

Women's tennis team to host Pacific-10 duals

By Robert Weber
Emerald Sports Reporter

The Oregon women's tennis team is close to wrapping up another successful season.

Just how improved and successful Coach Tom Greider's team ends up being won't be known until after this weekend's Pacific-10 Northern Division Duals in Eugene.

Entering this weekend's dual matches with Washington and Washington State, Oregon boasts a 14-7 record and the knowledge that it has beaten every Northwest team this season except one — Washington.

Greider believes his team is as ready as they could be for their rematch with the Huskies.

"Our skill level isn't going to change in the next 48 hours," Greider said. "The only thing that is going to change

is the team's attitude and that's what we have been working on."

"If we get to the ball and keep the ball in play, then we will have a chance against Washington," Greider added. "Everybody is beatable on a given day so all we have to do is chose the 21st of April between 10 a.m. and 2 p.m to play the best tennis we've played all year."

To say beating the Huskies is a big deal to Greider and his young team would be a large understatement.

Two weekends ago in the round-robin version of the Pac-10 tourney in Seattle, Oregon shocked the Huskies by collecting four wins in 20 matches against the area's perennial powerhouse.

Four wins may not seem like something to get excited about, but the Ducks haven't beaten the Huskies since 1975 and hadn't won a single match in Greider's three years as coach.

Oregon and Washington State open

the weekend's festivities on Friday afternoon with a 2:30 battle at the 15th Avenue courts. The Cougars complete their portion of the tournament when they square off with intrastate rival Washington at 10 a.m. Saturday, while the Ducks and Huskies finish up the tournament Sunday at 9 a.m.

Hilary Roberts, Oregon's No. 1 singles player and only senior, enters the final weekend of her college career still looking for her first individual win against Washington.

Despite the team's success two weeks ago and the fact that she has never beaten Mary Reilly, the Huskies' top player, Roberts doesn't appear to feel any extra pressure this weekend.

"It would be nice to win in singles," Roberts said, "but it's not like my life depends on it. I split (sets) with Mary Reilly last year and then she beat me in straight sets this year. I'm capable of

beating her but she has the edge over me."

Although Sunday's match with Washington is what everybody is focusing on, Greider knows that his team can't overlook the Cougars like they did in four matches in Seattle.

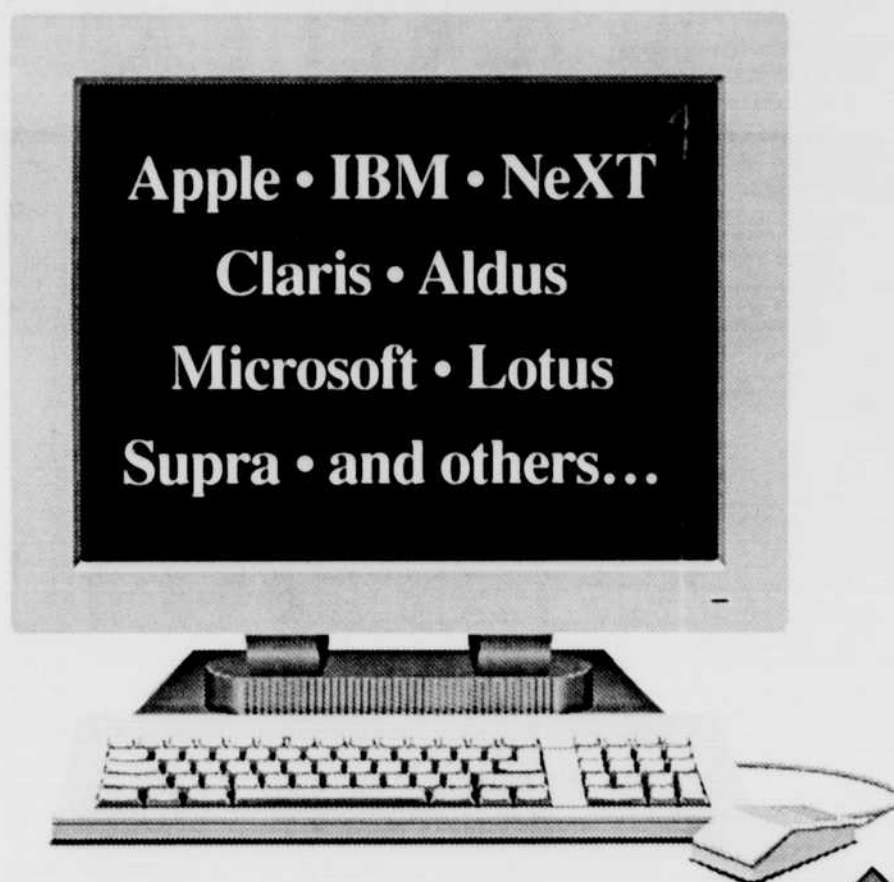
"Those losses to Washington State were basically due to a lack of respect for our opponent," Greider said. "If we're not ready to play Washington State, they are definitely capable of beating us."

If the four wins the Ducks brought back from Seattle aren't enough to give them confidence against Washington this weekend, then playing at home should definitely get them ready.

"If you can't get jacked up about playing Washington on your home court, then we shouldn't be playing college tennis," Greider said. "We better be ready to use that to our advantage."

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CHILDREN

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Volunteers must provide references, submit to a police check and go through a two-to-four hour interview before they are accepted into the program. They are also required to make a minimum one-year commitment to BB-BS.

Once accepted, volunteers are appropriately matched with a child. If the child and his or her parent feel good about the match, then all parties sign a contract that says they will do their best to be supportive of the new relationship.

University student Tina Songer is one volunteer who feels the program is vital to many children's lives. She said she and her "little," Amandine Kastler, have been matched for more than three years.

Songer said she had a Big Sister when she was little and feels a need to provide the same sort of support for Kastler. "It's important to me to be able to provide stability."

"It's rewarding to me to make a difference in a little person's life," she said. "Hopefully, she'll remember how special she was."

Songer said she and Kastler both enjoy the outdoors and spend time together every other week or so. "I'm committed to a lifelong friendship," she said.

"I have a lot of fun with Tina. We do a lot of things together," Kastler said. "If the program was down, it would be terrible. I would hate it."

Although she says it's hard to deny something to a needy child, Garoutte said she hopes her volunteers will "share an ethic of success" with their Little Brother or Little Sister.

Virtually all of the children now served by BB-BS of Mid-Oregon are from low-income, single-parent homes. Many have been physically and/or sexually abused. Drugs and alcohol are often present in their homes. Often the children have behavioral problems, but Garoutte said these problems usually don't mean the end of the match.

Because the program can only afford to pay one case manager right now, cases are accepted by referral only. Even then, Garoutte said, a child will have to wait about six months to a year before they are matched with a volunteer.

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