

Ducks face another road weekend

■ **TENNIS:** The women's team heads to Seattle while the men head to Southern California

By Ryan Frank

Freelance Sports Reporter

After competing in seven dual matches this season, Oregon's women's tennis team will compete in its first Pacific-10 Conference dual meet of the season against Washington today at 2:30 p.m. The Ducks will also play Colorado in Seattle, Saturday at 9:30 a.m.

Oregon will try to continue its winning ways after defeating San Jose State and Santa Clara last weekend.

"We haven't been challenged in dual meets," head coach Wade Judy said.

While he has been satisfied with his team's performance this season, Judy feels there are still areas to improve on.

This season Oregon has yet to host a women's tennis match and this weekend's event will be the

team's sixth road trip of the season. But Judy doesn't feel that the constant traveling has taken a toll on his team.

"Early in the season, traveling isn't bad," Judy said. "Our confidence is high after we have knocked off some good teams on the road. We believe in ourselves that we can take on ranked teams."

Judy has been satisfied with his team's performance so far this season but feels that his singles are playing at a higher level.

"Our doubles need some work," Judy said. "They are playing solid, but we just need to make sure that we are doing the right thing strategically."

The men's tennis team will be taking a road trip of its own as it takes on the University of California at Santa Barbara on Sunday, University of California at Irvine on Monday and UCLA on Tuesday. Currently the Bruins are ranked second in the nation and according to head coach Chris Russell, UC-Irvine is one of the top 45 teams in the nation.

"We want to play as many tough schools as possible," Russell said. "We want to play the best competition out there so we can improve quickly. It is not about winning and losing, it is about getting to the best level we can. Playing a tough schedule also helps with recruits; they see that opportunity to play against good teams."

Last weekend the Ducks were defeated by highly ranked Arizona State and Arizona in two matches that Russell doesn't feel that Oregon played up its capabilities.

"We talked after the matches last weekend and we didn't feel like we competed mentally like we can," Russell said. "They played hard physically, but not very good mentally. Our goal is to make everybody we play earn every point."

The men's tennis team has also done its share of traveling this season. The men have yet to host a match in 1996 and won't until Feb. 24 when Idaho comes to town.

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