

sports

Oregon ends season against OSU

Ducks haven't lost War since '74

By Allan Lazo
Of the Emerald

It would be difficult, in fact almost impossible, to call Saturday's Oregon-Oregon State University clash at Parker Stadium just another football game as both teams have laid some very high stakes on the outcome of the annual Civil War battle.

When the 88th meeting between the schools begins at 1 p.m. in Corvallis, the Ducks, 5-5 will be putting 10 seasons without a loss to OSU on the line. Also, Oregon will be hoping to clinch their first winning season since 1980.

"It's a big game because 6-5 is a lot better than 5-6," says Oregon coach Rich Brooks. "It would be a nice thing for the

seniors to be able to say that they have never lost to OSU, and I would like to keep that string alive."

The 10-year Oregon streak includes six straight victories by Brooks, who is 14-0-2 as player and coach in the series. Brooks was a player at OSU before posting a 6-0-1 record as Duck head coach.

More prevalent than last year's scoreless wonder (0-0 tie at Autzen Stadium) is the effect last week's 44-10 shellacking by Arizona State University had on the Ducks. Quarterback Chris Miller calls the performance "pathetic."

"We were kind of pathetic all the way around, and we just have to forget that and play this

game to salvage whatever we can from this season," says Miller.

14 Oregon seniors will be seeing their final action as Ducks Saturday. While Oregon is looking for a winning season, the 2-8 Beavers, 1-6 in the Pac-10, are fighting for something else — a little pride.

"We're very disappointed record-wise because this is the first year where we were really in a position to compete every Saturday with the Pac-10 teams that we have been playing," says OSU coach Joe Avezzano.

"We're disappointed, but we are able to acknowledge the fact that we have made some big improvements. We are just looking forward to being able to finish

the season on a high note," says Avezzano who has a 6-46-2 coaching record. "And there can be no higher note than beating the University of Oregon."

OSU will be without starting quarterback Ricky Greene, but they will have the services of Pac-10 receiving leader, Reggie Bynum, who has hauled in 50 passes for 716 yards.

The highest stakes on the game for OSU may be Avezzano's job. Many have speculated that without a win, he could not possibly hope to renew his contract, which ends this season. Avezzano had no comment on his future, and says that things will be decided and discussed after the Civil War.

Netters battle FSU in NorPac tournament

The Oregon volleyball team will be looking to get into the the NCAA playoffs the easy way as they try to win the NorPac Conference Championship Tournament beginning tonight in San Jose, Calif.

Oregon opens the tournament against Fresno State University at 6 p.m.

"We stated at the beginning of the season that our goal was to win the conference and do as well as we can in the NCAA's," says Oregon coach Chris Voelz

whose team is ranked 11th in the nation.

The Ducks, the No. 3 seed in the tournament, are one of four teams to qualify for the conference playoffs. The winner of the tournament will receive an automatic bid to the NCAA Championship Tournament.

Oregon, 24-10, finished the NorPac season with a 9-2 mark, while the Bulldogs of Fresno State, second in the NorPac, posted a 11-1 record. FSU, 23-11 on the season, dealt the Ducks one of their conference losses.

"We have reviewed the films of our first match with them and we just made too many unforced errors on our side of the court," says Voelz. "They have not been in as many high-pressure situations as we have

throughout the season, and I think that will be to our advantage."

The Bulldogs are led by Ruth Lawson who has 396 kills and 49 service aces. FSU also has Barbie Snyder in the Bulldogs' 6-2 offense.

"We're going to have to key on Lawson and their power tips, because she really hurt us last time," says Oregon sophomore Shaunna Koenig.

The Ducks may not be at full strength for the match because of an injury to setter Lisa

Gemoya. Gemoya suffered a broken finger last week in practice.

"We will see if Gemoya can set with a soft cast and if she can, she will play," says Voelz.

If the Ducks are victorious against the Bulldogs, they will face the winner of the San Jose State University-Oregon State University matchup.

Sports Shorts

The future of the Oregon men's basketball team got a boost Wednesday when they signed two highly recruited high school athletes from California to early letters of intent.

6-foot-10 Greg Senior and 6-9 Ian Craig made commitments to Oregon on the first day of the fall letter-of-intent signing period.

The Oregon wrestling team will meet Humboldt State University and Chico State University in Arcata, Calif., beginning at 5 p.m. 150-pounder Rick O'Shea, who is recovering from Monday's shooting incident at Autzen Stadium, is expected to return to action within the next few weeks.

Oregon women's cross country runner Kim Roth was named the NorPac athlete of the week after her fourth-place finish at the Region 8 Championships in Tuscon, Ariz.

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