



Senior Elise Adams looks to cap her Oregon career with a strong performance at the Pacific-10 Conference Championships on April 25.

Oregon's only senior looks to cap off successful career

■ **TENNIS:** One-time MVP Elise Adams has had to battle through injuries in her years at Oregon

By Ryan Frank
Freelance Sports Reporter

For someone known by her teammates as the "grandma" of the team, senior Elise Adams, 22, has had a good run while at Oregon.

In 1993, as a freshman, Adams set an Oregon women's tennis single-season record with 25 singles wins, and, along with Sara Willens, she won 19 doubles matches to place her second on the single-season doubles win list. In 1994 Adams teamed with Krissy Barger to record 16 doubles wins.

"It was exciting to have the work pay off," Adams said. "It's fun setting records as a freshman and sophomore."

Adams' performance in 1994 earned her the team's Most Valuable Player award.

"As a sophomore, getting the MVP was my most important accomplishment," Adams said. "It's something that the coach and the players elect you for and that makes it special."

But after Adams' MVP year her career took a downturn. After the Ducks' fall season in 1994 — Adams' junior year — she suffered a hamstring injury that she still has not fully recovered from. In the entire 1994-95 season Adams was able to compete in only two singles matches and nine doubles matches.

"I was out pretty much all last year," Adams said. "I was looking forward to a full year this year, but the pulled hamstring has held me back and it has been kind of tough. It has been frustrating and mentally challenging to get back into the mode of competition."

Head coach Wade Judy was impressed with Adams' ability to simply be able to compete again.

"Hamstring injuries are strange," Judy said. "You can do all the right things and then something will happen and the whole process will have to start over again. It happened three times where she was injured again. It's tough to bounce back from that. In fact, that she is playing is a test of perseverance. I don't think it has been easy for her, but her attitude has been good."

In her final season, Adams has been unable to retain the level of play that she reached in her first two years and has had mixed feelings about being the lone senior.

"It had its ups and downs," Adams said. "It is fun to be at that age and set examples because I have been at their age before. I didn't really feel like a senior — we all seem like we are the same age. But it was hard also not to have someone going through the same things as me."

Oregon had its last home match of the season last week against Eastern Washington, but unfortunately for Adams, she was out for the second straight match because of illness. Despite missing the last home match of her career, Adams will still have fond memories.

"Our last home match was really neat," Adams said. "The team recognized me and gave me flowers. It was an emotional moment."

After Adams graduates this spring she looks forward to a career outside of tennis, but she won't forget about her career at Oregon any time soon.

"I want to do something in sales for a couple of years and then go back and get my graduate degree," Adams said. "But it will be a lot harder than I thought to not have tennis in my life and not be around the girls so much."

"I've had some fun years with the coach and the team and all the traveling and playing," Adams said. "It will be hard not to have it in my life. I'll play for fun, but I'll miss the competition."

Adams' career will come to an end at next week's Pacific-10 Conference individual championships in Ojai, Calif. and she is looking to finish out the year on a good note.

"It is fun to go down there because we have always had nothing to lose and everything to gain," said Adams of the season-ending tournament. "I just want to play my best tennis and have a couple of real good matches. I think we should do real well."

If Adams is able to finish the season on a high note, it would be a nice touch on an unfortunate final two seasons.



Ducks put seven-game win streak on the line in Portland

■ **SOFTBALL:** Oregon travels to Portland State to take on the Vikings today before returning home for a doubleheader

By Chris Hansen
Sports Reporter

The Oregon softball team will look to extend its seven-game win streak and prime up for a tough weekend against two Pacific-10 Conference foes when it travels to Portland today to take on the Portland State Vikings in a non-conference doubleheader.

Oregon (19-17 overall, 5-5 in the Pac-10) has won 11 of its last 13 games and is above the .500 win mark for the first time all season. Portland State is currently a formidable 32-15 in the NCAA Division II ranks. Viking pitcher Beth Stidham is the team's top hurler with a 16-7 record, 1.31 ERA and 53 strikeouts. Stidham is scheduled to start one of the games this afternoon.

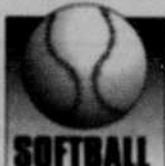
Earlier this season, Portland State split a twin bill with Puget Sound, who the Ducks swept handily last weekend. Offensively the Vikings are led by Renee Rahal, who is hitting .412 on the season with 35 hits.

The Ducks' seven-game win streak is a direct result of dominating pitching and timely hitting.

Sophomore pitcher Patrino Martinez (5-2, 3.06 ERA) and freshman pitcher Jennie Cook (9-6, 2.46 ERA), who are 3-0 and 4-0 respectively during the streak, have each

recorded a shutout while limiting opponents to an average of 1.5 runs per game.

Oregon's offense, on the other hand, has outscored its opponents 40-11 while averaging almost six runs a game. Senior Kathy Stahl (.432 average, five home runs and 33 RBI), junior Angie LeRoy (.425 average, 48 hits and 25 runs scored), sophomore Missy Koke (.342 average, 38 hits and 19 walks) and senior Lisa Preston (.333 average, 12 doubles and 30 RBI) lead the Ducks' explosive lineup.



On Monday, LeRoy was named the Pac-10 player of the week after collecting 13 hits, including three doubles, five runs and five RBI last week. It was the first time since the 1994 season that a Duck received the award.

After Sunday's doubleheader sweep of No. 20 Arizona State, Head Coach Tami Brown spoke of intangibles taking shape on her team since the start of the win streak.

"Now [winning] is just a matter of belief," said Brown. "What they put together today was through confidence, and confidence will take them a long way."

The Ducks will need to pad that confidence in Portland because No. 12 California and Stanford come to Eugene this weekend for the start of a series of five consecutive doubleheaders against Pac-10 teams, including No. 3 UCLA and No. 2 Washington.



The Ducks and first baseman Maegan Christie (left) look to put out the Portland State Vikings and increase their winning streak today.