

Weary weekend ahead for volleyball squad

By STEVE SPATZ
Of the Emerald

The University's volleyball squad faces a long, tough weekend as they first take on

the University of Washington team Thursday night in a crucial Region 9 division match, then play in the Portland State University Tournament, Friday and Saturday in Portland.

Oregon's opponents in the Portland tournament include all of their Region 9 league rivals, giving all the clubs in the event the first chance to see their foes in action.

"This tournament is really important because we can scout everybody out," says coach Chris Voelz. "It gives us a chance to look for strengths and weaknesses of all the teams in our region."

The Washington match is also important, as are all league games, because dual match results determine seeding in the regional tournament later this year, the final step to a berth in the nationals, which is the ultimate aim of the Duck squad. Game time is set for 5:00 P.M. on the campus of Oregon State University.

Coming off a sixth place finish in the Berkeley Invitational, the Ducks are looking to improve

their defense and cut down on costly errors — two areas that hurt Oregon in last weekend's tourney.

Voelz reports that the Duck lineup will be altered somewhat during the course of the weekend, with starter Theresa Cooper injured with tendinitis in the shoulder.

"Theresa won't be seeing 100 percent of the action like we'd like her to," says Voelz. But, reports the Duck coach, the slack will be ably taken up by Tracy Fitzpatrick, who is starting to make waves on the volleyball floor.

"She's really coming on in practice now," says Voelz. "She's been our best setter in practice this week."



Volleyball coach Chris Voelz is looking for her Ducks to gain consistency during this coming

weekend. "We must be able to compete through the whole weekend," says Voelz.

Stickers beg for bruisers

By JOHN SELIX
Of the Emerald

Oregon's 13th ranked women's field hockey team travels to Boise, ID., Friday and Saturday for the Boise Invitational. Oregon, 8-1-1 on the year, will face Boise State, Brigham Young, Denver University and Northwest Nazarene in the weekend tournament.

The Ducks are coming off a 12-0 win over George Fox Tuesday night at Autzen Stadium. Oregon coach Nancy Plantz doesn't foresee the Ducks having much of a problem with any of the teams at the Boise Invitational.

That has Plantz a bit concerned.

The major problem is that Oregon and Washington State are the only Division I field hockey schools in the Northwest, so top competition is hard to find. The team will travel to Berkeley, Calif., Oct. 26-27 for a tournament that includes two other nationally ranked teams, but until then, Oregon has to rely on teams from this region, many of which are in Division II or Division III.

Denver and BYU are Division I schools, and Oregon coach Nancy Plantz has never seen either club play, but she is not expecting either to knock off the Ducks. Nevertheless, with Oregon as the team to beat, it's only natural that all the other teams want to beat them.

"We must concentrate," said Plantz. "They'll come out and play their best hockey against us, so (I've told my players) that we don't want to make this team's season. We can't get sloppy — it takes execution to beat good teams."

Oregon will be without sophomore defender Kathy Herion, who is out for about three weeks with a separated shoulder, says Plantz. Freshman link Jennifer Silva is wearing a cast on her right hand (pulled muscle), but the cast is molded to her stick and she's been able to play without any pain.

Because of the injuries and the soft schedule, Plantz has

been able to experiment with her lineup in almost every game. So while she is still searching for a regular starting lineup, some players who hadn't been playing earlier in the season have been making strong bids to become starters.

Freshman outside Julie Theiler has scored five goals in her last three games, and junior Kathy Webb has been getting considerable playing time on defense. This is the same Kathy Webb who last week said that defense was fine, but that it didn't compare with the "glory of scoring."

"No, it's fun," explained Webb. "Anybody would like to score, but it's just as important to play defense and get the ball up to the forwards. I play where I'm needed."

Tuesday against George Fox, Webb was hitting the ball up to

the forwards repeatedly at the direction of Plantz, who had noticed a flaw in George Fox's defense in pre-game warm-ups.

"I watched the goalie warm up and saw that she wasn't clearing the ball off her pads," said Plantz. "I just told our team to key on the rebounds." The Ducks obviously were listening, as at least four of their 12 goals were scored on rebounds. Junior outside Sandy Johnson says that's basic hockey.

"My job as an outside is to be where the ball is (near the) goal. You just have to keep your stick down and be ready for the rebound off the pads."

Twelve goals not withstanding, Plantz will be working hard on Oregon's attack. She wants the team to be more successful scoring goals.

"Sixteen to twenty would be nice," she said.

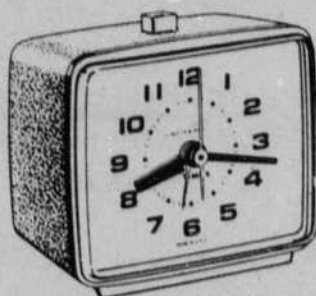


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