

# Volleyball faces tough home games

By Scott Simonson  
Oregon Daily Emerald

Oregon volleyball head coach Gerry Gregory said his team has made some real improvements in recent weeks and thinks it is capable of beating anybody it plays.

Gregory also said, "Talk is cheap. We have to prove we're capable."

Oregon, its confidence bolstered by strong efforts in losses against two of the nation's premier teams in the past two weeks, plays home matches against Arizona and Arizona State this weekend.

The Ducks, 1-10 in the Pacific-10 Conference and 4-15 overall, are back at home after two weekend road trips to California. Oregon was 0-4 against the Pac-10 schools from California, but three of the four teams have been ranked in the top 10 nationally throughout the season.

Gregory was pleased with Oregon's effort in matches against Cal, No. 3 Stanford and No. 1 UCLA. The Ducks' most recent match, a 15-13, 15-10, 13-15, 15-8 loss to UCLA, which is undefeated this season, drew especially high praise from Gregory.

"That's the best performance we've had at UCLA in the history of our program," he said. "That's also one of the best teams UCLA has ever had."

It wasn't a win, but it was a confidence builder. If there is to be a turning point for Oregon this season, it may have occurred against the Bruins. Key perfor-



Oregon swing hitter LaReina Woods gets set for a pass as fellow teammate Angee Henderson, who plays quick hitter, looks on.

mances by quick hitter Angee Henderson and swing hitters LaReina Woods and Kalie Kerr highlighted the match.

Now, Arizona and Arizona State come to town. Oregon plays the Wildcats, ranked 21st in the nation, Friday at 7 p.m. Oregon plays the Sun Devils, ranked 17th nationally, Saturday at 7 p.m. Both teams beat the Ducks earlier in the season.

"Both Arizona State and Arizona will be a real challenge. Both have proved they're fine teams," Gregory said. "Both schools beat Cal and Stanford last

weekend. Sweeping the Bay Area schools is not an easy thing to do, so we know that they're worthy opponents."

Gregory said the Ducks have both the confidence and the ability necessary to win against the Arizona schools.

"I expect that if we do the job we're supposed to do, we'll see two great matches," he said. "There really is more pressure on the Arizona schools than there is on us. We are considerably better than our record, and I think if they take us lightly they will be making a mistake."

# Ducks show new guys

By Dave Charbonneau  
Oregon Daily Emerald

Jerry Green has yet to see them actually play basketball in an Oregon uniform, or practice jerseys for that matter.

But one thing seems obvious talking to the veterans of the Oregon men's basketball team: The Ducks' six new guys are damn good.

"I love 'em," Oregon guard Orlando Williams said. "I haven't seen this much talent since my redshirt year when I watched Terrell Brandon, Jerry Reynolds and Richard Lucas."

Duck forward Jeff Potter, who will be starting his third season with Oregon, smiled big when asked about the new talent.

"They're really good," Potter said. "You don't see them in magazines, but they're great people and great players."

The Ducks held media day Wednesday at McArthur Court to introduce Jerry Green's new players, six to be exact.

Because of NCAA regulations, Green is virtually not allowed to even be in the same room as his player if there is a basketball around, so Green has no idea about how this team will gel once official practices begin Saturday.

But the players seem to have a pretty good idea already.

"The last two years haven't been the greatest," Potter said,

"but already, I can see a lot of difference between this year's and last year's teams. The pick-up games are a lot more intense."

One of the new guys, freshman guard Kenya Wilkins, said he's already excited about playing in Mac Court.

"I hear it gets really loud and shakin' in here," he said. "That's what I've always thought college basketball was all about."

Wilkins is the one player Green expects to get playing time right off the bat, but added that juniors will not get seniority over the incoming freshmen.

"Our freshmen are going to have to play," Green said. "And if our freshmen play better than our juniors, they'll be the ones playing."

Besides Wilkins, the other incoming freshmen include guards Henry Madden and Jamar Curry. Joining those three as Green's first recruiting group are junior transfers Brion Smith at guard, Darryl Parker at forward and Zach Sellers at center.

The Ducks will introduce their new members and the rest of the team with "Late Night With Jerry Green," at McArthur Court Monday beginning at 7 p.m. The first 500 people through the gate get a free T-shirt and the first 5,000 fans get a glow-in-the-dark necklace.

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