

Sports



File photo

Junior Tina Adolph and the rest of the 11th-ranked Oregon volleyballers will have to get by California and fourth-ranked Stanford this weekend to continue their ascent up the polls.

Volleyball team to play Stanford, hopes to avenge last year's loss

By Gary Henley
Emerald Reporter

A little revenge might be on the minds of some of the Oregon volleyball players heading into this weekend's matches with California and Stanford.

The Ducks, 9-3 overall, will put their 6-0 Pacific-10 Conference record on the line, along with a nine-match win streak, against the California Golden Bears on Friday.

Oregon's last defeat came at the hands of Iowa way back on September 4, and since then the Ducks have gone on to post nine straight wins, one short of the team mark set in 1984.

It was Stanford, the Ducks' opponent on Saturday, that brought Oregon's 1986 season to a close as the Cardinal ousted the Ducks in the first round of last year's NCAA tournament.

Oregon had cruised into the tournament with a modest four-match win streak when their season was abruptly ended with a quick four-game loss to Stanford, 9-15, 7-15, 15-10, and 4-15.

The Cardinal shut down the Ducks' outside hitting tandem of Teri Kramer and Michele Krebsbach, holding Kramer to a .151 hitting percentage and allowing Krebsbach only 10 kills and a .029 percentage.

"There won't be any revenge factor," coach Gerry Gregory said. Stanford "deserved to do well in the playoffs last year. They were a better team, and I think we were in over our heads."

Stanford went on to post wins over Loyola Marymount and Brigham Young University before bowing out to Nebraska in the semifinals.

Junior Tina Adolph said there still might be

an extra incentive for beating Stanford because of last year's loss.

"One of our team goals is to split our two games with them this season. But for some of the players it's an individual goal to beat Stanford because of what happened last year. Some of us are really looking forward to playing them," Adolph said.

For the Ducks to upset Stanford (10-3 overall, 4-1 in the Pac-10), Gregory said his team must serve and pass better. The Ducks had 16 service errors in last week's match with Washington.

Gregory also mentioned Stanford's strong middle attack, led by senior Teresa Smith, as a problem. Smith, the Pac-10 player of the year and first team All-American in 1986, is currently second in the conference in ace average (.63) and kills average (4.29).

Outside hitter Nancy Reno, Pac-10 player of the week for the week of Oct. 5, and all-conference setter Wendi Rush give Stanford one of the most individually talented teams in the nation.

In the women's collegiate volleyball polls released Tuesday, Stanford was ranked 5th in the NCAA poll and 4th in the Tachikara/American Volleyball Coaches Association poll.

Ironically, it was Stanford that halted the Ducks' nine-match win streak last year. For Oregon to reach 10 straight victories this season, they must still get by California, no easy task according to Gregory.

"I'm really surprised they haven't won more games than they have. They're really a better team than their record indicates. They're a good team and we have a lot of respect for them."

The Bears, 5-8 overall and 2-3 in the Pac-10.

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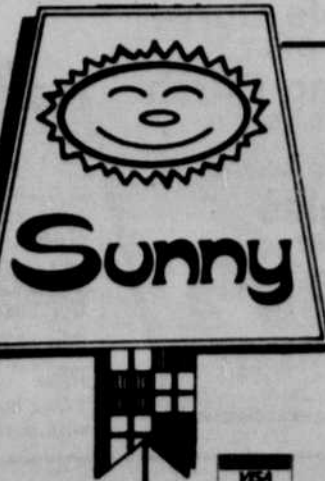
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