Florida assistant, who is a proponent of the downfield passing game. Whether he can make it work at The Farm remains to be seen. Last year several key injuries, difficulties installing the offense and a porous defense all contributed to a disastrous 1-7 league record, tying for last in the conference.

This year Cardinal fans may be disappointed again. Only three starters return on an offense that scored only 20.5 points a game. The defense returns 8 starters, but there are no seniors among them. Stanford has to play BYU in Provo, does not get to play hapless Arizona (the only PAC 10 team they beat last year), and faces Notre Dame at the end of the season. Due to all of these factors, many observers pick Stanford to finish with another dismal record.

The defense should be improved, however, starting with the line, where junior tackle Amon Gordon (6-3, 285), sophomore end Julian Jenkins (6-4, 260) and senior end Louis Hobson (6-4, 255) are expected to control traffic. The three starting linebackers should be junior Jared Newberry (6-2, 235), junior David Bergeron (6-4, 245) and sophomore Michael Craven (6-1, 230), with sophomore Jon Alston (6-1, 210) and senior Jake Covault (6-3, 230) as backups with some starting experience.

Junior free safety **Oshiomogho Atogwe** (5-11, 198), a Canadian sprinter on the Cardinal track team, is the top returning starter in the secondary, having led the team with 71 tackles last year. Fellow track team members Stanley Wilson (6-0, 189, junior) and Leigh Torrence (6-0, 183, junior) return as the starting cornerbacks.

Major questions reside at the quarterback position. Senior Chris Lewis (6-3, 215) will probably be the starter, but he has only played sporadically over his Cardinal career due to injuries (rotator cuff last year) or attitude (suspended for the opener last year). (Oregon fans might remember him as the backup QB who led the Cardinal comeback at Autzen in 2001, in which the Ducks blew a 14-point lead, costing Oregon an undefeated regular season and a shot at the national title.) Lewis's sometime replacement, sophomore Kyle Matter (6-2, 195) has been very inconsistent and finished last season with a sprained left shoulder. Teevens might pull the plug early, if the two older guys falter, in favor of his own recruit, redshirt freshman Trent Edwards (6-4, 210).

Speedy junior running back Kenneth Tolon (6-1, 190) gained 346 yards last year with a 5.2 average. Sophomore J.R. Lemon (6-1, 225) is more of a power runner in reserve. Senior flanker Luke Powell (5-8, 175) is the only wide receiver of note, while tight ends Alex Smith (6-5, 255, junior) and senior Brett Pierce (6-6, 262, injured last season) are the next best options.

Fifth-year senior tackle **Kirk Chambers** (6-7, 315) has 34 consecutive starts on the Cardinal offensive line, but will have his hands full mentoring the woefully inexperienced personnel at the other line positions.

If Stanford fails to beat San Jose State in its opener, the Cardinal could be 0-5 coming into Autzen on October 25. And if the Ducks play up to their potential, Coach Teevens' hot seat could be a little warmer by the end of that day.

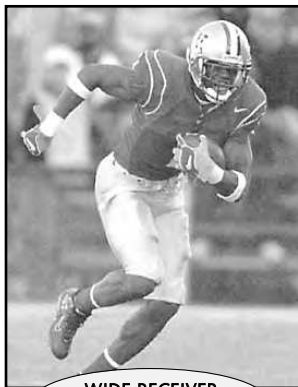
WASHINGTON HUSKIES

Saturday, November 1, 7 p.m. (PDT)
Husky Stadium, Seattle

Series Record: Washington leads, 57-33-5

Head Coach: Keith Gilbertson (1st year)

2002 Record: 7-6, 4-4 (tied for fourth in PAC 10)



WIDE RECEIVER
REGGIE WILLIAMS

This summer college football "experts" were nearly unanimous in picking the Huskies to finish no worse than second in the Pac-10, with some visualizing an undefeated regular season and a berth in the Sugar Bowl for a shot at the national title. Most of the unbridled praise has focused (and rightfully so) on the incredible offensive combination of senior quarterback **Cody Pickett** and junior wide receiver **Reggie Williams**. But all of this discussion took place before head coach Rick Neuheisel was fired for his involvement in a high-stakes college basketball betting pool and lying about it. The residual effects of his dismissal, the late hiring of his assistant Keith Gilbertson as his replacement, and Neuheisel's ongoing lawsuits against the university

and the NCAA remain to be seen. In a way the whole off-the-field fiasco involving "Tricky Rick" may have diverted attention away from any deficiencies the Huskies might have on the field.

Offensively Pickett (6-4, 220) and Williams (6-4, 225) have impeccable credentials. Last year Pickett completed 60% of his passes for a Pac-10 record 4,458 yards and 28 touchdowns with 14 interceptions. Williams, a probable top-five pick in the next NFL draft, made 94 receptions for 1,454 yards, a 15.5-yard average and 24 TDs. Both are leading candidates for national honors including the Heisman Trophy. However, at least twelve defensive coordinators will be devising bracket coverages for Williams and multiple blitz packages for Pickett to reduce their effectiveness.

One important countermeasure will be junior receiver Charles Frederick (6-0, 180), "the guy on the other side." Last season he caught 45 passes for 651 yards, but only two scores. He needs to get open and catch the ball often to keep the offense moving when Williams is covered. The rest of the receivers, including the personnel at the tight end position, have very little experience and are unproven at the Division I-A level.

Which brings us to the alternative method of advancing the ball downfield and an area of concern. Last year Washington averaged only 74.5 per game on the ground and a total of 968 yards in thirteen games. Inconsistent senior running back Rich Alexis (6-0, 220) got 688 of those yards, but only 3.4 yards per carry. Backup junior Chris Singleton (6-0, 195) managed 224 yards with only 3.5 yards per carry. In another legal development starting junior fullback Zach Tuiaosopo (6-2, 245) decided to destroy windows of four cars last May (\$6,800 damage) and faces a three- or four-game suspension. Senior tackle Nick Newton (6-5, 330) was honorable mention All Pac-10 last year. His linemates have talent and experience, but will need to run block as well as pass block, if Washington intends to live up to expectations.

Defensively last year the Huskies were strong against the run, but weak against the pass. The line has returning talent led by senior tackle Terry Johnson (6-4, 285) and junior end Manase Hopoi (6-4, 260), but must be more consistent. Senior linebackers Marquis Cooper (6-4, 215) and Greg Carothers (6-2, 230) are solid (184 tackles total).

Junior Derrick Johnson (6-0, 185) and senior Roc Alexander (6-0, 195) are a matched pair at cornerback. Both have 4.3 speed and a lot of experience, but like the rest of the defense, must do a better job keeping opponents out of the end zone.

The Huskies biggest hurdle is the first one, a road game at last year's national champion, Ohio State. If Washington can get the upset in Columbus, the rest of the schedule makes running the table very possible, playing lesser conference opponents on the road and stronger teams at home. Of course, the Ducks might have something to say about this on November 1.

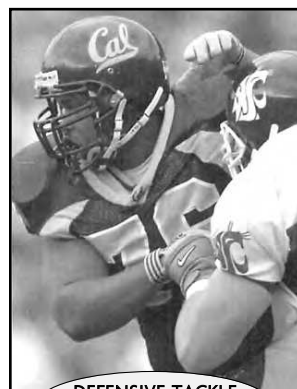
CALIFORNIA BEARS

Saturday, November 8, 12:30 p.m. (PDT)
Autzen Stadium, Eugene

Series Record: California leads, 35-28-2

Head Coach: Jeff Tedford (2nd year), 7-5

2002 Record: 7-5, 4-4 (tied for fourth in Pac-10)



DEFENSIVE TACKLE
LORENZO ALEXANDER

Head coach Jeff Tedford (a former offensive coordinator for the Ducks) did a masterful job in his first year with Cal, scripting college football's biggest turnaround last year. He inherited a sad team that went 1-10 in Tom Holmoe's last year, and transformed it into a 7-5 team in 2002. It was Cal's first winning season in nine years, and Tedford was selected Pac-10 Coach of the Year.

However, that was then, this is now. Last year's team had experience, but needed direction. This year's team has direction, but is short on experience. Only six starters return on offense and two on defense. Tedford has some degree of talent on hand, but most of it is young and has yet to show the ability to compete at the Pac-10 level. And historically the rest of the league has been very rude to teams with growing pains, especially

one that snuck up on them the previous year.

The biggest loss from the offense is four-year starting quarterback Kyle Boller, who struggled under Holmoe, but flourished under Tedford, and set the school record of 64 touchdown passes. However, his replacement appears to be junior **Reggie Robertson** (6-2, 190). Against Kansas State last week in the first game of the college season, he completed 16 of 29 passes for 257 yards and 3 touchdowns. Sophomore JC transfer Aaron Rodgers (6-2, 195), who played in the second half, going 9 for 13 (121 yards) and a TD, will compete for the job.

Against KSU frosh redshirt tailback Marcus O'Keith (6-1, 175) carried the ball seven times for 32 yards. Junior J.J. Arrington (5-11, 215) got only 10 yards on four carries, but made two touchdown receptions. Experienced senior Adimchinobe Echemandu (6-0, 225) sat out 2001 with academic problems and missed 2002 with an ACL injury. On Saturday he appeared less than 100% with only four carries for 18 yards. At wide receiver senior Jonathan Makonnen (6-0, 175) and junior Geoff McArthur (6-1, 200) each averaged 12.6 yards per catch last season and combined for 1136 yards and eight touchdowns. Against a good Wildcat secondary Makonnen caught 3 balls for 37 yards, while McArthur had a big night with eight catches, 169 yards and one score. The most experienced part of the offense is the line with senior tackles Mark Wilson (6-6, 295, All Pac-10 honorable mention) and Chris Murphy (6-6, 310) and junior guard Jonathan Giesel (6-4, 300). All are returning starters and all played well against K-State.

Cal is relying on senior punter Tyler Fredrickson (6-3, 220), a three-year starter, to do the placekicking, too.

On defense junior tackle **Lorenzo Alexander** (6-3, 295) All Pac-10 honorable mention) and sophomore rover Donnie McCleskey (5-10, 180) are the only holdover starters. As for the rest of the defense, there's just not much to talk about yet. Opposing offenses will have a field day exploiting the Golden Bear defense, unless the young players grow up fast. Case in point: Kansas State rolled up 535 yards of total offense, 330 on the ground.

For Duck fans one of the more interesting games on Cal's schedule is a road contest