SPORTS

Battle to Beat the Basement: Colorado visits Oregon State

By ANNE M. PETERSON AP Sports Writer

CORVALLIS, Ore. -Colorado and Oregon State play on Saturday night with each team hoping to avoid the Pac-12 basement.

The two are the last remaining teams without a win in league play. The Buffaloes have a streak of 14 straight Pac-12 losses dating back to September 2012 when they edged Washington State 35-34.

Both sides are looking at this meeting as a "winnable" game. Oregon State is slightly favored at Reser Stadium, but not by much.

"I guess if you look at it the way you're saying, to look at it and everyone is saying, 'You should win this game, this is a great chance for you, if you don't win this game uh-oh.' Which really is just talk, that's all that ⁷ Colorado coach Mike 1S. ' Macintyre said this week, responding to a reporter's question about the dynamic with both teams in similar

situations (3-4, 0-3)Colorado fell 38-31 at Arizona last weekend. It was the team's third straight loss and was the first of three consecutive games on the road.

The Beavers (2-4, 0-3) were coming off a 52-31 loss last weekend at Washington State, the team's third straight.

Oregon State was expected to struggle this season as new coach Gary Andersen installs his new system. The Beavers were picked in the league's preseason media poll to finish last in the Pac-12 North, while Colorado was picked to finish at the bottom of the South.

Andersen said his team keeps learning.

"They're not real happy about the loss, so we'll continue to fight," he said. "We have to have that edge in this league. You have to be able to bounce back and fight. You can't accept a defeat. You have to move on. That is part of this league, and it's always gonna be part



of this league."

SCRAMBLING SETH: Oregon State quarterback Seth Collins rushed for 124 yards against the Cougars, his third game with more than 100 yards rushing this season. He's averaging 81

yards a game, which ranks him eighth overall for rushing in the Pac-12.

And he's on pace to rush for 972 yards this season, just shy of the Pac-12 record of 986 set by Jake Locker of Washington in 2007.

In this file photo, Or-egon State football coach Gary Anderson celebrates a 26-7 win over Weber State after an NCAA college football game in Corvallis, Ore. Colorado and Oregon State play Saturday in Corvallis with each team hoping to avoid the Pac-12's basement.

(AP Photo/Don Ryan, file)

DEPTH CHART CHANGE: While true freshman Collins is still the Beavers' undisputed starter, freshman Nick redshirt Mitchell leaped into the backup spot ahead of Marcus McMaryion this week.

Like Collins, Mitchell is a dual-threat quarterback. But the Beavers — who ranked 119th nationally in passing offense with 145.5 yards a game — need a boost in the passing game. So Mitchell could see his first college snaps on Saturday.

"Seth's gonna start the game," Andersen said, "and we'll see how it goes as we move forward throughout the game.

SPRUCE-ING UP: Colorado senior receiver Nelson Spruce already holds school career records with 250 catches for 2,797 yards. He's also running up the Pac-12 career receptions list, and now ranks fourth all-time after passing Troy Walkers - now his position coach who had 248 at Stanford in the late 1990s.

The Buffaloes will likely lean on Spruce in the absence of Shay Fields, who leads the team with 504 recieving yards, because of a highankle sprain he sustained on a late touchdown against Arizona.

WSU, Arizona pit prolific offenses against each other

By JOHN MARSHALL AP College Football Writer

TUCSON, Ariz. — Arizona runs an up-tempo spread offense that has been among the national leaders since Rich Rodriguez became coach.

Washington State has had similar success with its spread offense under coach Mike Leach. The difference is how the two teams get to where they want to go.

"They spread you out to run it and we spread you out to throw out," Leach said.

However they do it, expect an offensive show in the desert on Saturday.

Arizona (5-2, 2-2) enters the game first in the Pac-12 and ninth nationally with 41.7 points per game, well ahead of pace to break the school record for a season of 38.5 points

per game set in 1954. The Wildcats are eighth nationally in total offense, averaging 542.4 yards per game, and sixth in rushing yards with 297.4 yards per game.

Washington State is first in the Pac-12 and fourth nationally with 398.5 yards passing per game and has attempted 332 passes, second-most to Texas Tech's 346. Cougars quarterback Luke Falk is fifth nationally with 2,371 yards and has thrown for 21 touchdowns with four interceptions.

Washington State also has unpredictability on its side, Leach has built a bit of a mad scientist reputation, going back to his days at Texas Tech.

"Mike will do anything from anywhere," Arizona coach Rich Rodriguez said. "You have to be Jared Baker has given aware of that, because

they'll attack."

But it's not just the prolific nature of the offenses that should set up an offensive showcase.

Neither team has been particularly good on defense.

Arizona State is 10th in the Pac-12 in total defense and gave up 111 points consecutive losses in to UCLA and Stanford. Washington State is ninth in total defense and allows 29 points per game.

In other words, looking down even for a second could lead to missing something these as offenses race from one end zone to the other.

A few more things to watch for in Saturday's game between Washington State and Arizona:

BAKER SHINES: Arizona some big yards with Wilson nursing a foot injury. The senior ran for a career-high 207 yards and two touchdowns against Colorado last week and has averaged 10 yards per carry the past two games. With Wilson's foot still bothering him, Baker could get another heavy load of carries against the Cougars.

FLYING FALK: Falk put up big numbers even as he was trying to get comfortable as the fulltime starter. Now that he's settled in, the numbers keep growing. Falk had one of the greatest days in Washington State history a week ago, throwing for six touchdowns in the first half and 407 yards in a 52-31 win over Oregon State. The sophomore has completed 89 of 124 passes for 11 touchdowns and 911 yards the past two games.

EOU looks to get over heart-breaking loss at **Montana Western**

East Oregonian

LA GRANDE — After a heartbreaking loss to Montana Western last week, the Eastern Oregon Mountaineers will be traveling to Havre, Montana looking to rebound against Montana State-Northern on Saturday.

On paper, the Mountaineers (2-5, 2-4 Frontier Conference) appear to have the upper hand in the match-up, as the MSU-Northern Skylights team is winless in seven games. To make matters worse for the Skylights, their offense averages a measly 7.0 points-pergame while the defense averages an average of 48 points-per-game.

Eastern Oregon owns a 12-6 all-time record against MSU-Northern, winning the most recent meeting 70-21 on Oct. 25, 2014.

On the Mountaineers sideline, seniors Jace Billingsley and Gary Posten continue to lead the team on each side of the ball.

Billingsley turned in 93 yards on 22 carries during last week's loss, and leads the Frontier Conference with 1,397 all-purpose yards. Posten tallied 17 tackles against Montana Western, which earned him the Conference Defensive Player of the Week title for the second time in 2015.

Kickoff is set for 12 p.m. at Blue Pony Stadium in Havre.



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