

Ducks continue slide in Arizona

By Scott Simonson
Oregon Daily Emerald

The Oregon volleyball team is having trouble winning tough matches right now. And because easy matches are virtually nonexistent in the Pacific-10 Conference, Oregon is having trouble winning anything besides moral victories.

Oregon lost to Arizona State 15-11, 15-7 and 15-6 Friday in Tempe, but it improved upon Thursday night's performance against Arizona, head coach Gerry Gregory said.

Unfortunately, the Ducks didn't use the road trip to build on a solid showing against nationally ranked USC last weekend, he said.

"That was a real discouragement, especially versus Arizona," he said. "Against Arizona State, we were more competitive. We really hung tough into the second game."

The Arizona State match was Oregon's sixth straight loss. The Ducks' record fell to 0-5 in the Pac-10 and 3-10 overall. Gregory said the matches against the Wildcats and Sun Devils followed the same pattern.

"We competed pretty hard in the first game of both matches," he said. "But we had letdowns at the end of that game."

Against both opponents, the Ducks weren't able to maintain the level of play they displayed at the opening of the match, Gregory said.

"Also, in the last game against both Arizona and Arizona State, we passed poorly," Gregory said.

Gregory praised the play of swing hitter Amy

McNeel and setter/swing hitter Kalie Kerr in the match against the Sun Devils.

"Amy McNeel passed very well against Arizona State," Gregory said. "Kalie Kerr had some good blocks and played some good defense for us."

Gregory also commended quick hitter Karissa Meith for "a real good hitting match against Arizona."

As Oregon prepares for home games against Washington and Washington State this weekend, Gregory said the Ducks have made some lineup changes. He said Kerr, who started the season as setter, was primarily an outside hitter for Oregon in the Arizona State match, and Anna Gomez took over as setter.

"We think we have found a lineup that will be successful for us," Gregory said.

Gregory said the Ducks need work in two areas in order to end their losing streak.

Gregory emphasized that the Ducks have been hampered by injuries that have limited chances for the team to prepare for games the way it should.

"The biggest key right now is that we must have the team physically healthy for practice," he said.

Gregory said the Ducks must also focus on winning close games.

"What we need to do now is work on starting fast and being able to finish strong. When we get to double digits, we need to be able to win the game. What's been happening is that we'll play well for 20 minutes, then we'll have a string of two or three minutes when we lose concentration."

Cross country teams finish second

By Dave Charbonneau
Oregon Daily Emerald

The Oregon women's cross country team rode a first-place finish by freshman Milena Glusac to finish second at the Sundodger Invitational in Seattle Saturday.

Glusac, running in only her second race as a collegian, won the race by a comfortable six seconds over Arkansas' Megan Flowers and Sara Schwald. Flowers and Schwald's two-three finish helped the Razorbacks run away with the team title with 30 points. The Ducks were well behind top-ranked Arkansas with 66.

"Milena ran even better than last week," head coach Tom Heinonen said. "She was really determined to run strongly

against her high school rivals today."

Besides having the top finisher in the race, Oregon had a strong overall performance. Jenna Carlson and Niamh Zwagerman finished within a second of each other, taking fifth and sixth.

Melody Fairchild was the Ducks' fourth finisher, taking 24th overall despite falling early in the race. Jill Callero was Oregon's final point-scorer as she took 36th.

Glusac, a true freshman from California, continued to make a smooth transition from high school national champion to a top collegian. Last weekend, Glusac took on a top field and finished second at the Mountain West Invitational.

In men's action, Oregon took second at the Willamette Invitational in Salem, despite running without its top runners.

John Dimoff and Goss Lindsey led the way for the Ducks, finishing sixth and seventh respectively. Jason Humble also ran strong, taking 11th.

Former Oregon runner Shannon Lemora won the race and was followed by another former Duck, Danny Lopez.

Central Oregon Community College won the team title with 46 points, followed by Oregon with 93 and Humboldt State with 100.

Both the men and the women will have next week off to prepare for the Jeff Drenth Memorial Oct. 16 at Eugene's Alton Baker Park.

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STANFORD	Nov. 13	1:00 p.m.
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