

# Ducks look to avenge losses to Bears, Cards

By Erick Studenicka  
Emerald Sports Reporter

The Oregon volleyball team will be looking to avenge two early season losses this weekend as the squad travels to the Bay Area for matches against Cal-Berkeley and Stanford.

Oregon players have been looking forward to playing Cal ever since their Sept. 25 meeting at McArthur Court. Oregon played horribly that night, losing 3-1 and prompting an hour-long team meeting in which coach Gerry Gregory questioned the players desire to win.

"Out of all of our losses, the most disappointing was to Cal," said Oregon outside hitter Stephanie Warren. "It was our home opener and we won the first game, but then we just gave up. Everyone on the team feels we should have beaten them."

The Ducks are coming off their best weekend of the year, having split with the Arizona schools at home last weekend. The Ducks looked especially impressive in their loss against Arizona State, taking the No. 18 ranked team in the country to five games.

Warren, who was nominated for the Pacific-10 Conference player of the week after recording 22 kills against Arizona last week, said the Cal match forced Gregory to intensify the team's workouts.


"Ever since the Cal match, coach has made the practices really tough," Warren said. "We've been concentrating on playing a total match, rather than just playing one or two good games and then letting down."

While the Ducks figure to have a good shot at beating Cal, it will take a major upset for Oregon to defeat Stanford, ranked No. 2 in the nation.


Stanford defeated No. 4 Pacific on Wednesday and appears to be UCLA's only serious competition for the Pac-10 title. Stanford's only loss came at the hands of UCLA in a 16-14 fifth game thriller on Oct. 2.

Stanford head coach Don Shaw said that he has heard "good things" about Oregon's play in recent weeks.

"Gerry (Gregory) and I are good friends, and he seems a lot more satisfied with their level of play in recent weeks," Shaw said. "During early season matches, Oregon had a tendency to give up late in a match. The difference in their play now is that they're not giving up."

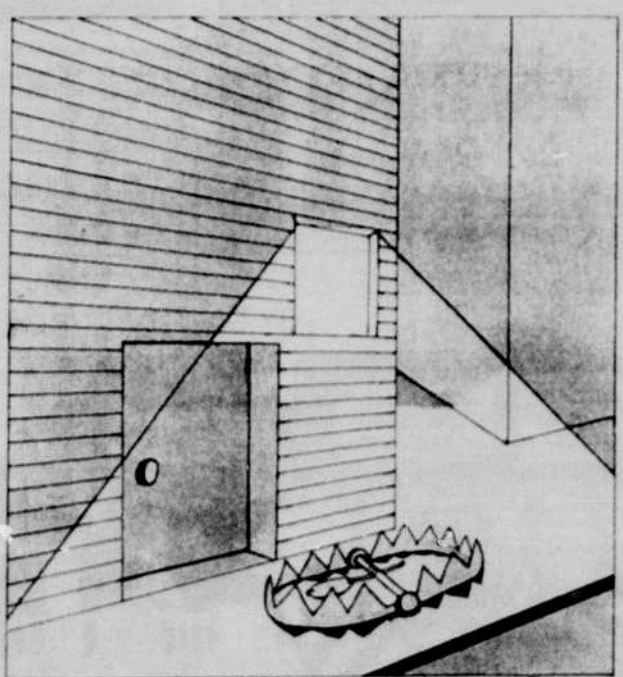
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