

# Ducks miss starters at weekend losses

By Jayson Jacoby  
Emerald Sports Reporter

Playing the third- and tenth-ranked volleyball teams in the country on successive nights is quite a challenge.

But facing third-ranked and defending national champion UCLA and tenth-ranked and undefeated USC without the services of starters Marcie Price (broken finger) and senior team captain Mindee Adams (shin splints) proved too much for the Oregon Ducks over the weekend.

The losses to the Bruins and the Trojans drop the Ducks' Pacific-10 Conference record to 0-2, 10-4 overall.

A McArthur Court crowd of 581 on Saturday watched Oregon push the 6-0 Trojans to four games, but the Ducks couldn't find the consistency they needed to pull out a win.

"We struggled most of the night," Oregon coach Gerry Gregory said. "At times we blocked well, but no compo-

ment of our game was consistently strong, which we need to beat USC next time."

Marcela Morales and Katie Haller each had four kills as Southern Cal won the last eight points to win the first game, 15-7.

Oregon rebounded in the second game behind a strong blocking line and five kills from senior Dawnn Charroin to win 15-10. Senior Molly McGrath and freshman Stephanie Warren combined on a game-ending block.

Haller had 13 kills in the final two games as the Trojans closed out the match, 15-7, 15-6. Haller led USC with 18 kills and Stefanie Bodison added 13.

Warren had a strong game for the Ducks, collecting 10 kills and a team-high 13 digs. Charroin led Oregon with 11 kills.

The four-game loss prevented the Ducks from achieving a split for the homestand, after they were dominated by UCLA

a night earlier, 15-3, 15-7, 15-8.

All-American Natalie Williams led the Bruin attack with 15 kills, and Elaine Youngs added 12 kills.

"UCLA is a very talented and powerful team," Gregory said. "And we started three freshmen (LaReina Woods, Stephanie Warren, Angee Henderson) against a pre-season number one team."

The Ducks never got any momentum going during the three games. After Oregon took a 2-0 lead in the second game, the Bruins scored nine of the next 10 points to take control.

Charroin led the Ducks with seven kills, and Woods added six kills and eight digs.

The Bruins' record now stands at 2-0 in Pac-10 play, 7-1 overall.

Gregory remained optimistic after the two losses, and says he believes Oregon will be a better team when it meets the two Southern California schools lat-

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Photo by John Stoops

Oregon's LaReina Woods attempts to spike the ball past University of Southern California lines. The Trojans beat the Ducks after four games.

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