

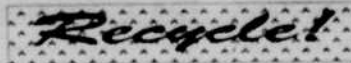
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# Oregon volleyball loses two matches

By Scott Simonson  
Oregon Daily Emerald

The Oregon volleyball team improves with almost every match. The question now is whether its improvement will be measured in the win column before the season ends.

"This team has got a lot of wins ahead of it. I don't know how soon that's going to happen, but we're on the right track," head coach Gerry Gregory said.

This weekend, Oregon lost to Arizona, ranked 21st nationally, and Arizona State, ranked 17th nationally. The Ducks' record fell to 1-12 in the Pacific-10 conference and 4-17 for the season.

Neither opponent had an easy time with the Ducks. Oregon has proved that it is capable of playing a competitive match with any team it faces. However, in a conference where at least seven opponents have been ranked in the top 25 nationally this season, competitiveness alone seldom guarantees a win.

Oregon's match against Arizona on Friday was alarmingly predictable. Oregon led 11-10 in the first game before allowing five consecutive points by the Wildcats to end the game. The Ducks lost the second game 15-10.

The match appeared destined for a fourth game after Oregon led 12-4 in the third, but the Wildcats had history on their side. Arizona didn't panic; it attacked. Oregon collapsed, and Arizona won the game 15-12.

Top Oregon performers in the match included quick hitter Angee Henderson, with 14 kills and a .294 hitting percentage, and setter Anna Gomez, with 14 digs.

Duck fans were left wondering what might have been had Oregon's leader in kills per game average, quick hitter Karissa Meith, not missed the match with an ankle injury.

The Ducks started slowly, making mistakes and finding few holes in the Sun Devil defense. It lost the first game 15-4. Solid blocking helped Oregon open up a quick lead in the second game, which it held onto to win 15-11.

Oregon lost a hard-fought third game 15-12. ASU grabbed a quick 7-0 lead in the fourth.

Swing hitter Amy McNeel's 32 digs were the most by any Duck player in a game this season. Swing hitter LaReina Woods had 27 blocks. Henderson had 20 kills, and Meith added 16.

"We played much better as the match went on. I felt like we were in the match and had a chance to win," Gregory said. "I've got a lot of respect for Karissa Meith tonight. She couldn't play last night, and I know her ankle felt like it was going to fall off. She showed a lot of courage."



Jeff Paslay/Emerald  
Oregon's Amy McNeel had 32 digs, a team high this season, againsts Arizona St. Saturday.

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# Duck women finish fourth at meet

By Dave Charbonneau  
Oregon Daily Emerald

It was the type of day that Oregon's cross country team doesn't see that often.

Both the men's and the women's team came away with disappointing performances at the Pacific-10 Conference Championships, failing to successfully defend their titles in Palo Alto, Calif., Saturday.

The men failed to place a runner in the top 10 and finished third, 17 points behind Washington, which edged rival Washington State, 67-70.

The Huskies were able to overcome a 1-2 finish by the Cougars' Josephat Kapkory and Patrick Muturi by placing four scorers in the top 15.

Oregon's top finisher was John Dimoff, who took 11th.

"Even as well as John ran, we should have had about three guys in front of him," Oregon men's coach Bill Dellinger said. "I'm not real happy with the way we ran. We're capable of better."

"Washington ran a good race and deserved to win. There's a lot of room for improvement for our team, and we're going to have to do it if we're going to do anything at the district meet."

Karl Keska was Oregon's second finisher at 13th, and Tracy Hollister finished 17th. The Ducks' other two scorers were Jason Humble (21st) and Rick Cantwell (22nd).

For the women, Oregon freshman Milena Glusac

led for most of the race but lost the lead in the downhill stretch to finish third overall. Melody Fairchild ran her best race as a Duck, taking fifth. But Stanford was able to beat second-place Arizona by ten points, placing all five scorers in the top 15. The Cardinal finished with 55 points. UCLA finished third with 71, seven points ahead of the Ducks.

Oregon's Niamh Zwagerman was the third Oregon scorer, finishing 16th. The other two scorers for the Ducks were Jenna Carlson (22nd) and Joni Wareham (32nd).

"I was so confident in our abilities beforehand that this is a shock," women's coach Tom Heinonen said. "We fell off the horse today, and we need to get back on and ride or we won't make it to nationals."

"It was a disappointing performance, although Milena and Melody ran quite well. Now is the time for us to get it together for the rest of the season."

Both the men and the women won Pac-10 titles, and for the women, it was only the second time in eight years that they failed to win the conference championship.

The Oregon teams will get a chance to redeem themselves in two weeks at the District VIII meet in Woodland, Wash. The top two teams at district automatically qualify for the NCAA championships later in November.

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