

tennis

Summers hunts equation for winning season

By STEVE JETT
Of the Emerald

Emory "Buzz" Summers faces a traditional coaching equation. Summers' Oregon men's tennis team will be fueled by two returning seniors, but the rest of the roster consists of five new faces and three returnees with only limited experience. The equation is how to add experience and inexperience together and get success. Summers may have solved the problem.

"I have only two seniors and they have the needed experience. But everyone else has only one year or less of experience. Thus far the whole team has made a lot of improvement," said Summers, who starts his 11th coaching season with an Oregon career record of 122-91, coming off a 13-7 record last year.

Summers began putting together the equation last fall.

Last September, the Oregon season began in its embryonic stages. Since then the Ducks

have played ten team exhibition matches in addition to having the four top netters journey south to Palm Springs for a national collegiate tournament, featuring such collegiate names as UCLA and Southern California.

"Everyone is playing better than compared with last fall," said Summers, who was greeted by a turnout of thirty players in search of the ten varsity spots.

Presently perched in the number one and two positions on the team are Conrad Lopez and Jim Wilson, respectively. Lopez transferred to Oregon before last season from Los Angeles Valley Junior College, where he was the team's most valuable player.

Summers uses respectful words to describe Lopez, who was voted last year's more improved player as a junior. "He is a smooth intelligent player and he has an excellent backcourt game," said Summers.

Wilson was Oregon's 1976 MVP, and last year hooked up with now graduated Steve Hard to

form a top doubles team. Summers calls Wilson a "real fighter who hits with lots of topspin. He really has excellent groundstrokes."

After the top two spots, the youth takes over.

Russ Childers, last year's MVP, is currently third and is followed closely by Tom Grieder. As Summers says, "Both Childers and Grieder are playing some of the best tennis they have ever played."

Freshman Eric Lehto nails down the fifth spot. He played at Aloha high school in Beaverton, and was a doubles finalist in the state high school championships. Solid forehand Tom Goldman is next on the list.

Oregon has been saddled by "quite a bit of the flu that is going around," said Summers, and Lopez has also been bothered by a minor shoulder injury, but Summers says they "should all be ready to play for the first match."

Starting March 18, the Ducks will open a 13-day, 7-match tour of

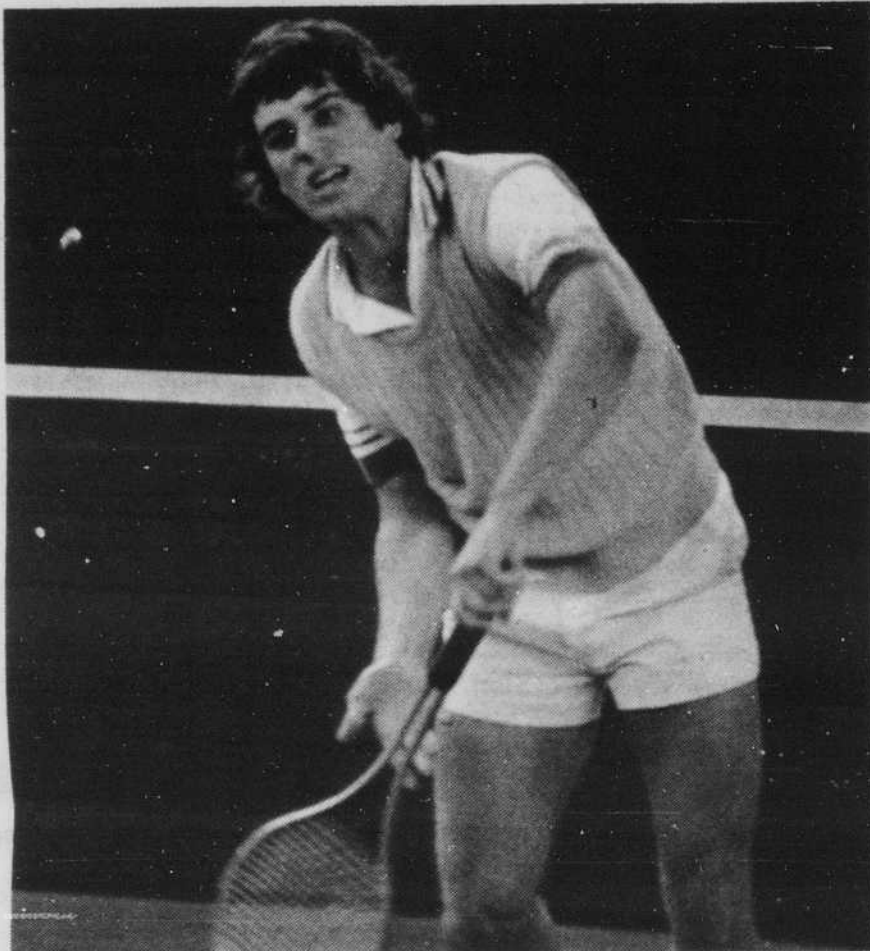
California to begin their season. Following the trip, the Ducks return home for an extensive home stand that leaves Summers smiling.

"Oregon has the best home schedule we've had in a long time, with more matches against better schools," said the coach of the seven match stand that features the University of Reno and Washington.

Then Summers changed the subject back to his own team.

"All of our spots are fluid right now, but we could be changing as I see players improve and not improve," he said of his squad that interestingly enough consists of five left-handers among the top six positions.

As for a prediction, Summers feels second is possible behind the Huskies, but he would gladly settle for first. Another school who may get into the act is the Washington State Cougars. Idaho and the University of Portland are also on the Duck schedule.



Emerald Photo

Oregon's 1976 MVP Jim Wilson will be a top singles and doubles player for coach Buzz Summers' men's tennis squad this year. The Ducks open their season with a seven match road trip.

Veteran cast points way for strong showing by women

By STEVE JETT
Of the Emerald

Oregon women's tennis coach Marti Schey discusses this year's squad with gusto, and with the knowledge that the Ducks will have a new addition.

"Team depth," Schey explained last week from her Gerlinger office. "We have much more depth than last year's team. We should be strong from the number one player down to the eighth. Actually, we are good at the bottom as well as at the top."

The top is impressive enough. Four players return from a roster that last year finished 13-3 and third in the region behind Washington and Washington State. The only losses came at the hands of the Washington schools, twice to WSU. This could be the season Oregon replaces one of the Washington schools at the head of the pack.

"Washington is the defending

Northwest champion but this year we should be able to give them a real run. The girls are really excited about the upcoming season," said Schey. Oregon gets an early opportunity to spoil the state of Washington party when they tangle with Washington State March 29th to open the season.

One of those expected to carry a good burden of the Oregon success load will be last year's number one netter, Helen Vozenilek. A sophomore out of Tacoma, Wash., Vozenilek won the regional singles championship last year.

Debbie Borchers, a senior out of Portland, is another one whom Schey will look toward. Last year, Borchers was the number two singles player and is also an excellent doubles player. Others will include Maurem Hennig, a senior out of California, Eugene's Ann Thomson, and Tina Mickelson, who occupied the fourth singles spot in 1977 as a freshman.

Even some old faces from two years ago will be aiding the Ducks. Patti Layton, a former number one singles player and a junior out of Coos Bay, and Brenda Stroud return after a year's absence.

As far as who goes where, that has not yet been determined.

"We are still having a number of ladder matches taking place. We started practicing January 30th and have been working every day since," said Schey, who added the only team health setback has been a brief bout with the flu.

Although the Oregon outlook is bright, when asked which teams she feared in the Northwest, Schey answered with a drawn out list of schools.

"Washington State, Washington, Portland State, Oregon College of Education, Lewis and Clark, Southern Oregon, they all have good teams."

But then, Schey knows Oregon does too.

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