

tennis

Tom Greider heads 'home' to play tennis for the Ducks

By STEVE JETT
Of the Emerald

When time came to contemplate college tennis, Tom Greider packed up and headed north.

North meant this University, which may seem peculiar for a tennis player — whose stomping ground is Palo Alto, California. After all, California has an appetizing tennis reputation for prep netters who are college-searching. Unless you're Greider.

The sophomore on the Oregon men's tennis squad had a stable reason for choosing Oregon.

"I have always wanted to play for Oregon. It means an awful lot to me. I also wanted to play for a Pacific-8 school. The people are also really different up here. They are so nice and I like being around them," said Greider.

It meant so much that he began bearing the Duck colors during his senior year in high school, wearing an Oregon baseball cap. It has become his trademark.

"I began wearing it (baseball cap) during my tennis matches of my senior year in high school and now I never go out on the court without it. It is mostly for good luck but also most people would not recognize me without it," said the lefthander, who has an overall record of 14-9 on the season.

Last year as a freshman, Greider experienced a learning process. This season, he has received a crash course in leadership.

"I learned a lot as a freshman in the competition of the NCAA. Now this year, coach Summers has only one senior in Jim Wilson

and we tend to look to Jim for leadership. But Russ Childers and me also have part of the responsibility. There will be a time when decisions need to be made and I hope sometimes the team turns to me."

"He (Greider), Jim Wilson and Russ Childers are the leaders of this team," reaffirmed Summers, whom Greider first met last year and has had nothing but respect for since.

"He has to be the best mediator for the players. He simply knows the game up and down. And he always has us prepared," said Greider.

In his virgin year at Oregon, Greider's liability was his backhand game. Since being put under the wing of Summers, he strengthened his two-handed backhand, which he started three years ago, and improved his backhand volley. Actually, according to Summers, Greider's entire play up at the net had a missing part. The dilemma was only temporary.

"He picked up a net game that was almost non-existent before he came. The net game went along with his consistent groundstrokes," said Summers.

"I did not have much of a backhand side of my game till he (Summers) performed a miracle," continued Greider, who played in the six and seven man spot last year.

Greider's exposure to the game began at 14, when he started dueling his father on the court. Greider admits in the beginning "my father was beating me all the time." One of the motivators for continuing was "that I was tired of being beat."

Greider then stressed the need for unification for teams.

"I think it is important to have a team concept made up of eight individuals. Tennis is an individual thing, but also involves other players. The result of the team is most important. I would rather lose both my singles and doubles matches and win the team match 5-4, then win my two matches but lose 7-2."

Greider's idea of a team concept can be found in his preference of doubles to singles. But Greider admits "in the beginning I was a singles player."

The doubles has been good to Greider, who has teamed with Childers to post 8-3 record thus far this season and nail down the number one spot on the roster. Summers insists the secret for the duo was that they "got together as one unit."

Sometime, Greider would "really like to teach tennis up here so the University of Oregon will not have to go to California to get their players."

Unless there are a few more Tom Greiders down there.

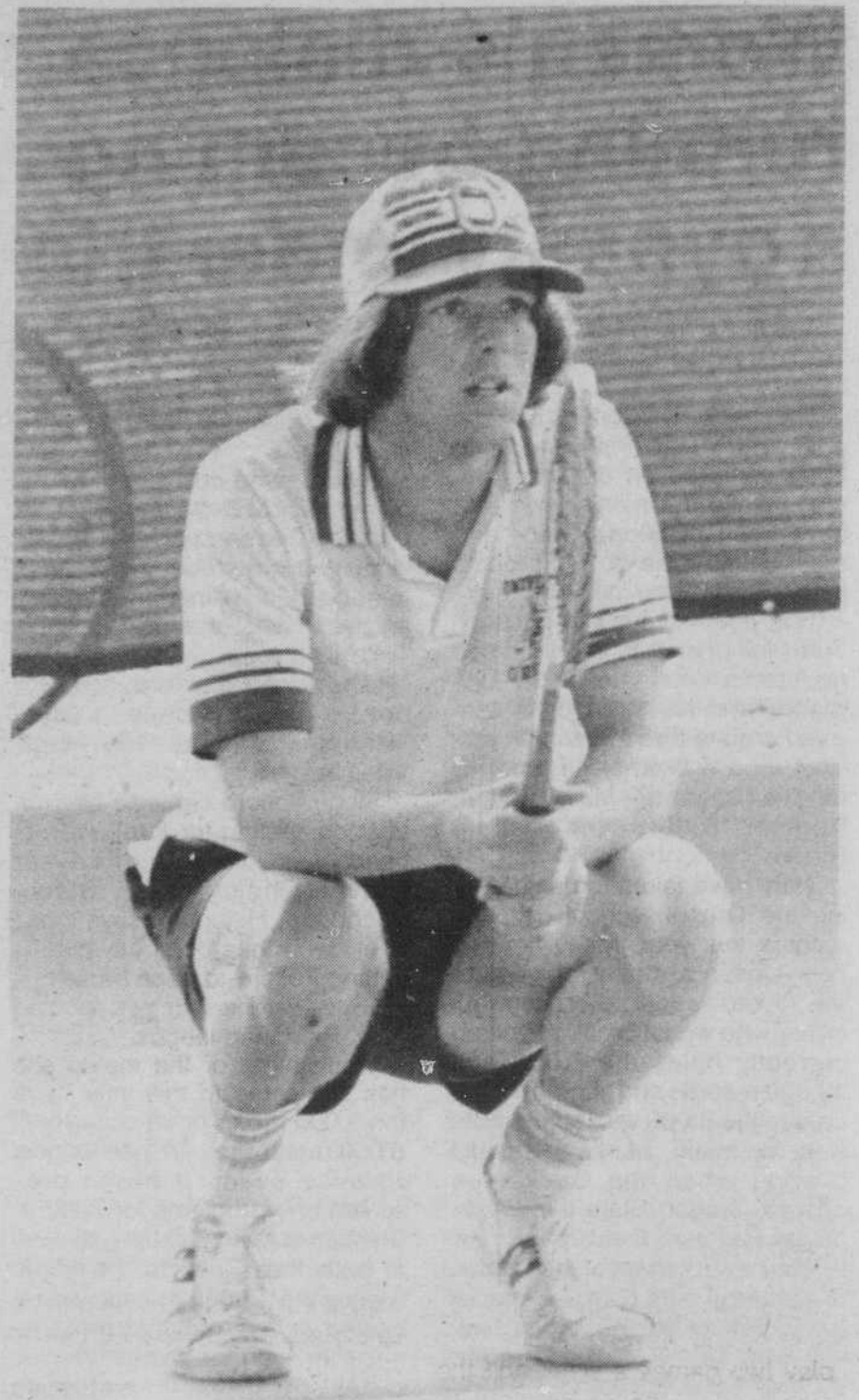


Photo by Neil Gruenfelder

Tom Greider's hat has become his trademark, ever since he started wearing the Oregon green and lemon his senior year in high school.

Track (Continued from p. 3B)

ing years, Oregon's overall distance strength should become more apparent. Sophomores Mountain and Ellen Schmidt add more fuel to the fire. Mountain has run in and won races at every distance ranging from 800 to 5,000 meters. Schmidt won the regional 800 last year and finished ninth in the national meet last year.

Irene Griffith, Washington's state champion in the mile and two-mile, has announced her intentions to run for Oregon next year.

But there is no need to wait until next year to watch Oregon dominate in the distances. As Heinonen says, the tradition is here now.

People: Pac-8 honors Stover

Sophomores **Greg Foster** of UCLA and **Jeff Stover** of Oregon are winners of the Athletes of the Week awards in Pacific-8 track and field.

Foster was honored Monday for his winning time of 13.4 seconds in the 110-meter high hurdles for the Bruins over the weekend. He edged teammate James Owens, the NCAA champion, who also was timed in 13.4.

Stover set personal bests with a shot put toss of 63 feet, 4¾ inches, best in the conference this season, and a hammer throw of 183-1.

Kris Costello, the 1977 California state high school 100 meter hurdle champion, will attend Oregon next year.

Costello recorded the fastest prep time in the nation last year, running 13.97. She finished fourth

in the event in last year's AAU junior meet.

Costello "is probably the best high school hurdler in the country," said Oregon coach Tom Heinonen. "She's also an experienced relay runner with good sprint times. She'll be able to do a lot of things for us. She loves to compete," Heinonen added.

Spring football notes — Former Oregon football standouts **Ahmad Rashad** (Bobby Moore), **Tim Stokes** and **Mario Clark** have announced they will play in the Alumni Football game on May 13. Rashad, a former All-American for the Ducks and an All-Pro with Minnesota, still holds all of Oregon's individual rushing records. Stokes is an offensive tackle with Washington and Clark a defensive back with Buffalo.

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