

Netters edged by Beavers

Oregon comes within one game of upset

By Brent Paz
Of the Emerald

That old force, momentum, came into play in a Civil War volleyball match between Oregon and Oregon State, Saturday night at McArthur Court.

Oregon won two of the first three games to spur upset hopes, but it was the more experienced Beavers who prevailed, throttling the Ducks in five games in the NorPac Conference opener for both teams.

Eighteenth-ranked OSU won the match 13-15, 15-2, 13-15, 15-10, 15-4, in what was an up and down affair. The Ducks were in control of the match several times, but saw victory slip through their grasp.

"I was worried about this game from the very first time I saw Oregon play because they are a very, very strong team," said first-year OSU coach Jim Iams, whose team is now 16-3 and 1-0 in conference. "I'm glad we got a win."

Oregon, which dropped to 14-11 on the season and 0-1 in conference, exploded at the beginning of the match. The Ducks jumped to an early lead in the first game, thanks to the play of setter Lisa Gemoya and All-America candidate Sue Harbour.

The Ducks broke from an early 2-2 deadlock to take a commanding 11-5 lead before holding on for a 15-13 triumph.

The setters had momentum

going into game two, but OSU quickly regrouped. The match was evened at a game apiece after OSU demolished the Ducks 15-2.

Oregon's inspired play awoke OSU's sleeping giant, 6-2 Julie Steding. Steding had two kills and two blocks in the second game and was an intimidating force for the rest of the match.

Gemoya said Oregon's strategy to silence Steding was unsuccessful.

"She had a good game. She played really well," Gemoya said. "We had a pre-game plan to stop her, but we just didn't go through it as well as we planned."

OSU picked up where it left off in the second game and jumped to a comfortable 11-5 lead in game three.

However, the "flying, diving, digging Ducks" lived up to their nickname and roared back from the deficit to knot the score at 13. Senior Cathy Hill served the last five Oregon points and Heidi Eakin, a replacement for injured Shaunna Koenig, had some key blocks as the Ducks came within one game of a win with a 15-13 victory.

Eakin's play throughout the match was a pleasant surprise to her teammates.

"Heidi is a great player. She is coming along real well," said Harbour, who battled the flu bug all week. "It seems like she has been out here more than a

year the way she has been playing."

The pivotal fourth game went to the Beavers. Oregon led 9-7, but Duck miscues around the net, combined with the constant pressure of OSU's front line of Tami Rogers, Shari Jamison and Steding, led the Beavers to a 15-10 decision.

"I think the turning point was probably the middle of the fourth game," said Iams, who saw his team on the brink of its fourth loss.

OSU didn't play tentatively from that point on, taking a commanding 8-1 lead in the final game. The Beavers never looked back, winning the clincher, 15-4.

Oregon coach Chris Voelz was happy with the play of Gemoya and her team, but she thought the Ducks should have won the match.

"Lisa Gemoya played a great match," Voelz said, adding, "we never gave up — I was pleased with our play. We should have beaten them in four games."

The Gemoya-Harbour connection clicked nicely against OSU. Harbour led the Ducks with 20 kills, and Gemoya assisted on many of those with pinpoint setting. Cynthia Shepherd added 11 kills for the Ducks, while Rogers led OSU with 20 kills.

"It was depressing," said Eakin, a freshman from LaGrande. "We did some things we shouldn't have done and lost."

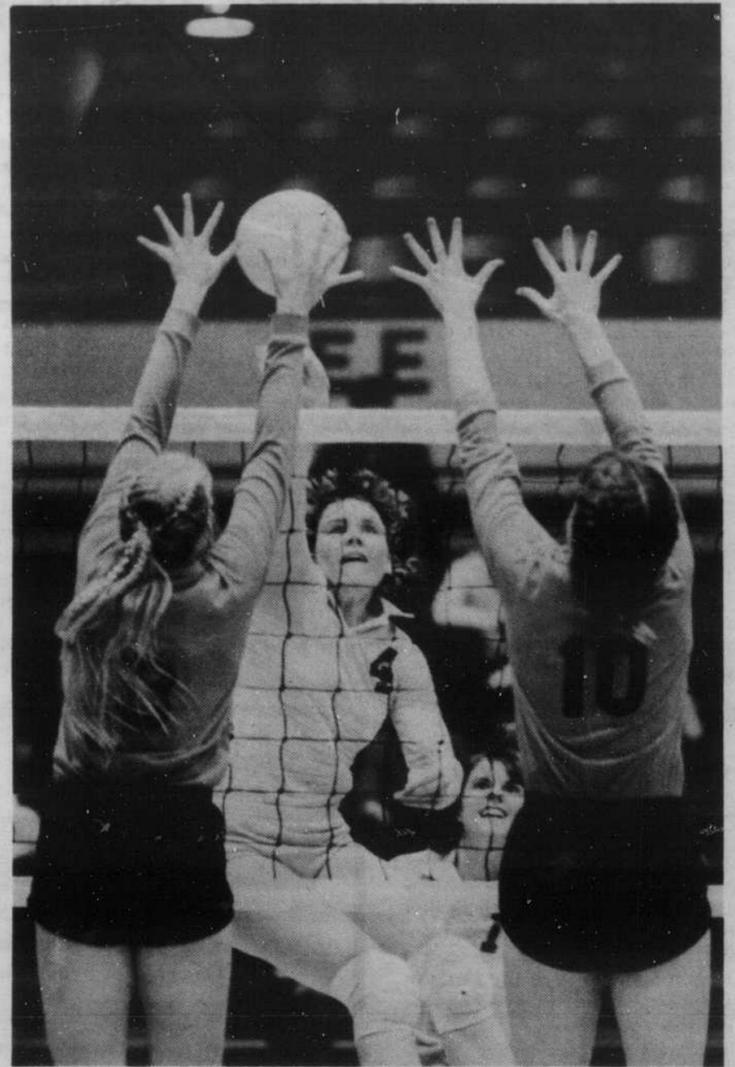


Photo by Mark Pynes

Heidi Eakin (center) was a pleasant surprise for Oregon, but Oregon State blocked out the Ducks' upset hopes.

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'Wheeze Kids,' Baltimore have Series meeting

From Associated Press reports

In a stirring statement for senior citizens everywhere, the elderly Philadelphia Phillies captured the National League pennant, finishing off the Los Angeles Dodgers 7-2 Saturday in Philadelphia in the fourth game of the Championship Series.

The old folks got some important help from some junior members of their cast. Gary Matthews, a youngster of 33, and Sixto Lezcano, who is just 29, smashed home runs that triggered the victory.

Tuesday, the "Wheeze Kids" meet the Baltimore Orioles, a 3-0, 10-inning victor over the Chicago White Sox in Chicago Saturday.

Baltimore's victory was engineered by the combined 10-hit pitching of Storm Davis and Tippy Martinez and sparked by Tito Landrum's 10th-inning solo homer. The win gave the Orioles a 3-1 triumph in the best-of-five American League Championship Series.

Pitching was the overriding reason for the Orioles' win. They allowed the White Sox to score only three times in four games.

The Phillies staked Steve Carlton to a quick lead with Matthews' towering three-run homerun off Dodger pitcher Jerry Reuss in the first inning. Carlton won his second game of the series with relief help from Al Holland. Holland came on to spell Carlton and save Philadelphia's 1-0 win in game one.

The World Series begins in Baltimore Tuesday with the Phillies' John Denny facing Scott McGregor of the O's. Denny has a 19-6 record, McGregor 18-7. Game two, on Wednesday, will be in Baltimore also.