Netters take Wildcats, stopped by Sun Devils

By Ashley Conklin Emerald Sports Reporter

After riding the volleyball seesaw to the top Friday night, the Oregon volleyball team fell off it Saturday night.

The Ducks took a major step in hosting a firstround NCAA match by sweeping Arizona, 16-14, 15-8, 18-16 Friday. But on Saturday, Arizona State, coming off a three-game loss to Oregon State on Friday, swept Oregon 15-12, 15-11, 15-11.

The Ducks finished the regular season 10-8 in the Pacific-10 Conference and 21-8 overall, and will now wait to hear their fate for the NCAA Tournament. Pairings and sites for the first-round of the NCAA tournament will be announced Nov. 26 with first round action to be held Nov. 30 to Dec. 2.

"We just were off in all facets of our game." Oregon coach Gerry Gregory said after Saturday's match. "We did do a nice job of breaking out, but could not maintain that."

Michele Krebsbach's kills paced the Ducks early in game one, but the Sun Devils hung tough to pull within 5-4.

Krebsbach's and Denise Kuhn's play at the net helped Oregon run out to an 11-5 lead before Arizona State came back.

Debbie Penney and Noelle Fridrich combined for three service aces, and good net play by the Sun Devils tied the score at 11-11. After a Julie Jeffrey service ace put the Ducks up 12-11. Arizona State scored four straight points to take the opening game.

It was much of the same scene in games two and three, where Oregon would jump out in front early and the Sun Devils would come back for the win.

Oregon jumped out to a 5-0 lead in the second game, but Arizona State scored seven straight points to take a 7-5 lead en route to a 15-11 game two win. Game three was equally disastrous for Oregon as it jumped out to a 5-1 lead behind the play of Krebsbach and Stephanie Snyder before the Sun Devils made their run.

Tracie Kisro sparked the run with a pair of kills as Arizona State took advantage of several Duck errors to go ahead 8-5.

Three Mindy Gowell kills and two Oregon attack errors pushed the lead to 13-6 and then 14-7.

The Ducks scored four straight points to pull within 14-11, but it wasn't enough as Arizona State won 15-11.

While Gowell led the way for the Sun Devils with 14 kills, Gregory was impressed with the entire Arizona State line-up.

"(Sue) Nord is a heck of player," Gregory said of the Sun Devils' All-American candidate. "But across the board they play very well."

On Friday, it was a reverse situation for the Ducks as they came back to post wins in games one and three after falling behind in one of the most exciting matches to be played in McArthur Court lately

In the first game the Ducks and Wildcats went back and forth before Oregon won 16-14 on a service ace and kill by Melissa Terzian.

The Ducks had things a little easier in game two behind the outstanding defense and attacking of Terzian and Mindee Adams, who led the way in a 15-8 win.

In the third game the Wildcats jumped out to a 7-3 lead behind the play of Caylin Combs and Kristi Colson at the net.

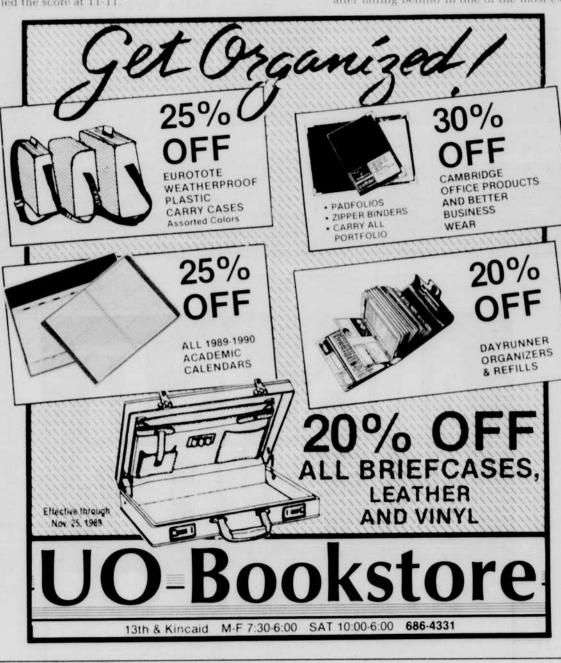
Combs and Kelly Waage then paced the Arizona attack to lead 13-7 before the Ducks came back.

After pulling within 13-10, a Jeffrey kill and two kills from Krebsbach tied the score at 13-13.

The game stayed nip-and-tuck and the Wildcats appeared to have an advantage at 15-14 and serving for the game, but the Ducks held on and won on a Terzian tip kill and an Arizona attack error.

"It's a good feeling to win in three because we have a lot of respect for Arizona." Terzian said after the match. "We all know we have to support and encourage each other out there and that makes us win in tight situations."

Terzian led the way for the Ducks with 18 kills and also had 13 digs. Adams, with 10 kills and 14 digs, had a big game for the Ducks as did Krebsbach (12 kills, 18 digs) and Dawnn Charroin (14 kills, 14 digs).









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