



Tennis coach gets 300th win

By Peter Alfrey
Emerald Contributor

Oregon men's tennis coach Buzz Summers joined the 300 club last month.

Summers gained his 300th collegiate victory as the Ducks downed Bradley, 8-1, in Normal, Ill., on Oct. 17. His overall record of 300-243 moves him past all Oregon coaches.

By being the winningest coach in Oregon history, Summers has made quite a mark in Duck tennis history. He still enjoys his job, even after 25 years of coaching.

"It's fun," Summers said. "It's good to be with the kids, and Eugene is a great place."

Although the sophistication of tennis has changed, Summers feels that today's players haven't changed much from those of long ago.

"There's not much difference," Summers said. "All the players thrive on competition and love the game. Now, the equipment has changed and there are more players playing at a higher level of competition, but overall, the attitude hasn't changed."

By playing in the Pacific-10 Conference, Oregon competes in what many consider to be one of the best tennis conferences, if not the best, in the country. The Ducks have often found it difficult competing with power schools like Stanford, UCLA and USC.

Summers believes the Oregon tennis program has some disadvantages that keep it from being at the top of the Pac-10.

"We have a lack of funds, which keeps us from granting scholarships to quality players," he said. "Plus, lacking an indoor facility also hurts. When trying to recruit certain players, I try to emphasize the school's environment and emphasis on academics. In terms of recruiting, that's where we're strongest."

Summers also feels that this year's team should be better than ones from past seasons.

"I think we have more depth this year compared to past seasons," Summers said. "Unfortunately, I had to drop many good players since only 10 make the team."

"I think we will be very competitive in the Pac-10 Northern Division (which includes Oregon, Washington and Washington State) and will be tough against the southern schools."

The much-improved Ducks go on the road Nov. 20, traveling north to face Portland. Then they head to Hawaii for a Nov. 25-28 trip to face Chamaine, BYU-Hawaii, Drake and Hawaii.

With the typical budget problems and with a deeper team, Summers seems right at home coaching the Oregon men's tennis team and leading it to a brighter future.

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