VOLLEYBALL / TENNIS

Ducks look for win over lowly 'Cats

By Erick Studenicka **Emerald Sports Reporter**

The Oregon volleyball team will attempt to improve on its 1-7 record and move out of the Pacific-10 Conference cellar this weekend as the Ducks host Arizona and Arizona State at McArthur Court.

Saturday's match with Arizona looms especially large, as Arizona figures to be a team the Ducks have an excellent chance to beat. Arizona went winless in the Pac-10 a year ago (0-18) and is rebuilding under first-year coach David Rubio.

The Wildcats have already improved on last year's win total, however, as they beat California last week for their first conference win in two years.

Arizona assistant coach Liz Towne said the team shouldn't be compared to last year's 0-18 squad. "We have a young team

which is comprised of a lot of new players. We're probably the only team in the Pac-10 which is starting a freshman at setter.' Towne said. "We've got a new coach and a new coaching philosophy, so last year's record won't tell you much about our team.

No matter how improved the Wildcats are. Oregon outside hitter LaReina Woods said she will be disappointed if the Ducks don't beat Arizona.

'We should crush them in three games," Woods said. "It would almost be embarrassing if we lost to Arizona at home.

Woods said that despite losses at UCLA and USC last weekend, the team has been playing much better.

'Our middle blockers, Anne Conway, Marcie Price and Karissa Meith, have been unstoppable in recent games,' Woods said.

The Arizona match, originally

scheduled for Saturday night and then rescheduled to Sunday morning because of the time conflict with the Washington football game, has once again been rescheduled for Saturday afternoon at 12:30 p.m.

Arizona State enters McArthur Court Friday night for a 7 p.m. start with a sub-.500 Pac-10 winning percentage (3-4) but a top-20 ranking (18th), one of six Pac-10 schools within the top 25. UCLA, with its 13-0 overall record remains No. 1 in the polls, followed closely by conference rival Stanford (12-2).

The Sun Devils are led by freshman outside hitter Christine Garner, who is among the conference leaders in kills (4.16 per game) and hitting percentage (.316). Statistical leaders for the Ducks include Stephanie Warren in the kill department (2.62) and Karissa Meith in hitting percentage (.205).

Men's tennis kicks off fall season in tourney

The Oregon men's tennis team will begin the 1992-1993 fall season with a trio of non-conference matches this weekend at the campus courts.

Starting Thursday and going through Sunday, the Ducks host a five-team tournament that includes Hawaii, Idaho, Illinois State and Portland. Oregon begins the 1992 campaign today with a 2 p.m. match against Illinois State, an 8:30 a.m. start against Idaho Saturday and a 9 a.m. match against Hawaii on Sunday.

The Ducks did not face Idaho last year but will be looking to repeat last season's triumph over Hawaii, a match that Oregon won 5-4.

This is the best talent I've had," Rainbows' head coach lim Schwitters said. "But I expect some tough competition for our guys this weekend."

Oregon is hoping to improve upon last season's 12-12 record and second-place finish to Washington in the Pac-10 Northern Division.

Head coach Buzz Summers' tentative lineup for this weekend ranks Lee Kirner, Rob Atkin, Christian Oelke, Dara Partovi and Jon Amundson, respectively. Oregon's doubles teams are seeded Kirner/Atkin, Oclke/Amundson and Partovi/Prager, respectively



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