for updates on the game



Friday, November 24, 2017 RIDGECREST CA.COM

### THIS WEEK IN THE PAC-12

BY THE NUMBERS

8-3 9-2 9-2 6-5 5-6

1-10

**All** 10-2

7-4 6-5 5-6 5-6 5-6

3,462

2,797

Yds.

**Pts.** 108

108 102

Pts./G

489 500

4,128

3,751

3.505

**Yds.** 3,648

2,905

2,373

2,358

• TB Royce Freeman, Oregon:

Rushed 19 times for 135 yards

and four TDs as the Ducks

ton: Had 114 yards and a

to help the Huskies edge

• WR Jordan Lasley, UCLA:

Caught 10 passes for 204

yards and all three UCLA

**STAT OF THE WEEK** 

Yards needed by Arizona

State's **Demario Richard** to

the school's Pac-10/Pac-12

become the second player in

era to rush for 3,000 yards in a

trails only J.R. Redmond (3,299

yards from 1996-99) since the

career. Richard (2,987 yards)

Southern California.

touchdowns in a 28-23 loss to

TD on six catches and

• TB Myles Gaskin, Washing-

rushed for two more scores

pummeled Arizona.

34.8 42.9 34.1 33.0 33.7

31.0 27.6

29.1 36.5 31.8

Yds./G

375.3 341.0

292.1

266.4

Yds./G 331.6 264.1

215.7

196.5

7-2 6-2 6-2 3-5 2-6

**Conf.** 8-1

5-3 5-3 3-5

INDIVIDUAL LEADERS

**STANDINGS** 

(Through Nov. 18)

**Washington State** 

**NORTH** 

**Team** Stanford

Oregon California

SOUTH

Arizona

UCLA Colorado

Utah

**Team** USC

Oregon State

Arizona State

(Through Nov. 18)

Player 1. Josh Rosen, UCLA

2. Sam Darnold, USC 3. Luke Falk, WSU

4. Ross Bowers, CAL

2. Josh Rosen, UCLA

2. Sam Darnold, USC 4. Jake Browning, WASH 4. Steven Montez, COLO

RUSHING YARDS

Player
1. Bryce Love, STAN
2. Phillip Lindsay, COLO

3. Royce Freeman, ORE 4. Ronald Jones II, USC

Player 1. Deontay Burnett, USC 2. N'Keal Harry, ASU 3. Jordan Lasley, UCLA

5. Vic Wharton III, CAL

**SCORING** 

4. Darren Carrington II, UTAH

**Player** 1. Myles Gaskin, RB, WASH

3. Ronald Jones II, RB, USC

**TEAM STATISTICS** 

. Matt Gay, PK, UTAH

4. Erik Powell, PK, WSU 5. Jet Toner, PK, STAN

(Through Nov. 18)

TOTAL OFFENSE

Washington State

Arizona State Colorado

Washington

Oregon State

PASSING OFFENSE LEADERS

RUSHING OFFENSE LEADERS

Stanford

California

Team USC

Arizona

Oregon

Utah

Team Washington State UCLA

USC

Colorado

**Team** Arizona

Oregon Stanford

Utah.

13

Washington

USC

UCLA

5. Khalil Tate, ARIZ

RECEIVING YARDS

Player 1. Luke Falk, WSU

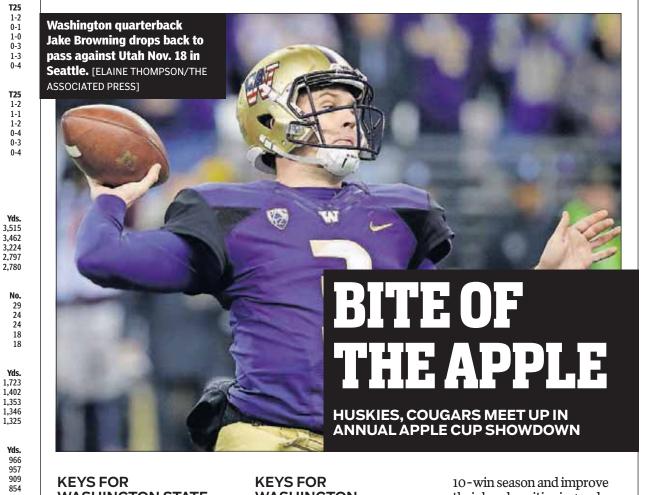
5. Steven Montez, COLO

PASSING TOUCHDOWNS

PASSING YARDS

**GAME OF THE WEEK** NO. 14 WASHINGTON STATE (9-2, 6-2 PAC-12) AT NO. 15 WASHINGTON (9-2, 6-2)

When: 5 p.m. PST Saturday Where: Husky Stadium, Seattle TV: Fox



#### **KEYS FOR WASHINGTON STATE**

Fly with Falk. QB Luke Falk has placed his name prominently throughout the Pac-12 record books, and he enters the week with 3,224 yards, 29 TDs and 10 interceptions. He's also had an extra week to get ready after a late-season open date. What he doesn't have in his career is a victory over in-state rival Washington.

Contain Gaskin. Washington State tends to get much of its attention for coach Mike Leach's eccentrities and a pinballlike offense that's done wonders for the Cougars. But their defense ranks 11th in total yardage, 13th against the pass and 26th against the run nationally.

#### **KEYS FOR** WASHINGTON

Turnover time. Washington owns a plus-7 turnover margin on the season, and its discipline also translates to other areas (its 37.09 penalty yards per game are the eighth fewest in the FBS this season). Falk has as many TD passes as interceptions on the road this season (seven each), and forcing the Cougars into wasted possessions (and giving QB Jake Browning some favorable field position) could tilt this toward the Huskies.

No rotten apples. Washington won't repeat as the Pac-12 champion this season after getting eliminated last week when Stanford defeated California. Still, the Apple Cup is a rivalry game, the Huskies can still claim a

10-win season and improve their bowl positioning and - best of all - they can deny Washington State a place in the Pac-12 title game. This is not a week for Washington to dwell on any disappointment.

### **PREDICTION**

Washington 31-30.

The Cougars haven't won in Seattle since 2007, but they have plenty to play for this week. With a victory, Leach's team will advance to the Pac-12 title game for the first time and secure a rematch with Southern California. With a loss, Stanford will head to Santa Clara to meet the Trojans. The question when these teams meet is always the same: Can the Cougars do enough against Washington's defense? This time around, it should be a tight game.

#### **POWER RANKINGS**

Breaking down the Pac-12

DAILY INDEPENDENT | B1



1. Southern California (10-2): The Trojans sit

back and wait over

the holiday to figure out who they'll meet in the conference title game. (Last week: 1)



2. Washington State (9-2): With the benefit of a bye week, the Cou-

gars are one step away from their first trip to the Pac-12 title game. (LW: 2)



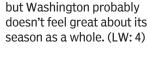
Bryce Love has to swipe the Heisman from Oklahoma's Baker Mayfield, he'll need big games over

> declare a 9-2 team a disappointment,

3. Stanford (8-3): If

there's any chance

the final two weeks. (LW: 3) 4. Washington (9-2): It's hard to



5. Oregon (6-5): Justin Herbert is

back, and so are

the Ducks as a tophalf of the conference team. Things could get ugly in the Civil War on Saturday. (LW: 7)



Maybe Khalil Tate doesn't have all the answers for the Wildcats. They certainly couldn't

6. Arizona (7-4):

slow down Royce Freeman and Oregon on the road. (LW: 5)



Sun Devils handled Oregon State and don't head into the Territo-

7. Arizona State

(6-5): At least the

rial Cup needing a victory to become bowl-eligible. (LW: 6)



8. Utah (5-6): Played Washington tough last week, though

the Huskies haven't exactly overwhelmed for much of the season. (LW: 10)



9. California (5-6): The Golden Bears have to go on the road to become

bowl eligible, and they haven't won away from Berkeley since Labor Day weekend. (LW: 9)



11. UCLA (5-6): A safe ranking rule - when you fire your coach, you

fall about as far as is reasonably possible. (LW: 8)



11. Colorado (5-6): It really was just a year ago that the

Buffaloes were playing in the Pac-12 title game. (LW: 11)



12. Oregon State (1-10): The Beavers reach the end of a long slog. But

LIC#496447

they can still win the Civil War for the second year in a row. (LW: 12)

### **BEST OF THE REST** THIS WEEK'S OTHER TOP GAMES

## at UCLA (5-6, 3-5)

When: 7:30 p.m. PST Friday Where: Rose Bowl, Pasadena,

TV: Fox Sports 1

Notes: UCLA leads series 53-33-1, but California



Laird

won last year's meeting 36-10. The winner of this game is one of two in the Pac-12 this week (along

with Colorado-Utah) to pit a pair of 5-6 teams and thus have bowl eligibility at stake for both teams. California played Stanford tough last week as TB Patrick Laird rushed for 153 yards and a TD, it's been an unquestioned disappointment of a season for the Bruins.

### ARIZONA (7-4, 5-3) at

**ARIZONA STATE (6-5, 5-3)** When: 1:30 p.m. PST Saturday Where: Sun Devil Stadium,

Tempe, Ariz. TV: Pac-12 Networks

Notes: Arizona leads series 49-40-1, and the home



**Richard** 

team has claimed the Territorial Cup in four consecutive seasons. Against Oregon, the Sun Devils

got 119 yards and three TDs from TB Demario

Richard, who could be in for a big day against an Arizona defense that allowed 353 rushing yards in a 48-28 loss at Oregon last week. Wildcats QB Khalil Tate was contained in Eugene, rushing for just 32 yards on 14 carries while also throwing two interceptions.

# at No. 20 STANFORD (8-3)

When: 5 p.m. PST Saturday Where: Stanford Stadium, Palo Alto, Calif.

TV: Fox

Notes: Notre Dame leads series 19-12, but Stan-

ford has won



two in a row and six of the last eight against the Fighting Irish. Stanford TB Bryce Love

has scored in all 10 games he's played in this year, and will be part of what figures to be a mutually rugged matchup. Notre Dame has embraced a power rushing approach this season with OB Brandon Wimbush and TB Josh Adams the top weapons in their attack.

**ROUNDING IT OUT** THE REST OF THE MATCHUPS

Time (PST) **SATURDAY** 

4 p.m.

7 p.m.

**Matchup** 

Oregon State at Oregon

Colorado at Utah

ESPN2 FS1

TV



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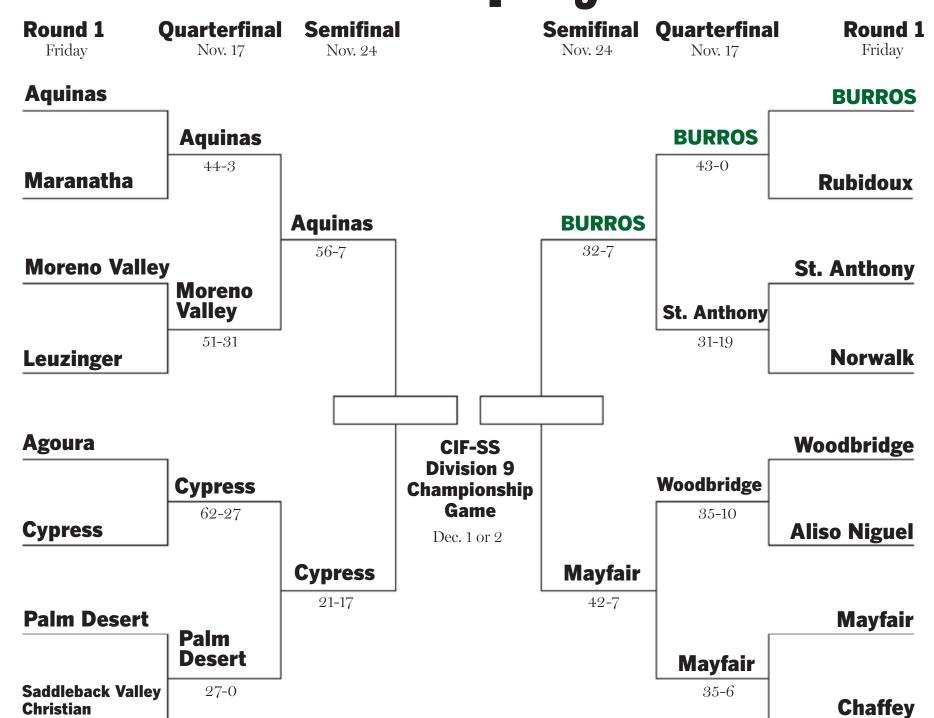




GOOD LUCK IN THE CIF PLAYOFFS

**QUESTIONS?** Contact Sports Editor Christopher Livingston at 375-4481 x111 or at clivingston@ridgecrestca.com

# CIF-SS Division 9 playoff bracket



# UCLA coach Jedd Fisch has his "hardest challenge" after Mora

**BY GREG BEACHAM Associated Press** 

LOS ANGELES — Jedd Fisch moved his family to the West Coast last winter with plans to build a powerhouse alongside UCLA coach Jim Mora.

Instead, Fisch is spending the next few weeks trying to make sure Mora's last Bruins team ends its season with some measure of pride.

Fisch is UCLA's interim head coach this week after Mora was suddenly fired last Sunday. The Bruins (5-6, 3-5 Pac-12) need a win over California in their regularseason finale on Friday night at the Rose Bowl to secure bowl eligibility for the fifth time in Mora's six seasons.

The 41-year-old Fisch has called every play this season for the Bruins, and he aspires to be a head coach. Just not under these circumstances.

"We all know how much our players love Coach," Fisch said after practice in Westwood. "They love Jim. He recruited every one of

all their living rooms, and so I would imagine they're greatly affected by it, as we all were. Whether you've coached with him just for nine months or all the six years he was here, he makes a tremendous impact on you."

This is not what Fisch had in mind when he left Michigan to become Mora's offensive coordinator, taking charge of a unit that had an embarrassing 2016 season while the Bruins went 4-8.

Although Fisch rebuilt the Bruins' offense into a productive, entertaining unit ranked fourth in the conference with 34.1 points per game and third with 466 yards per game, UCLA didn't produce enough wins to protect Mora's job. Instead, a terrible defense doomed Mora, a longtime defensive

Fisch remained positive and upbeat throughout the Bruins' struggles this season, including an 0-6 record away from Pasadena. He also quickly developed a strong connection with quarNFL draft stock is solid despite playing for his third offensive coordinator in three seasons.

Only Washington State has managed more yards passing per game in the Pac-12 than the Bruins' 341.0

ing really well. He's jumping on the opportunity. He's leading the guys. There's a pretty good energy moving forward, as good as it can be in such a situation."

tant at Florida under Steve Spurrier nearly two decades

ty to come out here. It's a

with Rosen and Fisch. "He's been awesome," said Rosen, who is 16-13 as a three-year starter. "Sort of the rallying cry is to carry on Coach Mora's legacy for the remainder of this year, and I think Coach Fisch is adjust-

Fisch called this week "by far the hardest challenge" of his coaching career, which took off as a graduate assis-

"It's unfortunate circumstances," Fisch added. "It's (in place of) a head coach that literally our family loves, and for somebody that gave us an incredible opportuni-



AL SEIB/LOS ANGELES TIMES/TNS

Jedd Fisch, UCLA's first-year offensive coordinator, works with the team during a spring practice on campus in Los Angeles on April 6, 2017. Following the dismissal of Jim Mora, Fisch will serve as head coach the rest of the season.

very difficult circumstance."

ÚCLA went 46-30 under Mora, and these Bruins still could finish with a winning record for the fifth time in his six seasons. Yet on the morning after they played fairly well in a 28-23 loss at

Southern California , Mora learned he will be paid more than \$12 million not to coach the Bruins.

Speculation on Mora's replacement immediately centered on former Oregon coach Chip Kelly and other

big names. Fisch has been coaching long enough to know how the process works.

"I think that anybody would like to be the head

**SEE UCLA. B7** 





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Good Luck Burros







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**CONGRATULATIONS TEAMS!** 



# CIFCS 8-Man playoff bracket

Christopher Livingston at 375-4481 x111 or at

**QUESTIONS?** Contact Sports Editor

clivingston@ridgecrestca.com



# **UCLA**

Continued from B2

football coach at an extremely prominent university, Fisch said when asked directly if he wanted UCLA's full-time job. "In this case right now, my mind is 100 percent on trying to get our seniors to 6-0 and to leave Coach Mora's legacy as one that he was able to get five out of his six teams to bowl

Fisch plans to lean on veteran Bruins defensive coordinator Tom Bradley for the finale and in any potential bowl game. Mora's staff realizes it will probably be looking for new jobs within weeks, but Fisch also vowed to continue the Bruins' recruiting efforts by selling UCLA as an institution with top academics, the Rose Bowl and the lavish Wasserman Football Center on

"You guys have all seen what (Fisch) has done with the offense and how we've progressed as a team, and how he's made us better, and what we could have been from the start," senior center Scott Quessenberry said. "I think he's going to bring great passion, great energy to this last game, and then on into the bowl game. I think if they're thinking about Coach Fisch as the (permanent) guy, I think it would be a really wise decision."

# Burroughs basketball alumni game

The Burroughs boys basketball team is hosting its first annual Alumni Game, planned for Nov. 25 at 12:30 p.m.

Admission to the event is \$5, with a portion of the proceeds donated to the Food Bank. Kids 3 and under get in free.

Half of the proceeds will be donated to the food bank.

There will be a raffle at the event, where prizes such as an iPhone X, Vizio 55nch TV, and more.

There will also be a fan and player three-point shootout and lunch will be

For more info on the event, visit fb.me/BurrosHoops.











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