Young netters make pre-season waves

By Steve Turcotte
Of the Emerald

It's easy to see why Oregon volleyball coach Chris Voelz is optimistic about this year's Duck squad.

For starters, there is Sue Harbour, Oregon's middle blocker. Harbour, the only non-Californian on the West team in this summer's National Sports Festival, led the Ducks in kills and blocks last season.

In addition, there is senior redshirt Cathy Hill and sophomore setter Shaunna Koenig. The three

make up the nucleus of the Oregon team.

The experience of Harbour and the enthusiasm of a handful of sophomores and freshmen have sparked the Ducks to a 13-9 preseason record.

Last weekend, the Ducks concluded pre-season activity by finishing 11th in the Brigham Young Preview Tournament. On the first day of the tournament, Oregon fell to New Mexico and Weber State before beating United States International University. On Friday, Oregon beat Missouri and Lamar and lost to Montana.

That left the Ducks to battle for 11th place in the 24-team tourney against Montana State. Oregon defeated the Bobcats 15-5, 12-15, 15-13, behind 14 kills by Harbour and eight by freshman Heidi Eakin, to snare 11th place.

Fortunately for Voelz and her team, 11th was the worst placing the Ducks have had all season.

In the Fullerton Classic, a 16-team affair, Oregon beat perennial power Southern Cal 15-12 to claim third place. Interestingly,

the then fourth-ranked Trojans beat the Ducks in two out of three games in the first round before Oregon was able to gain revenge. Oregon's win was just a one-game match because of time restrictions.

"We were behind 12-8 against Southern Cal, but we kept them at 12 the rest of the way to win it," said Voelz. "It is the first time we have beaten a big Southern California school."

In its second tournament of the season, Oregon finished tied for third in the Davis Invitational.

Competing against 29 other teams, the Ducks shared the third spot with Ohio State.

Oregon fared one better in its opening tournament at Oregon State. The Ducks were knocked off by the Beavers for the title.

"I think we have had a really successful preseason," said Voelz.

In their only dual match of the year, the Ducks beat Utah State 16-14, 15-13, 15-11.

Oregon opens its NorPac Conference schedule on Friday night when it hosts Washington State at McArthur Court.

Upsets dot grid games; ND stunned

Big upsets were the password for college football games Saturday, with perennial powers Notre Dame and the University of Southern California two of the biggest casualties.

The 13th-ranked Irish met a hungry Miami team in the Orange Bowl at Miami, Fla., and the Hurricanes stunned Notre Dame with a 20-0 shutout.

Meanwhile, 10th-ranked USC was entertaining Kansas in Los Angeles, but it was an ex-native who buried the Trojans. Frank Seurer, who went to Edison High School in nearby Huntington Beach, completed 26 of 38 passes for 385 yards to lead the Jayhawks to a 26-20 victory.

In Iowa City, Iowa, seventhranked lowa made it clear that the Big Ten Conference will be a three-team race, knocking off third-ranked Ohio State 20-14.

In other games involving Pac-10

In Lincoln, Neb., UCLA marched to a 10-0 lead over top-ranked Nebraska, only to have the Huskers reel off 42 straight points for a 42-10 win, Nebraska's 14th straight over two seasons.

University of Washington visited Death Valley, otherwise known as Louisiana State University's Tiger Stadium, and the Tigers buried ninth-ranked Washington, 40-14.

Stanford went down to defeat against San Jose State for the third straight year. The Spartans beat the Cardinal 23-10 at Stanford,

The Arizona schools posted easy wins, fourth-ranked Arizona upending California State Fullerton 31-10 in Tucson, Ariz., and Arizona State dumping Wichita State 44-14 at Tempe, Ariz. Washington State defeated Nevada-Las Vegas 41-28 in Spokane, Wash., and Oregon State suffered a 38-14 shellacking at the hands of University of Colorado in Boulder, Colo.

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