

SPORTS

Duck netters face Huskies, Cougars up north

Oregon faces grueling travel schedule

By Paul Morgan
Emerald Sports Reporter

The Oregon volleyball team will face some tough road conditions this weekend when it travels to play Washington and Washington State in Pacific-10 competition.

The toughest opponent for the Ducks may not be the Huskies or the Cougars, but the grueling traveling itinerary the team will endure.

After flying to Seattle in the afternoon for a match against Washington Friday night, the Ducks will hop on a plane the next morning, fly to Spokane, and drive for more than an hour to play Washington State

in Pullman Saturday night.

"The road conditions are very fatiguing," Coach Gerry Gregory said. "But there's not a whole lot we can do about, we

Pac-10 Volleyball				
Team	W	L	Pct.	GB
UCLA	7	0	1.000	—
Stanford	7	1	.875	½
Oregon	4	3	.571	3
Oregon St.	4	3	.571	3
Arizona	3	4	.429	4
USC	3	4	.429	4
Arizona St.	2	5	.286	5
Washington	2	5	.286	5
Washington St.	2	5	.286	5
California	2	6	.250	5½

just have to suck it up and be prepared."

The Ducks hold down third place in the Pac-10 with a 4-3

conference record after splitting with the Arizona schools last weekend.

Traveling conditions aside, the Ducks do have a legitimate chance to gain their first weekend sweep in the Pac-10 season. The Huskies and Cougars were swept last weekend by California and Stanford, and are tied with Arizona State for seventh in the conference. But Gregory remains cautious about the Washington schools.

"Like all times in the Pac-10, these teams are evenly matched," he explained. "We feel we can win but it's no easy task."

Washington comes in to Friday night's match with a 2-5 conference record, but without the help of junior middle block-

er Kelley Larson. Larson injured her ankle in the second game in Washington's loss to California last weekend, and it is uncertain whether she will be able to make a contribution for the Huskies.

"Washington runs a lot of middle attack like Arizona did," Gregory said. "I think we were slow to adjust to it against Arizona, but we did manage to stop it."

The Ducks will be facing three of the most efficient hitters in the Pac-10 when they take on Washington State Saturday night.

Kelly Hankins carries a .300 hitting average into the match, with sophomore setter Keri Killebrew close behind with a .296 average, and Carrie Couturier with a .281 average.

"The key to their team is Killebrew," explained Gregory. "She likes to set the ball near the middle and also likes to set it over the net purposefully."

Another concern of Gregory's is keeping his own team on track.

"I think our service receiving needs to be more consistent," he said. "Near the end of the Arizona match, we were not returning the serves as well as I would have liked, but that is more of a testament to their serving."

Junior outside hitter Julie Jeffery, on the other hand, is in pursuit of a school record in service aces in a season. She has compiled 48 aces - 17 shy of the record set by Cathy Hill in 1981 - and leads the conference with a .76 ace average and is ranked 17th nationally.

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