

# Volleyball team remains winless in conference play

**Kris Henry**  
Oregon Daily Emerald

Oregon's volleyball squad dropped to 6-6 overall and 0-4 in the Pacific-10 Conference with a four-game loss to Washington State on Saturday night and a four-game loss to Washington on Thursday night.

After slipping past the Huskies in the first game, 17-15, Oregon was beaten 2-15, 14-16, 12-15 in the next three.

"We played very hard in three of the four games and came very close to pulling off a win," said head coach Gerry Gregory. "Washington serves really well and we didn't pass the ball enough to run our offense as much as we would have liked."

"We were really competitive in the first game and it was an evenly matched contest. Amy McNeel had a key block to spark the team when we were down 15-14. That block allowed us to come back and win."

Oregon was hurt by some ripping jump-serves in the second game and did not counterattack effectively in the third game. The Ducks put themselves in a big hole in the final game and were unable to recover from it. The Huskies jumped to a 14-7 lead in the final game and withstood a late charge from Oregon to eliminate the

Ducks.

Sophomore Amy McNeel and senior LaReina Woods led Oregon's offense with 11 kills each. The duo also were defensive leaders with 11 and 13 digs, respectively. Senior Angee Henderson chipped in with nine kills. Despite their efforts, Washington came up with 84 team kills to Oregon's 48. McNeel and sophomore Bettina Roth also scored three aces each while setter Anna Gomez added 28 assists.

"The third game was pivotal," Gregory said. "We were down 13-9 and came back to tie it up at 14. There was quite a series of side outs before Washington took the game. We were behind 14-9 in the fourth game also and took it to 14-12, but we could not get over that barrier."

Oregon struggled to get over the very same barrier two nights later against Washington State. The Ducks let several opportunities escape in a hard-fought match against the Cougars 12-15, 10-15, 15-5, 5-15.

"We played much better against the Cougars than we did against Washington," Gregory said. "We passed and served better but we need to eliminate the moments when we give up a string of points."

The Ducks played well in the first game, evening the


score at 12-12 before the Cougars took advantage of some passing errors at the end of the game. The second game was more of the same for Oregon as the team did not perform well at the end of the game after a 10-10 tie. The Ducks rebounded in the third game to dominate Washington State before the Cougars turned around to do the same in the fourth and final game of the match.

Washington State outhit Oregon .187 to .130 and came up with more team blocks at seven to four—well below each team's season average.

Oregon was led offensively by Roth, who led the team in hitting percentage at .303 and in kills with 16. McNeel and Woods remained hot offensively and defensively against the Cougars. Between the two, the duo accounted for 23 kills and 34 digs. Gomez chipped in with 42 assists.

"Amy and LaReina played really well the entire weekend," Gregory said. "Bettina played great offensively and was our leading blocker. Tia Stewart also came in and did a real good job."

The Ducks host California on Friday and top-ranked Stanford on Saturday. Both matches begin at 7:05 p.m. in Mac Court.



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