

sports

Summers looks at a mixed year

Season ends with spring championships

By STEVE JETT
Of the Emerald

While thumbing through the season archives of the Oregon men's tennis team, coach Buzz Summers made his appraisal.

"The season was disappointing, but also encouraging because our young players were put into competitive college tennis matches that will help them gain experience," explained Summers from his office Tuesday.

The season wound down to an end for the Ducks at the Northern Division Championships in Pullman, Wash., where they placed third behind champion Washington and runner-up Washington State. Having faced hindrances all season long, Summers was more than content.

"I was really pleased with the way our players performed, it was just that all the teams had some excellent players," said Summers. In addition, Washington State upended Oregon for the first time in eleven years.

In posting an 8-10 season, the first losing record for Oregon in four seasons, Summers had to swallow the loss of key players, adapt to roster changes, and work with a youthful lineup consisting of two sophomores and three freshmen.

The latter has become Summers' foundation for next season.

"We will have a whole team back next season, and we will have gained a great deal of experience. With the thirty five matches (including practice matches) we played this season, we improved tremendously."

Jim Wilson, Oregon's only senior, managed five wins at the number one spot. Among the underclassmen, Tom Greider and Russ Childers, both sophomores, tended to shine. Greider had eight wins through his singles play, while Childers contributed five triumphs. When united, the two formed the Ducks top doubles team.

In addition, freshman Eric Lehto held the top singles record with 11-8 overall, and is described by Summers as "our most valuable player record-wise. He will definitely be pushing for the number one spot next season." Tom Goldman produced nine singles victories.

However, souring this season was the loss of three players. Derek Wilson departed prior to the season opener, number one man Conrad Lopez quit at mid season, and was followed by the loss of sophomore Steve Bolstad. Speaking in terms of wins and losses, the trio would have made a difference.

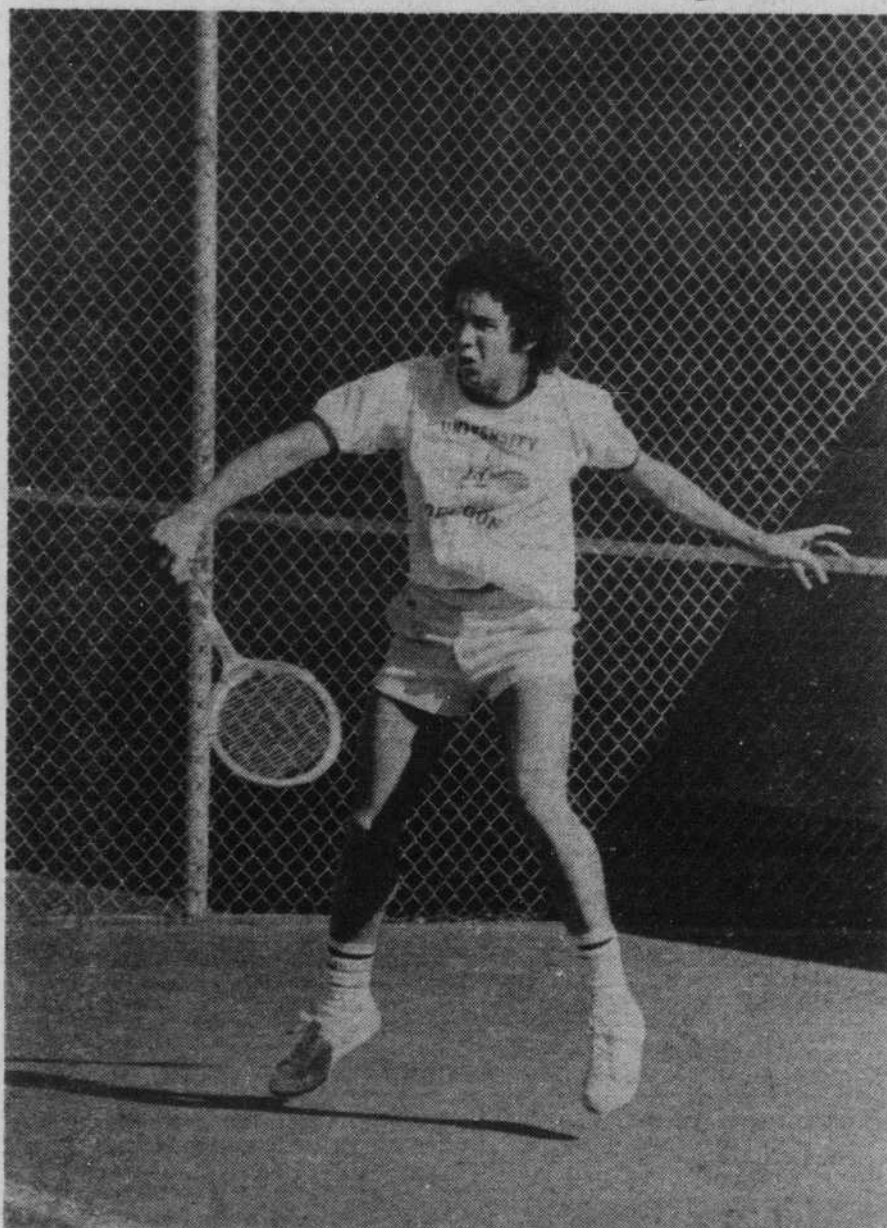


Photo by Neil Gruenfelder

One of the Ducks early-season losses was their number one player, Conrad Lopez, whose departure made it a lot tougher for Oregon's tennis team. The team concludes the season this weekend with the Oregon Spring Championships.

"If we had had our strongest team all the way through the season, we would have won four or five more matches," continued Summers.

Lopez's departure caused a shift in the roster, working to the Duck's disadvantage.

"When you lose your number one man, it is very difficult since everyone has to move up one spot, and you do not then have your strengths at each position. A 9-0 win could easily turn into a 9-0 loss," said Summers.

Summers then turned the topic of conversation to the Oregon tennis championships that start here on Friday. Heading the list of entrants will be Roger McKee, number three ranked in Northwest for men. The tourney will be divided in Open, A, B, and C categories.

"The open draw will be outstanding," said Summers, who has four players of his own team, Wilson, Greider, Childers, and Lehto in the draw.

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Sonics

(Continued from Page 8A)

cluding eight in the playoffs, and sent them into NBA championship series for the first time in their 11-year history.

A pair of three-point plays by rookie Jack Sikma and Williams at the outset of the final period boosted Seattle into a 27-point lead that killed any hope of a Denver comeback.

Oregon Daily Emerald

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3:00 p.m. Attorney General's office

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We the undersigned faculty and staff of the University of Oregon support the State Board decision to divest its Southern African related stocks. We oppose the Attorney General's opinion overturning this decision and urge all members of the University community to share in the expression of this opposition at the May 19 rallies: In Eugene (EMU 12:30 P.M.), and in Salem (Attorney General's office, 1162 Court St. 3:00 P.M.).

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