

Women's tennis team aces foes

By Mark Baker
Emerald Contributor

The Oregon women's tennis team took advantage of a beautiful weekend and sprayed a little sunshine on its program by winning all 27 of its matches against Portland State and Portland on Friday and Pacific Lutheran Saturday at the outdoor campus courts.

In fact, Oregon, 9-7 overall, didn't lose a singles or doubles set the entire weekend as the Ducks dominated all three opponents, winning 218 games to 33 in singles and 108 to 24 in doubles.

Freshman Kara Yoshida, Oregon's No. 1 singles player, led the team to victory by winning both her singles matches 6-0, 6-0. Yoshida defeated Safaa El-Mansy, Portland's No. 2 singles player, and triumphed by Pacific Lutheran's Bridget Rundle Saturday to improve her season record to 4-4.

"It feels good (to win)," Yoshida said. "We've had a lot of tough matches to this point, but it wasn't as easy as the scores would indicate."

Yoshida used her rocket-like serve and showed her prowess in controlling the ball until she could catch her opponents off-guard and overpower them.

Yoshida wasn't the only Duck who completely dominated her opposition. Other players who

won their singles matches without losing a single game included Katie Glynn, Heather Updike, and Tracey Miller, who all won matches against Portland 6-0, 6-0.

Oregon's No. 2 singles player, Sherry Fairgrieve, defeated Portland State's Nicole Mayes also by a score of 6-0, 6-0. Miller, Cynthia Armstrong and Jessica Roy also beat their Portland State opponents 6-0, 6-0, and Krissy Barger won against PLU's Joni Roback on Saturday in another 6-0, 6-0 sweep.

Yoshida and Fairgrieve warmed the Vikings' tandem of Mayes and Susie Warmoth in the doubles competition 6-0, 6-0 Friday.

The only close singles match of the weekend was when Glynn held off PLU's Melinda Wilson 6-4, 7-5 Saturday.

Although Glynn's match was really the only threat to a perfect weekend, Glynn and Yoshida struggled against PLU's doubles team of Shannon Tilly and Rundle before prevailing 6-2, 6-4.

Oregon coach Tom Greider realized the Ducks' competition was not quite up to par with Oregon.

"All three teams don't have the depth that we have," he said. "With our top four players in there, it's going to be pretty difficult for them."

Oregon next plays Whitman College March 15 at the campus courts, beginning at 10 a.m.



Photo by Michael Shindler

Oregon's leading scorer Antoine Stoudamire gets a shot off only to find OSU's 6-10 Scott Haskin in the way.

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second half, and for a while, the Ducks seemed up to the task.

Stoudamire scored Oregon's first seven points of the second half, including a three-pointer and an incredible twisting lay-in that upped the advantage to 27-23 with 17:55 remaining.

Although the Beavers improved their shooting drastically in the second half, hitting a sizzling 70 percent (16 of 23), the Ducks did nearly as well at 62 percent (13 of 22). The biggest difference

— and the one that was the most important during Oregon State's decisive 11-0 stretch — was three-point shooting.

Oregon State made 7 of 10 treys in the second half, including three during the 11-0 run. Oregon did make four of eight, but three of those came during the final four minutes after the game had been decided.

Oregon didn't have much scoring other than Stoudamire. Williams did get 16, but half of his points came in the final 3:26. Patterson, Potter and Johnnie Reece combined for the remaining 10 points.

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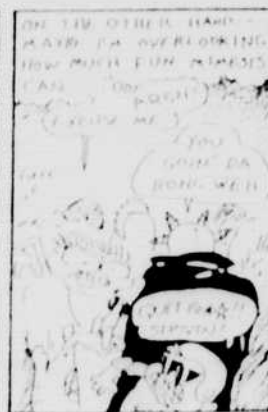
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