

Sports

Oregon netters head to Tucson

By Cam Sivesind
Emerald Sports Reporter

The Oregon volleyball team heads for the desert this weekend to face Arizona in the first round of the NCAA playoffs Saturday in Tucson.

The Ducks split their regular season matches with the Wildcats this season, losing in Tucson in September and defeating Arizona in McArthur Court two weeks ago.

"It's always a challenge to play a team more than twice," Oregon coach Gerry Gregory said. "We've split so far and I think if we can win it, we'll definitely prove that we are the better of the two teams this year."

Despite a fourth place seeding in their region, the Ducks must travel to fifth seeded Arizona. "It's a tough one to be on the road," Gregory said. "All the NCAA matches are very challenging. I think that both Arizona and Oregon are very evenly matched and it should be a very good game."

Arizona finished tied for sixth with California in the Pacific 10 Conference with a conference record of 8-10 and an

overall record of 17-12. The Wildcats are ranked 13th in the Tachikara/AVCA poll and are 15th in the NCAA poll.

The big guns for Arizona are junior outside hitters Terry Lauchner who leads her team in kills with a 3.92 mark and Caylin Combs who is second behind Lauchner with 3.78 kills per game.

"Lauchner is a person that is just very explosive," Gregory said. "We've done a fairly good job of defending her, at least we did last time."

"We do need to do a better job against Caylin Combs," Gregory added. "I think she probably concerns me a little bit more than Terry Lauchner. It's not that Caylin is a better player, it's just that we haven't quite figured out how to shut her down."

The Ducks are led by senior outside hitter Michele Krebsbach with 3.98 kills a game. Senior setter Stephanie Snyder is up front in assists with an 8.91 mark.

Senior middle blocker Stephanie Drier has the high hitting percentage mark at .245 while sophomore middle blocker Mindee Adams averages 1.0

blocks a game to lead Oregon.

"We missed Stephanie Snyder a lot last year. That was a big factor," Gregory said of last year's losing record of 8-21 and of Snyder's leadership for his team this year.

"Michele Krebsbach has really had a great year and Melissa Terzian. Both of them in my mind are playing the best volleyball of their careers."

Terzian, a senior outside hitter, has led the Ducks in kills five times this year, including an 18-kill showing against Arizona in their last meeting.

The Ducks, 10-8 in the Pac-10 and 21-8 overall, are ranked 16th in the Tachikara/AVCA poll and are 13th in the NCAA poll.

A Duck win Saturday would match them with the winner of the match between No. 1 ranked UCLA and Pepperdine match.

Oregon lost both its matches against UCLA this year and have had poor showings in the past on UCLA's home court.

"I think our team has something to prove that we're a better team than what we show," Gregory said of a possible meeting with the Bruins.

Duck matmen head to Las Vegas

By Mike Maloney
Emerald Contributor

The Oregon Duck wrestlers will face their greatest challenge to date this Friday and Saturday when they compete in the Las Vegas Invitational.

The 45-team tournament features 10 of the top 20 wrestling squads in the nation, including four teams out of the top five.

"This is the premier tournament in the nation outside of the NCAA's," head coach Ron Finley said. "It's a great tournament for letting you know where you stand."

The Ducks, ranked 21st in the nation, take a 2-1 record into the competition. Oregon's only loss came at the hands of number 12 Cal State-Bakers-

field.

"This tournament will establish the pecking order for the rest of the season," Finley said. "We expect to finish in the top ten."

All eyes will be on the 118-pound bracket in Las Vegas, waiting to see if a confrontation between Oregon's Dan Vidlak and Arizona State's Zeke Jones comes to pass. Vidlak was the Pac-10 MVP last year and Jones is currently ranked as the nation's premier 118-pounder.

"Vidlak beat Jones for the Pac-10 title last season," Finley noted. "People will want to see a re-match."

Finley also mentioned senior George Johnston and juniors Scott Glenn and Curt Strahm as wrestlers expected to make an

impact in Nevada.

"I think those three in particular are ready to make a name for themselves," Finley said. "In this kind of a tournament the whole team has an opportunity to gain some national recognition."

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