

Sports

PAC-12 FOOTBALL MEDIA DAY

Five new coaches hope to invigorate Pac-12 football

■ Ducks' Mario Cristobal, Beavers' Jonathan Smith among the league's new hires

By Greg Beacham
AP Sports Writer

LOS ANGELES — The Pac-12 went 1-8 in its bowl games last season, leading to a winter of external criticism and internal soul-searching for most of its programs.

The league also extended its national title drought to 14 years, the longest in the Power Five. Athletic directors openly worried about the Pac-12 falling farther behind the other big conferences in revenue and in exposure from its television network.

After all the disappointment for its football programs late last year, this is a league that probably could benefit from a fresh start. Nearly half of its member schools are getting one with the arrival of new coaching staffs to shake up the West Coast football scene.

The Pac-12's five new coaches range from the heralded Chip Kelly at UCLA, to the surprising choice of Herm Edwards at Arizona State, to the homecoming of Jonathan Smith at Oregon State. Two

of the five are first-time collegiate head coaches, while the other three — including Arizona's Kevin Sumlin — have ample experience.

"It's super competitive," new Oregon coach Mario Cristobal said Wednesday at Pac-12 media day in Hollywood.

"Football is cyclical," Cristobal added. "Sometimes conferences run into that when you have a good number of coaches that are new in the conference. I look at the level and their pedigree and where they've been and what they've done, and you're looking at competitive guys that know how to bring it and want to establish championship programs."

The new blood could energize struggling programs and alter the league hierarchy — or it could clear the way for Washington, Southern California and Stanford to continue to dominate their less-experienced foes.

While Kelly got the most attention Wednesday in his return to the Pac-12 after a

remarkable tenure at Oregon, many coaches and players speculated that Sumlin's Wildcats could have the quickest opportunity for success among the newcomers.

But most coaches are hoping the moves will raise the overall level of play in the Pac-12, creating a higher standard that could translate into the postseason and the national title race after the league's disappointing performance last winter.

"I think it's an impressive group of coaches in their records and track records of winning games, championships (and) developing players," said Smith, who left Chris Petersen's staff at Washington to take over his alma mater. "I think we've got some great personalities that can sell this conference, because there is a bunch of good coaches right now in this league to make it competitive. I'm just excited to be a part of it."

Kelly, Sumlin and Edwards are all taking over programs with measures of stability in recent seasons, even if the

three schools didn't pile up enough wins to satisfy boosters.

Smith has a tougher task in restarting the Beavers after the abrupt exit of Gary Andersen last season — and Cristobal is Oregon's third head coach in three seasons, following the firing of Mark Helfrich and the one-season tenure of Willie Taggart.

"I think all five guys new to the conference are tremendous football coaches," said Kyle Whittingham, who's heading into his 14th season at Utah.

Cristobal and Sumlin are grateful to inherit two of the Pac-12's eight returning starting quarterbacks. Oregon's Justin Herbert and Arizona's Khalil Tate provide a measure of security for their new bosses.

While Kelly's progress will be fascinating, the league also will be glued to the performance of the 64-year-old Edwards, who ended a nine-year hiatus from coaching to take over for Todd Graham in Tempe.

BRIEFING

Football camps coming soon at BHS

The annual youth camp and middle school football camps are planned for the week of Aug. 20, Baker High School coach Dave Johnson said.

Middle School camp participants should register at 10:30 a.m. at Baker High School. The camp will run 11 a.m. to 12:30 p.m. Monday, Tuesday and Wednesday, and 5 p.m. to 6 p.m. Thursday with the Quarterback Club barbecue to follow.

The youth camp will run 5:30 p.m. to 7 p.m. Monday, Tuesday and Wednesday, and 5 p.m. to 6 p.m. Thursday.

Baker football practice begins Aug. 13

Baker High School football practice begins Aug. 13, according to coach Dave Johnson.

Practice will be 7:30 a.m. to 9:45 a.m. and 5:30 p.m. to 7:30 p.m. Monday, Tuesday, Wednesday, From 7:30 a.m. to 9:45 a.m. and 7:30 p.m. to 9:30 p.m. Thursday, Aug. 16, and 7:30 a.m. to 9:45 a.m. Friday, Aug. 17. Practice will continue 7:30 a.m. to 9:45 a.m. and 7:30 p.m. to 9:30 p.m. Aug. 20-22, and 7:30 p.m. to 9 p.m. Aug. 23.

Youth Wellness Physicals are July 31, Aug. 1 and Aug. 2 from 5 p.m. to 7 p.m. at St. Luke's Eastern Oregon Medical Associates, 3950 17th St., students grades 7-12 welcome.

Eastern riders at national rodeo

ROCK SPRINGS, Wyoming — Several member of the Eastern Oregon high school rodeo team competed at the national high school finals rodeo earlier this month.

Samantha Kerns 116th in average in goat tying, 114th in average in barrels and 69th in average in breakaway roping. Duncan Mackenzie was seventh in boys all-around after placing ninth in average in boys cutting and 10th in average in tie-down roping.

Lexie Harrell, Kimberly Williams and Michelle Williams competed in girls cutting. Harrell was 36th in average, Kimberly Williams 41st, and Michelle Williams 69th.

Mariners look to rebound from offensive slump

By Tim Booth
AP Sports Writer

SEATTLE — When the Seattle Mariners surged in June and suddenly became a legitimate playoff contender in the American League, it was largely on the strength of an offense that was scoring plenty of runs with jolts of power at the plate.

Just as quickly, that offense has disappeared and become a major concern for a team that has seen its lead for the second AL wild card shrink to only a couple of games.

"The offense has kind of cooled down. That's baseball. It's going to happen once in a while," shortstop Jean Segura said. "Everybody is dragging, even myself. Every time we go out there we're trying to do the best that we can ... and sometimes it's going to be one of those games where you're dragging and it's going to be a (lot of) close games down the stretch. One of those teams is going to separate to make it to the playoffs because those kinds of games you're going to need to advance to the playoffs."

Whether the Mariners can rediscover their offensive punch is a major concern with the non-waiver trade deadline approaching and Oakland suddenly nipping at Seattle's heels in the

wild-card race.

Seattle's June surge saw the Mariners go 19-9 while averaging 4.5 runs per game, hitting 40 home runs and batting .261 with an on-base plus slugging percentage of .754.

Everything changed in July. In 18 games this month, the Mariners are averaging 3.2 runs per game, their batting average has dropped to .232 and the OPS to .651. In 11 of the past 14 games, the Mariners have scored three runs or less, putting even more pressure on a pitching staff that so far has thrived in high-pressure situations this season.

"You can tear down the stats any way you want to tear it down. It's baseball. You go a little bit streaky here and there. That's where we're at. We weren't going to play at the pace that we were playing as far as the wins and losses go. It's just the way the game is set up to be," manager Scott Servais said.

"I think every team out there has areas of the whole team they need to improve and get better at. Offense for us has been a little bit of a struggle putting up big numbers, to go out there consistently and put up five, six runs every game. When we do that we win. Most teams do because our pitching is pretty good. It just hasn't been easy for us here the last 20 games."

SCOREBOARD

GOLF

Twilight League Men's Golf Standings
Second Half, Week 5

| | W | L | T |
|---------------------|-----|-----|------|
| Rosie's Bordello | 5 | 1 | 17.5 |
| Windsheild Doctor | 1 | 5 | 17.5 |
| Superior Towing | 4 | 2 | 17 |
| P&E Distributing | 4.5 | 1.5 | 16.5 |
| Outpost Electric | 2.5 | 3.5 | 16.5 |
| Four Seasons | 4 | 2 | 16 |
| Baker Dairies | 3.5 | 2.5 | 13.5 |
| Ti County Equipment | 3.5 | 2.5 | 13.5 |
| Blackers Hackers | 2 | 4 | 12.5 |
| Barley Brown's | 2 | 4 | 9.5 |

Front Nine
Low gross — Scott Warner 37 Low net — Joe Blanchford 30

Back Nine
Low gross — Dan Story 34 Low net — Greg McLean, Adam Phillips 30

Baker Ladies Golf Association

July 25
First flight — 1. Dana Endicott. Second flight — 1. Mary Kerns. 2. Carol Irwin. Third flight — 1. Roxanne McAdams. Birdies — Jennifer Godwin. Eagles — Jennifer Godwin.

BRIDGE

Baker Ladies Golf Association
July 25
1. Jessie Ritch. 2. Dianne Eltingson. 3. Kathy Edson.

MAJOR LEAGUES

AMERICAN LEAGUE
East Division

| | W | L | Pct. | GB |
|----------|----|----|------|----|
| Boston | 71 | 33 | .683 | — |
| New York | 65 | 36 | .644 | 4½ |

| | | | | |
|-----------|----|----|------|-----|
| Tampa Bay | 53 | 50 | .515 | 17½ |
| Toronto | 46 | 55 | .455 | 23½ |
| Baltimore | 29 | 74 | .282 | 41½ |

Central Division

| | W | L | Pct | GB |
|-------------|----|----|------|-----|
| Cleveland | 55 | 46 | .545 | — |
| Minnesota | 48 | 53 | .475 | 7 |
| Detroit | 44 | 60 | .423 | 12½ |
| Chicago | 36 | 66 | .353 | 19½ |
| Kansas City | 31 | 71 | .304 | 24½ |

West Division

| | W | L | Pct | GB |
|-------------|----|----|------|----|
| Houston | 67 | 37 | .644 | — |
| Seattle | 61 | 41 | .598 | 5 |
| Oakland | 61 | 43 | .587 | 6 |
| Los Angeles | 52 | 52 | .500 | 15 |
| Texas | 42 | 62 | .404 | 25 |

Thursday's Games
L.A. Angels 12, Chicago White Sox 8
N.Y. Yankees 7, Kansas City 2
Tampa Bay 4, Baltimore 3
Minnesota 2, Boston 1
Oakland 7, Texas 6

Today's Games
All Times PDT
Kansas City (Keller 3-4) at N.Y. Yankees (Sabathia 6-4), 4:05 p.m.
Tampa Bay (Archer 3-4) at Baltimore (Cashner 2-9), 4:05 p.m.
Cleveland (Carrasco 12-5) at Detroit (Fiers 7-6), 4:10 p.m.
Minnesota (Lynn 7-8) at Boston (Sale 11-4), 4:10 p.m.
Texas (Gallardo 4-1) at Houston (Keuchel 8-8), 5:10 p.m.
Toronto (Stroman 3-7) at Chicago White Sox (Lopez 4-8), 5:10 p.m.
Oakland (Manaea 9-6) at Colorado (Freeland

8-6), 5:40 p.m.
Seattle (LeBlanc 6-1) at L.A. Angels (Heaney 6-6), 7:07 p.m.

Saturday's Games
Kansas City (Fillmyer 0-1) at N.Y. Yankees (Severino 14-3), 10:05 a.m.
Cleveland (Clevinger 7-6) at Detroit (Liriano 3-5), 3:10 p.m.
Tampa Bay (TBD) at Baltimore (Gausman 4-8), 4:05 p.m.
Minnesota (Odorizzi 4-6) at Boston (Porcello 12-4), 4:10 p.m.
Texas (Hamels 5-9) at Houston (Verlander 10-5), 4:10 p.m.
Toronto (TBD) at Chicago White Sox (Gioli 7-8), 4:10 p.m.
Oakland (Anderson 2-2) at Colorado (Senzela 3-3), 5:10 p.m.
Seattle (Hernandez 8-8) at L.A. Angels (Barria 5-7), 6:07 p.m.

NATIONAL LEAGUE
East Division

| | W | L | Pct. | GB |
|--------------|----|----|------|----|
| Philadelphia | 58 | 44 | .569 | — |
| Atlanta | 54 | 45 | .545 | 2½ |
| Washington | 51 | 51 | .500 | 7 |
| New York | 43 | 57 | .430 | 14 |
| Miami | 44 | 60 | .423 | 15 |

Central Division

| | W | L | Pct | GB |
|------------|----|----|------|-----|
| Chicago | 60 | 42 | .588 | — |
| Milwaukee | 59 | 46 | .562 | 2½ |
| Pittsburgh | 53 | 51 | .510 | 8 |
| St. Louis | 51 | 51 | .500 | 9 |
| Cincinnati | 45 | 58 | .437 | 15½ |

West Division

| | W | L | Pct | GB |
|-------------|----|----|------|----|
| Los Angeles | 57 | 46 | .553 | — |

| | | | | |
|------------------|----|----|------|----|
| Arizona | 56 | 48 | .538 | 1½ |
| Colorado | 54 | 47 | .535 | 2 |
| San Francisco 52 | 52 | 50 | .500 | 5½ |
| San Diego | 42 | 63 | .400 | 16 |

Thursday's Games
Chicago Cubs 7, Arizona 6
N.Y. Mets 12, Pittsburgh 6
Washington 10, Miami 3
Philadelphia 9, Cincinnati 4
L.A. Dodgers 8, Atlanta 2
Milwaukee 7, San Francisco 5

Today's Games
All Times PDT
N.Y. Mets (Vargas 2-6) at Pittsburgh (Nova 6-6), 4:05 p.m.
Philadelphia (Pivetta 6-8) at Cincinnati (DeSclafani 4-3), 4:10 p.m.
Washington (Scherzer 13-5) at Miami (Lopez 2-1), 4:10 p.m.
L.A. Dodgers (Kershaw 3-5) at Atlanta (Foltynewicz 7-6), 4:35 p.m.
Chicago Cubs (Montgomery 3-3) at St. Louis (Weaver 5-9), 5:15 p.m.
Oakland (Manaea 9-6) at Colorado (Freeland 8-6), 5:40 p.m.
Arizona (Greinke 11-5) at San Diego (Pedronzo 1-5), 7:10 p.m.
Milwaukee (Anderson 6-7) at San Francisco (Bumgarner 3-3), 7:15 p.m.

Saturday's Games
Chicago Cubs (Quintana 9-6) at St. Louis (Mikolas 10-3), 1:05 p.m.
Philadelphia (Velasquez 7-8) at Cincinnati (Harvey 5-6), 3:40 p.m.
N.Y. Mets (deGrom 5-5) at Pittsburgh (Williams 8-7), 4:05 p.m.
L.A. Dodgers (Wood 6-5) at Atlanta (Fried 1-3), 4:10 p.m.
Washington (Gonzalez 6-7) at Miami (Richards 3-5), 4:10 p.m.
Oakland (Anderson 2-2) at Colorado (Senzela 3-3), 5:10 p.m.
Arizona (Corbin 7-4) at San Diego (Ross 6-8), 5:40 p.m.
Milwaukee (Chacin 9-3) at San Francisco (Cueto 3-1), 6:05 p.m.

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