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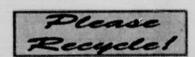


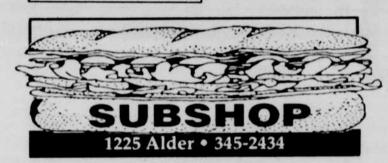
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Oregon wraps up troubled year

By Erick Studenicka Emerald Sports Reporter

The Oregon volleyball team wraps up its "rebuilding" season this weekend with home matches against Washington State and Washington.

The Ducks, currently mired in last place in the Pacific-10 Conference with a 2-14 record, must win at least one match this weekend if they wish to avoid tying the 1988 Oregon squad for the worst single season record in school history.

"We've come a long way since the beginning of the season," sophomore outside hitter Stephanie Warren said. "The only thing is every other team in the Pac-10 has improved

Oregon opened its Pac-10 season with away matches against the Washington schools, dropping a three-game match in Seattle and a fourgame match in Pullman.

Warren said despite a sevenmatch losing streak, the team has every intention of winning this weekend.

"We played well the first match at Washington State and had an early lead, but we ended up giving the match away." Warren said. "We've worked on some things and made some changes that should help us.".

Another factor that should help the Ducks is the improved health of outside hitter LaReina Woods. Woods has a nagging shoulder injury that has hampered her throughout the season, but she has been playing well in practice this week and should be 100 percent for the weekend's matches.

Warren has led the Ducks in kills for 10 consecutive matches and has an excellent chance of making the all-conference team. Middle blocker Karissa Meith, averaging 1.38 kills per game, also has a good shot at making the all-conference freshman team.

LSU football players suspended

BATON ROUGE, La. (AP) - Four players have been suspended by Louisiana State University for its final game of the season against Tulane, the school said Thursday in citing an unspecified "violation of team rules and use of poor judgment."

The suspended players were identified as freshman quarterback Jamie Howard, sophomore noseguard Jason Smothers, junior fullback Byron Allen and non-roster freshman wide receiver Wylin Williams.

Howard has played in seven games and started the last six for the Tigers at quarterback and

Allen has played in all nine games on special teams. Smothers played in only the first two games before sustaining a season-ending injury and Williams, a member of the scout squad, has not played this season.

The Advocate newspaper said the four were questioned and released by city police early Tuesday in connection with a barroom brawl, but the university quoted coach Curley Hallman as saying the four fought no one.

"This has been a very unfortunate situation for everyone who is involved," Hallman said.



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rice Wilson in the fourth

Oregon State's offense has run other "trick" plays this year and has been relatively successful. Brooks said that one of the hardest things to do as a team against the option is stay awake.

"They run the ball so much, it's easy to fall into a pattern of expecting the run,"

Brooks said.

Brooks does not expect to hold the Beavers to less than 100 yards, but does hope for a better performance from his defensive line.

Oregon State coach Jerry Pettibone said it is Oregon's defense that worries him the

"The strength of Oregon is its defense," he said. "The Washington coaches told us that next to Arizona, Oregon's the toughest defense."





