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Women's tennis hosts big tourney

By Sean Forsha
For the Oregon Daily Emerald

The Oregon women's tennis team will host the NorPac Tennis Championships this weekend and head coach Tom Greider hopes his players will bring what they have learned from the season into this crucial meet.

"All the matches so far this season have been practice for this weekend," Greider said. "I'm excited to see our hard work pay off."

The women's most recent practice came over spring break in Southern California, where they went 3-3 to improve their overall record to 11-6-1. The Ducks handily defeated Montana State 6-3, Cal State Fullerton 6-0 and Long Beach State 5-2. The losses came from Colorado 1-8, Nebraska 4-5 and Loyola Marymount 4-5.

"Colorado blasted us," Greider stated. "But we were in position to win both the Nebraska and LMU matches."

Weather has been a mighty foe for the women this season and once again rain played a role in last week's contests. The doubles teams were unable to compete in three of the matches, losing opportunities to gain valuable experience.

While on the road, Krissy Barger captured the top spot on Oregon's career singles win list. She

leads the team this season with 13 victories and is 66-38 for her career. Congratulations also go out to the doubles team of Kara Yoshida and Sherry Fairgrieve, who with victories over St. Mary's and Nevada in early March, now reign as the top pair in career victories.

Heading into this weekend Greider says his team is healthy and physically ready for the stiff competition they will face. Oregon will match-up against Washington and Washington State, the other two teams in the Pacific-10 Conference Northern Division.

Both teams bring strong players to the tournament. Washington returns its top six players from last year and WSU returns four of its six players from the previous season. Washington will be looking for its unprecedented tenth tournament victory while Oregon hopes hosting the contest will help it grab the trophy for the first time since the tournaments debut in 1974.

The round-robin style tournament begins Friday, April 1, at 2:00 p.m. and will continue throughout the weekend. Finals are scheduled to start on Friday and Saturday at 5:00 p.m. and Sunday at 12:30 p.m. All matches will be played at the University's 15th Avenue courts.

TATE

Continued from Page 12

who originally told me Tate was leaving and they confirmed he was returning, so I really think he planned to do so.

The last time I saw Willy was March 18th, and I expected him to be returning to Oregon. However, Tate informed me that once again he had decided to leave Eugene and give up on football, this time for real. He had made the permanent decision to go to another city on the west coast and look for something he lost: passion.

Right now Tate is starting out at a small-time job with no idea what he is looking for, but he'll know it when he feels it. He'll know because it will feel just like it did when he began playing

football a few years ago. It's the type of thing that you wake up thinking about, work hard at all day and then think about some more before you go to bed.

This type of passion is something that most people never find. Most people settle for doing anything they need to in order to survive, whether they are enthralled by it or not.

This was not the existence Tate wanted. Tate could have stuck around another year, played football, got a degree and maybe even got a professional tryout. A tempting offer to say the least. This is the decision Tate had to make in the end: To put passion aside and settle for less than he wants, or go with his heart and look for something new.

Tate got tired of having to get up every day and be a football

player, to take all the hard shots, any one of which could cripple him for life. For a man with a lot of vision ahead of him, Tate was rolling the dice every time he went over the middle for a catch.

After a few months of doing his best Ross Perot imitation, Tate could very well return before next fall. A few months of working hard in a new town may bring that passion for football back once again.

Tate's decision to leave Oregon may be seen, to some, as a sort of mid-life crisis, with him wandering around not knowing what he wants. On the contrary, the real reason Willy Tate is gone is because he knows what he wants, and what he must do to find it.

Steve Mims is the sports editor of the Emerald.

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