Showdown in Ellensburg

Written by Friday, 15 April 2011 01:21

(Photos, Bubba Jones for St. Mary's. Mike Geib photo. Kellen Gordon for Central Washington, Numina Photo)

The College Premier Division Pacific Conference comes down to this one game.

All the other games have their importance. San Diego State can guarantee a winning record with a victory over Claremont Colleges this weekend. Cal Poly, with a victory over UC Davis, can put themselves in position to do the same.

All that is nice, but this weekend, all eyes turn to Ellensburg, Wash., where St. Mary's plays Central Washington. If St. Mary's wins with a bonus point, they can clinch 2nd place and a spot in the Quarterfinals. A win of any sort will go a long way to ensuring 2

- . If Central Washington wins Saturday, they will still have to take care of UCLA and San Diego State to be absolutely sure, but again, a win essentially puts them into the playoffs.
- St. Mary's is coming off their first loss of the season, 60-34 to Cal where they scored three tries in the last guarter of play, something that pleased Head Coach Tim O'Brien.
- "I am happy they played all 80 minutes," he said. "These kids can play. But I thought a couple of guys got caught in interesting spots and froze a little bit. That's a tribute to Cal, but I think we should know better. And now you think Cal was a tough game, wait until you go up into the snake pit of Central Washington."

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