

Beavers crush wounded Ducks in Civil War volleyball

By Jayson Jacoby
Emerald Sports Reporter

Oregon suffers its first shutout game since 1979

CORVALLIS — The Oregon volleyball team continued its downward skid Friday night in what was probably its most disappointing loss of the season, a quick three-game sweep at the hands of in-state rival Oregon State, 15-10, 15-0, 15-3.

The second-game shutout was the first time the Ducks had been held scoreless in a game since 1979, when Oregon failed to score in a game against Washington.

Oregon State hadn't shut out an opponent since 1983.

The loss, Oregon's sixth straight and ninth in 10 match-

es, dropped the Ducks' Pacific-10 Conference record to 1-8 and 11-10 overall. The Beavers improved to 2-7 in the Pac-10 and 10-12 overall. Oregon is now alone in ninth place in the conference, ahead of only winless Arizona.

"This really shocked me," Oregon Coach Gerry Gregory said. "I thought we would be competitive with this team. We were outplayed in every aspect of the game."

Hitting percentage was probably the statistic most indicative of the match, as the Ducks were out-hit .407 to .032. Oregon State racked up 38 kills

compared to only 22 for Oregon, and the Beavers committed only three attack errors in 86 total attempts, compared to 19 errors in 94 attempts for the Ducks.

Oregon State hit at a .444 clip in the game-two shutout and committed no errors in the final game for a sizzling .667 percentage. Oregon hit at a negative percentage in both games.

Oregon's only lead in the match came at 1-0 in the first game, but after that Oregon State dominated. The Beavers scored 21 straight points during one stretch that included parts of the second and third games.

Oregon State Coach David Gantt said Oregon's injury problems played a part in the rout.

"We played real well," Gantt said, "but part of our being able to play well was that Oregon's injuries made them unable to do the things they normally do. Everything clicked for us tonight, especially in games two and three. This was one of the better matches we've played all year."

Oregon again played without senior starters Mindee Adams and Molly McGrath. Adams has been out for a month with a stress fracture in her ankle, and McGrath went down two weeks ago with a back injury. Both players are questionable for this weekend's home matches with the Arizona schools.

Dawn Charroin led Oregon

with nine kills, nine digs and two service aces. Ali Watkins added four kills and seven digs, and setter Kalie Kerr contributed 16 assists and eight digs.

Shelly Smith had 10 kills to lead the Beavers, and Leslie Preiss added nine kills and eight digs. Lisa Hecht had a match-high 14 digs for Oregon State.

Friday's Civil War match was played in front of 1,643 fans, the largest crowd of the season for the Ducks.

Oregon starts the second half of the Pac-10 season Friday night in McArthur Court with a 7:30 match against Arizona. The Ducks' sole conference win this season came against the Wildcats in Tucson two weeks ago. Oregon then takes on Arizona State Saturday night in a 7:30 match.

FLU

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all and become the first collegiate finisher in 24:17.

Other Oregon runners quickly followed Dalton into the finishing chute, with Lemora finishing eighth in 24:39 and Pat Haller taking 13th in 24:44.

Alan Foster, picking up some of the slack caused by Maris' withdrawal, ran his best race of the year to finish 21st in 25:05. Tye Van Schoiack, also suffering from the flu, made a wild sprint down the straightaway to pass three Washington runners and secure the fifth and final scoring place for the Ducks.

After some tense moments around the scorers' desk, it was tabulated that the Ducks had narrowly defeated Club Northwest, a team comprised of ex-collegiate runners, by three points, 55-58. Only four points separated the next three teams, as Dartmouth (76) prevailed over Washington (78) and University of Portland (80).

After the race, Dalton explained why he was able to cover the final mile so quickly compared to his competitors.

"I've been training a lot on

soft surfaces like grass and bark trails recently, so I was used to running on the wood chip surface we had today," he said.

Dalton, a native Australian who hopes to compete in his country's Olympic trials in either the 1,500- or 5,000-meter events in February, commented on how his season is progressing.

"I'm right where I want to be," he said. "My training is going well and I'm improving. This is just my second race of the season, so I'll be ready for the Pac-10 meet (in two weeks).

"As a team, I know we'll be in the top five at nationals, but if everyone has a good day, we'll have a shot at first."

Oregon Coach Bill Dellinger thought the Ducks had performed well considering the injuries and the flu.

"I'm pleased we won even without Andy Maris, who is usually our number four runner," he said. "Alan Foster had an outstanding race, and Tye Van Schoiack gutted out a good race. Even with our problems, we accomplished our goals of winning our home meet and defeating a ranked team from back East."

RUNNERS

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take to Palo Alto.

"We redetermined our top six runners," Heinonen said. "Monica's likely to make the trip, but I reserve the right to make the final decision."


He added the next two weeks he will try to balance out hard workouts and plenty of rest.

"We will have 10 days of hard training," Heinonen said. "But we have the opportunity to rest or at least have the option to have rest days."

Oregon finished the meet in first place with 21 points. The Ducks were followed by Washington with 60, Nike-Portland at 65, Dartmouth with 111, Central Oregon Community College with 132, University of Portland with 163, and Western Oregon State with 202.

Former NCAA 10,000-meter champion Sylvia Mosqueda was supposed to run in the meet but came down with the flu and was unable to compete.

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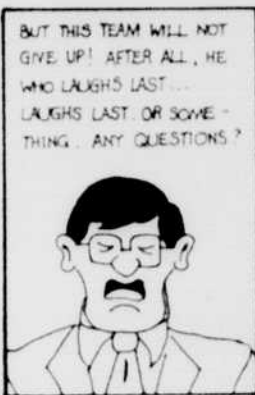
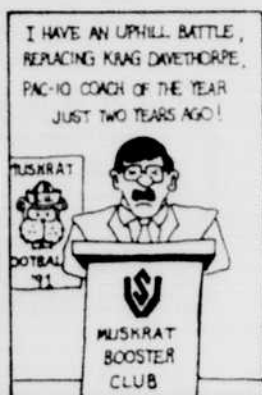
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