

BIG WEST

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that scores, rebounds, plays defense and makes his teammates play better." Greenberg's one concern is the team's depth for the frontcourt. He'll be looking for seniors Byron Russell and Chris Tower to hold down the fort underneath. Russell is versatile enough to play guard as well. The trio of Harris, Tower and Russell will have no problems putting points on the board. It'll be the defense that will need to improve if they hope to return to their first NCAA Tournament bid since 1977.

The other six teams in the conference look like this:

Utah State: The Aggies posted their first winning record since the 1987-88 season last year. Utah St. has lost All-Big West off-guard Kendall Youngblood. Head Coach Kohn Smith will look to his big frontcourt to compensate for the loss of the multi-talented Youngblood. They return 6 lettermen, including three starters. Carlito De Silva and Nathan Wickizer will be dominative in the middle while reserve Rod Hay will be anxiously awaiting to come in off the bench. The key to the Aggies' success though, will remain behind the leadership and play-making abilities of point guard Jay Goodman.



Rod Baker

UC Irvine: Without a doubt, the Anteaters will have the biggest turnaround in the league. Many are anticipating that Head Coach Rod Baker's newcomers will be able to come in and shake things up at Irvine. Three four-year school transfers, along with two juco transfers and one of California's top prep recruits invade the Anteaters roster. Senior forward Jeff Von Lutzow, UCI's top scorer (12.5 avg.) and rebounder (5.7 avg) last season, will finally come into his own and prove that he is one of the premier players on the West coast as well as the BWC. Von Lutzow, a do-it-all type player, will need to bring all of his potential out by game time to spark UCI. Besides scoring and rebounding, Von Lutzow turned in a team-leading 23 blocked shots while nailing 33 3-pointers last season for a 35.9% 3-pt. avg.

Nevada: Unlike the

Wolfpack's dominating football team, the basketball 'Pack holds a 61-110 record against Big West teams. They won't exactly falter in their first year in the BWC, but it'll definitely be a learning experience for the squad and Head Coach Len Stevens. Their frontcourt may boast the league's top center in Ric Herrin. A 6'10" senior, Herrin can plan on being drafted next June. What the Wolfpack will really need is a genuine backcourt. The loss of scoring tandem Brian Thomason and Kevin Soares leaves Nevada looking for plugs to fill the holes.

Pacific: The Tigers have lost three of their top four scorers from last season and will look to junior Glenn Griffin and seniors Tony "the Tiger" Amundsen and Robert Richardson. Amundsen is the leading returning scorer and will need to be extremely productive this season to kick the Tigers' offense in gear. Griffin and Richardson will be looked upon as the role players underneath. Both frontcourt threats will have to join Amundsen in the productive category if the Tigers plan on having any kind of offensive attack. Charles Terrell, formerly of San Jose State, transfers to Pacific from Chabot JC in Hayward, California, where he sat out last year. He was kicked

off of San Jose's team for disciplinary reasons before transferring to Chabot and redshirting. Terrell will offer a supporting role in the scoring department.

Cal-State Fullerton: The Titan's will welcome new coach, Brad Holland to the helm. The former Laker player and UCLA assistant will have three returning starters on his team, including All-Big West Second Team senior Bruce Bowen. He will be counted on to provide leadership and scoring. Bowen will also take advantage of his uncanny style of defensive play, sizing up to anybody, anywhere on the court. Also returning from the Titans' starting lineup will be Sean Williams and Aaron Sunderland. Williams is an extremely strong rebounder that can score the points off of his offensive boards. Sunderland, the Titans' point guard will be joined in the backcourt by juco redshirt Dijon Bernard.

San Jose State: Like Nevada, the Spartans' success from the gridiron will not run over on to the b-ball court although they may show some improvement from last years squad: a team that won 2 games the whole season. At Media Day, Head

Coach Stan Morrison stated, "I feel like I'm always saying this, but, it seems like we're starting over." Well coach it's probably because for the fourth year in a row, you are. Jason Allen and Kevin Logan are the only returning starters for the Spartans.

They will be joined by returnees and part-time starters from last year, Joe Frenchwood, Thomas Clayton, Daryl Scott and Alfonso De La Nuez. Avoiding any injuries, the SJSU will be vying for their first 10-win season in 5 years.

Willie's BEST BETS

Dallas -6-1/2 over DETROIT
KANSAS CITY -6-1/2 over San Diego

UPSET SPECIALS

Pittsburgh +7 over BUFFALO
N.Y. Jets +6 over DENVER
Phoenix -6 over L.A. RAMS

Current Record (32-14-2) including preseason
69.5% WINNERS

Best Bets 13-8-- Upset Specials 19-6-2
OTHER SUNDAY GAMES

PHILADELPHIA -6-1/2 v.s. L.A. Raiders
New Orleans -8 v.s. NEW ENGLAND
HOUSTON -11 v.s. Cleveland
N.Y. GIANTS -9 v.s. Green Bay
Miami -6-1/2 v.s. INDIANAPOLIS
Minnesota -5-1/2 v.s. TAMPA BAY
Washington -12-1/2 v.s. SEATTLE
CHICAGO -11 v.s. Cincinnati

MONDAY NIGHT

San Francisco -7 v.s. ATLANTA

FIGHT

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second round of a bout that happened to be on the undercard of the Holyfield/Douglas bout.

Thirteen months later, Cooper sent Holyfield to the canvas before succumbing to the champion in the seventh round of their title bout.

Riddick Bowe, (31-0, 27 KOs), is that obstacle. Bowe will challenge Holyfield Friday evening at the Thomas and Mack Center for the undisputed world title.

Holyfield's last title defense, against Larry Holmes in June, raised eyebrows upon many whom were wondering if The Real Deal was for real.

Evander seemed to devastate all of his opponents until beginning to defend his title against Foreman.

Questions about Holyfield stemmed when he

seemed to have trouble, or actually took too long to dispose of his "older" opponents.

Although Holyfield seems to have taken more punishment than ever in three title defenses, no one seems to give The Real Deal the benefit of the doubt that these were title defenses.

Obviously boxers are geared up for all of their fights, but entering the ring as the challenger to the world champion, you just might get a little more hyped.

At the same time though, Holyfield is still winning, and he is gaining the needed experience it may take to face someone like Bowe.

USA Today boxing analyst Jon Saraceno feels that Holyfield has already "been through the brawls, and can deal with the pressure," of such a fight.

Saraceno stressed the fact of how contenders (See Fight, Page 24)

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