

Battered Ducks still game

By JOHN SELIX
Of the Emerald

It's official: The injuries are winning.

Oregon's thirteenth-ranked women's field hockey team has been preparing for this weekend's Berkeley Invitational for two months, but the squad is so decimated by those "unconquerable" injuries, it risks the chance of not having enough players.

"The only thing that could be worse (than playing this tournament now)," noted Ducks' coach Nancy Plantz, "is if it were Region 9 qualifying time or nationals. I've never had a team that's been so plagued by injuries — it's scary."

The Friday-Saturday tournament includes Oregon's toughest competition of the season. San Jose State is currently ranked eighth nationally and finished third in the AIAW national tournament last year. Long Beach State, Arizona, and host California all are in the "others receiving votes"

column of the national rankings. The final entry in the tournament is Simon Fraser, which tied Oregon in September.

"At full strength," says Plantz, "we're capable of winning the tournament. That's our goal."

Two starters definitely will not play. Link Nancy Pedrotti is out with a "mysterious back problem," and defender Kathy Herion is still recovering from a separated shoulder injury. Furthermore, six other players have a variety of injuries — some will play and some will not.

But to win the tournament, the Ducks would need to have "all 11 players — at the same time — playing to their potential," says Plantz. This will be the second time this season that the Ducks will have to stop one of the outstanding players in college field hockey. The first time they had that task (against Stanford's Nancy White), they suffered their only loss of the season. This weekend their job will be to stop San Jose State's Pommy MacFarlane, a 28-year-old South African

center-defender who dominates play. Her only weakness is that she's not overly fast, and the Ducks' strategy will be to take the ball down the outside of the field and go around her. According to Plantz, the Spartans "are supposed to be in a class by themselves on the West Coast."

There just won't be any easy wins for the Ducks this weekend, says Plantz. Arizona and Long Beach State are both quick and experienced, and cannot be overlooked. The Cal Bears are having "an up and down season," Plantz says, but they tied sixteenth-ranked Stanford last week.

Although injuries have dampened Plantz's optimism, her players feel confident that they will do well this weekend.

"We'll come through in flying colors," predicted goalie Mo Sullivan. "The team has to have confidence in its other players; otherwise, it might as well hang it up."

And Oregon is not about to do that.

Unbeaten kickers thrash OSU

The University women's soccer team may be the best kept secret on campus, but the team is beginning to make a name for itself in the Northwest Collegiate Soccer Conference.

The women defeated Oregon State University by a convincing 6-0 margin Monday night to boost their season record to eight wins against no losses. More impressive yet is the manner in which the Ducks have treated their opponents.

Through eight games, Oregon has recorded 33 goals while yielding only four. Six of the Ducks' wins have been shutouts.

Coach Dewey Wilson finds those statistics hard to explain.

"The defense just shuts 'em down — it's incredible!" exclaimed Wilson, who added that Oregon's goalie hasn't had much of a chance to handle the ball this year, let alone make saves.

In the Oregon State match, for instance, Holly Hendricks, Louise Later and Barb Trout played "tough defensive games," said Wilson.

Michele Potestio scored a hat trick to lead the Ducks. Potestio has led the Ducks' offensive charge of late, scoring five goals in her last two games.

Victoria Taylor broke the ice in the early going against OSU with a score, and Potestio and Cameron Denny added to the margin by intermission. Potestio scored twice in the second half before Hendricks clinched the win with a goal of her own.

The women's team hosts the University of Puget Sound at 11 a.m. Saturday in a non-conference bout, before colliding with the University of Washington at 1 p.m. Sunday. Both games are scheduled for Autzen Stadium.

Ducks must regroup for tourney after PSU loss

Oregon's volleyball squad dropped a non-league match to the Portland State Vikings in three straight games, 10-15, 3-15 and 8-15, Wednesday night in Portland.

It was the fourth straight time this season that PSU had beaten Oregon, and it drops the lady Ducks' record to barely above the break even point, 14-13-4.

Coach Chris Voelz reported that Oregon was hurt by poor defensive coverage and passing errors on offense.

Voelz's club has little time in which to correct these flaws though, as the Ducks are entered in the Southern Oregon State College Invitational Tournament this weekend in Ashland. Oregon opens the tourney with a game against Whitworth tonight at 8 p.m. Other opponents for the Ducks this weekend will be host Southern Oregon,

University of Idaho, University of Calif. at Bakersfield, Gonzaga, Eastern Oregon State and old nemesis Portland State.



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Sports in Brief

Field hockey moves up in poll

National rankings often seem to be done on a completely arbitrary basis.

Such is the case with the women's field hockey team at Oregon. In last week's national rankings, the Ducks fell from 13th to 14th — after having won all four of the games they played the previous weekend.

This week, Oregon moved up to 13th — after playing but one game the previous week, a 6-0 shutout of Oregon College of Education. The Ducks are now 13-1-1 and have blanked 11 of their 15 opponents this year.

Runners search for right mix

The top seven runners on the women's cross country team will take a break from competition this week. Their teammates will compete in a 4,000 meter race at Lane Community College on Saturday, Oct. 27, at 9:45 a.m. to determine the rest of Oregon's 12-runner contingent which will compete in the Association of Intercollegiate Athletics for Women Region 9 meet in Spokane, Wash., Nov. 3.

Those scheduled to compete at LCC include Tina Francario, Irene Griffith, Mindy Goodwin, Renne Dorjahn, Allison Snow, June Beltran, Miri Carlo and Rachel Wurga.

Ellen Schmidt, Oregon's number one runner in the first meet of the season, did not make the trip to last weekend's UCLA meet, but has started running again following a 10-day lay-off due to a broken collarbone.



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