

Men's Pac-10 Preview

by Jerry Thompson

2002-2003 Conference Standings:

	W	L		W	L
Arizona	17	1	Oregon State	6	12
Stanford	14	4	USC	6	12
California	13	5	UCLA	6	12
Arizona State	11	7	Washington	5	13
Oregon	10	8	Washington State	2	16

ARIZONA WILDCATS



Hassan Adams

improved player and had a big 30 point game against Texas. Iguodala with 9.5 rebounds per game and Frye with 9.3 lead the front line which has only 3 players above 6-6: the 6-11 Frye, 6-9 Isaiah Fox who is injured, and 6-10 true freshman, Kirk Walters. Stamina over the long season and frontline strength are Arizona's main concerns.

Ducks in Tucson: Sunday, Jan. 25 Wildcats in Eugene: Thursday, Feb. 19

ARIZONA STATE SUN DEVILS

Head Coach: Rob Evans, 6th year

Gone: Curtis Millage, Tommy Smith, Kyle Dodd, and Shawn Redhage

Top Returnees: Frontcourt: Ike Diogu and Jamal Hill, Backcourt: James Braxton and Kenny Crandall

Top Newcomers: Junior guard Steve Moore and freshman forward, Wilfried Fameni.

Top 5 scorers (pre-conference):

Ike Diogu, 6-8, sophomore: 22.6

Steve Moore, 6-4, junior: 17.0

Wilfried Fameni, 6-7, freshman: 7.3

Jamal Hill, 6-5, senior: 6.5

James Braxton, 6-2, junior: 6.0

Forecast: The Sun Devils beat Temple in a good comeback, but have lost close games to Nebraska and Northwestern. They depend heavily on Pac-10 freshman-of-the-year, Ike Diogu but have added outside help with J.C. transfer Steve Moore. They have only three players returning with more than one year of experience and have no players above 6-9. They will rely upon Diogu and Moore and their team quickness to cause problems for their opponents. With so many young players consistency is a concern and a return to the NCAA tournament seems unlikely. However, this is a team that can play with anyone on any given night as long as Diogu and Moore are on their game.

Ducks at ASU: Thursday, Jan. 22 ASU in Eugene: Saturday, February 21

CALIFORNIA GOLDEN BEARS

Head Coach: Ben Braun, 8th year

Gone: Joe Shipp (20.4 ppg) and Brian Wethers (15.1 ppg)

Top Returnees: 6-10 senior, Amit Tamir, 6-2 sophomore, Richard Midgley, and 6-11 senior, Gabriel Hughes.

Top Newcomers: 6-8 freshmen, Leon Powe, 6-5 freshmen Marquise Kately, and 6-2 freshman, Ayinde Ubaka.

Top 5 scorers (pre-conference):

Leon Powe: 6-8, freshman forward: 15.7

Amit Tamir: 6-10, senior forward: 10.3

Marquise Kately, 6-5 freshman guard: 8.5



Amit Tamir

OREGON DUCKS

Photo by: Walt Grondona of Walt's Photography

Head Coach: Ernie Kent, 7th year.

Gone: Luke Ridnour (Pac-10 player-of-the-year), Robert Johnson, Brian Helquist

Top Returnees: Luke Jackson, Andre Joseph, Ian Crosswhite, James Davis, Matt Short

Top Newcomers: Aaron Brooks, 6-0 freshman point guard, Mitch Platt, 6-10 freshman forward, Adam Zahn, 6-8 redshirt freshman forward.

Top 5 scorers (pre-conference):

Luke Jackson, 6-7, senior forward: 22.6

Ian Crosswhite, 6-11 soph. forward: 12.6

Andre Joseph, 6-3, senior guard: 11.4

James Davis, 5-10, senior guard: 8.8

Aaron Brooks, 6-0 freshman guard: 8.2

Forecast: Believe it or not, with four seniors Oregon is the most veteran team in the Pac-10 where there are only 27 seniors among the 10 teams. The big question is whether the Ducks can still improve without Ridnour's playmaking and scoring and Johnson's defense and rebounding. The Ducks need Mitch Platt to return as soon as possible because he and Crosswhite are the only inside threats to score (although Adam Zahn looks like he has a bright future). Brooks has been up and down but will be adequate and Luke Jackson has been impressive. Consistent scoring from Andre Joseph and Crosswhite can help take the load off of Luke. If the Ducks had a good power forward who could put pressure on the opponent's defense they would be a lock for 3rd or higher. The scoring weakness inside was evident against Kansas and will be against other athletic teams. A winning Pac-10 record would be a great success. Realistically, I see them splitting (9-9). The Ducks consistently outperform more talented teams due to better coaching and unselfish team play. That will need to happen again in order to finish in the top 5 of the Pac-10.



Matt Short

OREGON STATE BEAVERS

Head Coach: Jay John, 2nd year

Gone: Philip Ricci, Brian Jackson, Jimmie Haywood

Top Returnees: 6-7 junior forward, David Lucas; 6-4 sophomore guard Lamar Hurd, 6-2 junior guard, J.S. Nash, and 6-2 soph. guard, Chris Stephens.

Top Newcomer: 6-6 junior forward, Jim Hanchett and 6-2 freshman guard Angelo Tsagarakis.

Top 5 scorers (pre-conference):

Chris Stephens, 6-2 sophomore: 15.0

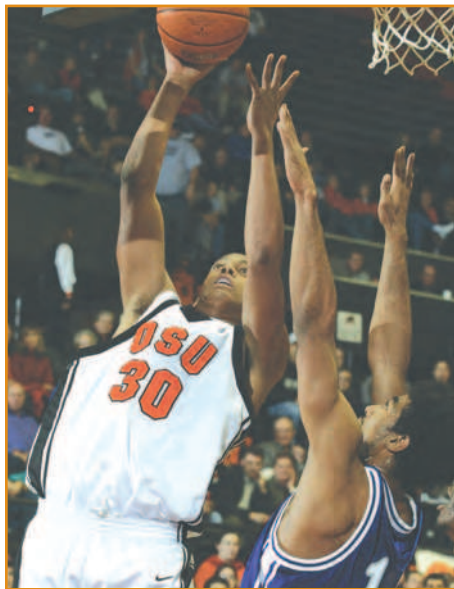
David Lucas, 6-7 junior: 14.7

J.S. Nash, 6-2, junior: 10.6

Jim Hanchett, 6-6, junior: 7.3

Lamar Hurd, 6-4, sophomore: 6.7

Forecast: The Beavers lost their three top scorers in Ricci, Jackson, Haywood. In the preseason they have lost to Portland, but did beat Colorado and Kansas State. They do lack any strong scoring threats in the forecourt which is their main weakness. Chris Stephens from Madison in Portland has



David Lucas