

No. 17 UCLA looking to right ship after losses to Stanford, Oregon

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Posted:

Buffzone.com

The Pac-12 Conference football schedule has done Colorado no favors this week.

When the season began, the Buffs might have been hoping to sneak up on a UCLA team coming off a huge win at Oregon -- no matter how unlikely it might have seemed at the time. Instead, the Buffs will encounter a frustrated bunch of Bruins at the Rose Bowl on Saturday.

Coach Jim Mora's 17th-ranked team has been demoralized the past two weeks in defeats to Pac-12 North Division powers Oregon and Stanford and will be eager to take out those frustrations on the Buffs.

Here is just a sample of Mora's pointed comments about the state of his program following a 42-14 loss to Oregon last week. The score was 14-14 late in the third quarter.

"We're close but it doesn't matter," Mora was quoted in a story on ESPN.com. "We're not after being close. Heck with being close. Losers can be close. We want to get it. We want to win those games. The coulda, the woulda, the shoulda -- all that crap, we don't want that. I'm tired of that. It's time for UCLA to turn the freaking page and be something different and win those games. That's what it's time to be."

CU's Mike MacIntyre isn't the only coach showing his frustration after losses these days.

So what awaits the Buffs this week?

The Bruins have a tough defense, which ought to be obvious considering they held Oregon to 14 points for nearly three full quarters. Three UCLA linebackers were on the preseason watch list for the Butkus Award. Anthony Barr, who is perhaps the nation's best defender, was recently named a semifinalist for the award.

The Bruins offense is led by quarterback Brett Hundley, who was getting at least a little mention in the Heisman Trophy talk prior to his past two games, in which he has been largely ineffective.

Despite those two games, UCLA still ranks 30th in the nation in total offense, gaining 469 yards per game. It looks like another lopsided matchup for a CU defense now ranked 112th in the nation allowing 475 yards a game.

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