

Netters look for momentum

By Robert Collias
Of the Emerald

The Oregon volleyball team travels to California this weekend looking to gain some badly needed momentum.

The Ducks are 17-8 on the season and third in the NorPac conference standings with a record of 4-2.

"We need to try to gain back some of the momentum we had before the conference season began," says Oregon coach Chris Voelz whose team has been struggling lately after losing important NorPac matches to Fresno State University and San Jose University in recent weeks.

The Ducks will be trying to get out of their slump against the University of California Golden Bears and the University of San Francisco Lady Dons.

The Ducks are coming off an up and down weekend that saw them lose to FSU Friday, but beat Cal State-Bakersfield the next night. The Ducks finished the weekend with a very good showing against the People's

Republic of China on Sunday at McArthur Court.

The Ducks lost the match, but gained a lot of respect from the Chinese.

"We went into the Chinese match with a goal of scoring five points," says Voelz. "We ended up scoring 25 against one of the best teams in the world."

Oregon middle setter Sue Harbour agreed with Voelz that the Chinese match gave the Ducks, ranked 18th in Tachikara Coaches Poll, a needed boost.

"We got some confidence from the Chinese match," says Harbour who is bidding for All-America status with 413 kills. "We know that if we can play with them we can play with anybody."

The Ducks will need that confidence on the road tour as they tackle the Golden Bears of California tonight.

Cal was an NCAA playoff team last year, and Voelz thinks that they may be tougher than their 11-16 record may indicate.

"We are preparing for the matches just as carefully as if they were against ranked teams," says Voelz.

Cal, 3-5 in the NorPac, is led by senior Teri Donohue who was named to the all-tournament team in the Cal Classic. The Bears also received their top hitter back, freshman Kelly Moomaw. Moomaw has missed the last ten matches with a shoulder injury.

The Ducks will conclude their road swing with a match against San Francisco on Saturday. USF sports a 12-11 season mark, but are only 1-7 in the NorPac. The Lady Dons are led by Kathy Schindler, a second team all-conference pick in 1983. Schindler is averaging 4.1 kills per game and is the key to USF's 5-1 offense.

The Ducks, losers of the past two of three NorPac matches, need wins this weekend to clinch a NorPac playoff spot. A loss this weekend could jeopardize Oregon's chances for a league playoff berth.

Women harriers set out for NorPac title

One might imagine that with the NorPac Conference Championship on the line this Saturday in Fresno, Calif., Oregon women's cross country coach Tom Heinonen would be pulling out all the stops to win.

But this isn't the case because Heinonen feels the NorPac meet doesn't have much meaning for the Ducks even though they are favored to win for the third straight year.

"Yes, it is the conference championship, but it doesn't lead to anything," says Heinonen whose Ducks are ranked third in latest NCAA cross country polls. "The regional qualifier in Tucson

(The NCAA Region 8 meet on Nov. 10) is the most important."

Heinonen considers the race merely a tuneup for the nationals. Oregon's top runner, Kathy Hayes, who won last year's NorPac race, will not make the trip because of a cold.


"Everyone is ready to go except Kathy Hayes," says Heinonen who feels it is wiser for Hayes to bypass the NorPac and get ready for Tucson. "Any of the schools with doubts about their top runners will possibly hold them back for fear of aggravating injuries."

Despite not having Hayes, the

Ducks are favorites to win with Kim Roth and Kim Ryan leading the way. Roth and Ryan finished third and fourth respectively in last year's NorPac race which is under a new format.

In the past, the NCAA Region 8 Championship and the NorPac race were held at the same time. This year both races are held at separate times with the NorPac having very little bearing on who will advance to the national meet in Pennsylvania.

The strongest challenges for the Ducks in Fresno will likely come from Washington State University and the University of California.



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