

Netters getting better

Volleyball team aims for respect

By MIKE RIPLINGER
Of the Emerald

In athletics, the way to gauge improvement is by achieving goals.

At times goals are expressed in terms of wins and losses. Other times, just playing well qualifies.

Oregon volleyball coach Chris Voelz said as much before going down to the Nike-California Invitational tournament in Berkeley. "We want to play well down there so that our program will become better known," she said. "My goal is to get five good matches (out of the tournament) and go from there."

The Ducks reached their goal of five matches, but only managed to scratch out two wins, both over the University of San Diego to raise their record to the 7-18-2 mark.

Oregon was knocked into the consolation bracket the first day when they lost to seventh-ranked Cal-Poly, San Luis Obispo, 15-10, 15-7, 15-8. Then they beat San Diego 13-15, 13-15, 15-10, 15-8, 15-4, before losing to Portland State 15-6, 15-6. The Ducks were ripped by host California 15-5, 15-11, and then rebounded to drop San Diego once again, 15-3, 15-6.

"The better exposure we get, the better our chances of recruiting incoming athletes,



"We want to continue playing the top teams so that we ourselves can improve," said Oregon volleyball coach Chris Voelz before her team's appearance at the Nike-California invitational volleyball tournament.

and opponents to add to our schedule," she said. "We want teams to come up here and play us, which would be much cheaper than our having to go down to Cal and play all the time."

Currently, the volleyball team faces the problem of playing schools that are much better financed than Oregon is. In the days of ever-diminishing budgets, the California schools are still able to offer twelve full-ride scholarships, while Oregon can

give only four.

With California teams coming to Oregon, the volleyball team would be able to direct part of its travel budget toward other phases of the sport.

"We want to continue playing the top teams so that we ourselves can improve, but we can't keep flying down there and play. If we can represent ourselves well, then we might be able to get more teams to come up and play us, which would really be a help," Voelz said.

Duck women second in Berkeley

BERKELEY, Calif. — High finishes by Eryn Forbes and Kathy Hayes enabled the Oregon women's cross country team to finish in second place in the Nike-Cal Invitational cross country meet.

With Forbes (17:49.6) in seventh place, and Hayes (17:51.4) finishing eighth, the Ducks scored 81 points, well back of host Stanford's impressive total of 22.

The Cardinals, the fourth-ranked team in the nation, swept the top three places with Kim

Schnurpfel (17:21.5), Ceci Hoppe (17:32.8), and Patti Sue Plummer (17:38.4) taking top honors. Schnurpfel and Hoppe were both under the 5,000-meter course record of 17:33.0.

Cal Poly-San Luis Obispo placed third in the nine-team event with 103.

Other finishers for the Ducks (ranked fifth in the nation) were Rosa Gutierrez (18:28.7) in 21st, Claudette Groenendaal (18:43.3) in 27th, Sandy Dickerson (19:03.4) in 41st, and Lisa Martin (20:22.3) in 63rd place.

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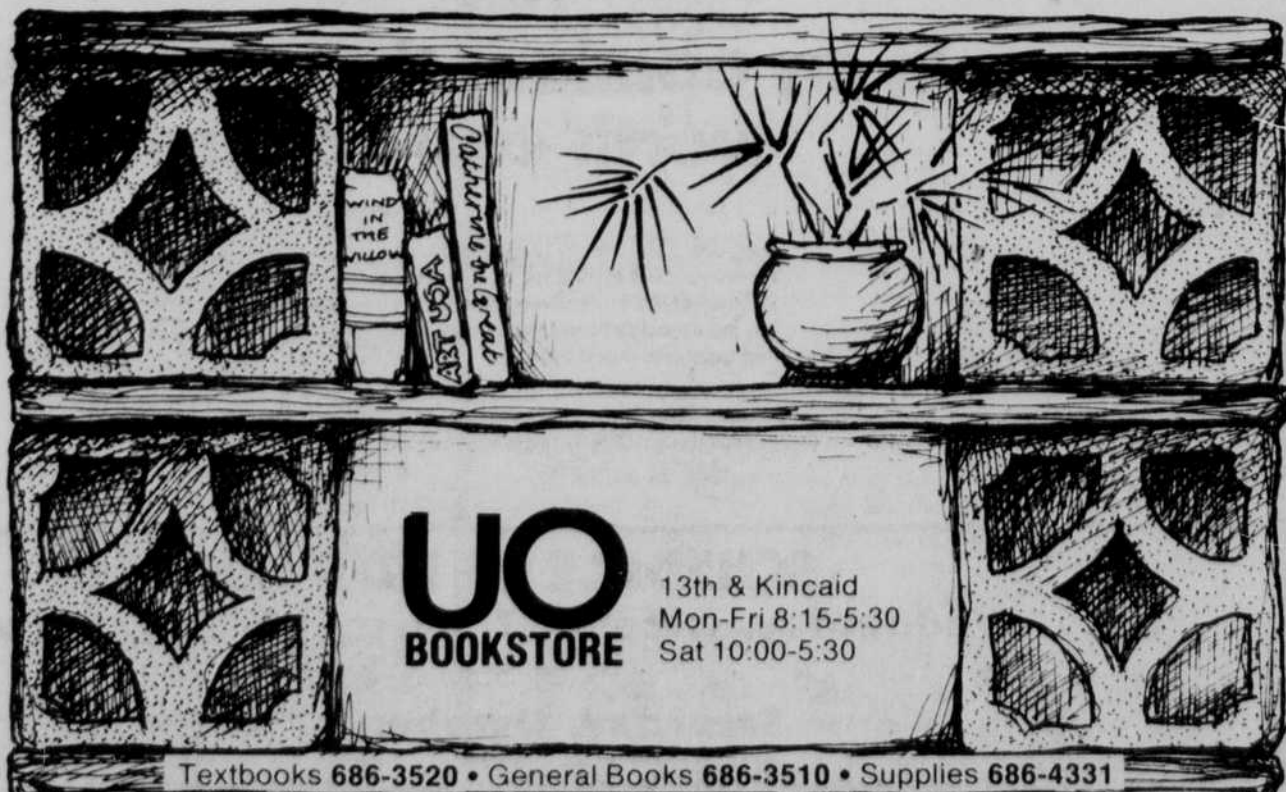
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