

Oregon attempts to rebound from tough losses



MARK McTYRE/Emerald

Midfielder Stacy Hebert and the Ducks will be looking for their first win since Oct. 20 in this weekend's games.

■ **SOCCER:** Portland State will be a homecoming game for the Ducks' midfielder Melissa Sherman

By Ryan Frank
Sports Reporter

After two shutout losses by a combined seven goals last weekend, the Oregon women's soccer team called a team meeting.

No coaches, just players.

"We were pretty much hurt emotionally by last weekend," said sweeper Carrie McLanahan. "We all were really disappointed by that and we don't want to be disappointed or embarrassed like that again."

The Ducks (4-8-2) gave up four goals in the first 20 minutes of play against Cal-Sacramento last Sunday and now want to make amends for their past performance.

With the West region's No. 8 team, the Washington Huskies, rolling into town, Oregon will need all the extra motivation it can get.

The Huskies also come into today's match with six games against top 20 teams under their belt, including a win over No. 12 William and Mary on Sept. 6. But their six games against nationally ranked opponents make the Huskies' 9-6 record a little deceiving.

"The ranking is a number, and I really don't put a lot of attention on that," said head coach Bill Steffen. "I just know that they've always been a real solid program. They've always been known not just in the region, but across the country as being a real solid, consistent, quality program."

This season the Huskies have been anything but consistent. They started off the season 3-4, but have won six of their last eight.

Forward Casey Dickerson has been a crucial part of the recent winning trend with five goals in Washington's last three games. Dickerson, who has started only two games this season, is leading the Huskies with six goals on the season.

On the defensive end, it has been Husky goalkeeper Tina Thompson leading the way. Thompson was voted the Pac-10's best goalkeeper by the coaches a year ago and holds school career records for shutouts, saves and goals against average.

No matter what Washington's regional ranking or who its stand-out players are, Oregon midfielder Elyce Kirchner said the key lies with the Ducks.

"If we play as a team, I think we can compete with anyone," Kirchner said.

Oregon's contest with Washington marks the first of three matches against Pacific-10 Conference opponents in the next two weeks, which is something Steffen looks forward to.

"I am excited for us," Steffen said. "This is a chance for the kids

Turn to **SOCCER**, Page 12

Oregon teams, individual to defend Pac-10 titles

CHAMPIONSHIP MEN'S TOP COMPETITORS:

- Karl Keska (Oregon) — defending champion
- Bob Keino (Arizona)
- Greg Jimmerson (Stanford)

WOMEN'S TOP COMPETITORS:

- Amy Skiersz (Arizona) — defending champion
- Kim Mortensen (UCLA)
- Marie Davis (Oregon)
- Enebert Shiferaw (USC)

■ **X-COUNTRY:** Both teams will compete without key runners, but are still optimistic

By Ryan Halvorsen
Sports Reporter

The Oregon men's and women's cross country teams will be running to defend their Pacific-10 Conference titles this weekend in Palo Alto, Calif., but it's not going to be easy.

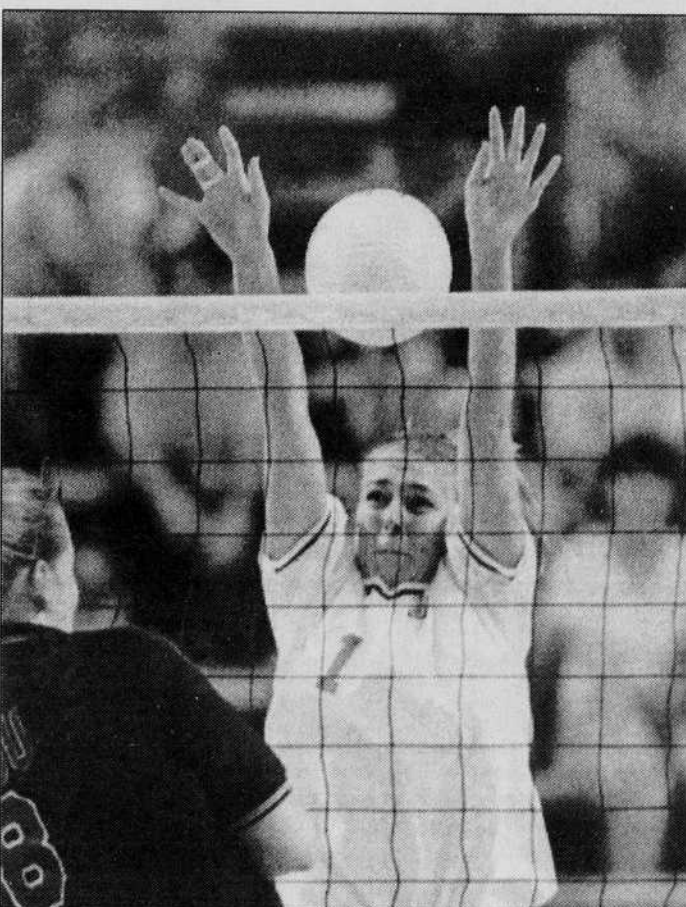
The women's team is ranked behind three other Pac-10 teams — Washington, Arizona and Stanford — and the men are second only to Stanford in the latest national rankings going into Saturday's Pac-10 Cross Country Championships.

To make things even more difficult for both Duck squads, each will be running without key individuals that made a real impact on last year's finishes, runners that led the way to the championships. The men will be without junior Matt Davis, and the women will be missing senior Milena Glusac because of a stress fracture in her leg.

Davis and Glusac were one of the top two runners last year on their respective teams. The women's team will also be without the services of an-

Turn to **X-COUNTRY**, Page 16

Ducks face 'huge UW, quick WSU'



MARK McTYRE/Emerald

Blocking will be key to beating the Washington schools for Tia Stewart and the Oregon volleyball team this weekend.

■ **VOLLEYBALL:** Oregon was swept by both teams earlier this season

By Andrea De Young
Assistant Sports Editor

The Oregon volleyball team and its recent streak of success will be tested this weekend. Washington and Washington State come to town ranked two and three in the Pacific-10 Conference, and both teams swept the Ducks earlier this season.

But Oregon (8-13 overall, 2-9 conference) has two things going for it: four key players who missed the matches earlier this season due to NCAA suspensions will be playing this weekend; and the Ducks are riding a wave of confidence after beating Oregon State and Arizona State in the last two weekends.

Washington State comes into McArthur Court tonight. The Cougars are 17-4 overall and 8-3 in the Pac-10 including a four-game victory over conference-leader and No. 3 Stanford last weekend.

Sarah Silvernail is Washington State's offensive threat. She has collected 378 kills, averaging 5.64 per game and also contributes 1.65 blocks per game. Shannon Wyckoff follows with 169 kills, and Jennifer Stinson has 163.

When the Ducks visited Pullman on October 5, Washington State took the easy win, 15-7, 15-5, 15-4. Oregon had a horrible offensive night, hitting .036 for the match. The top Duck hitter, Alison Pepe, managed 10 kills.

Turn to **VOLLEYBALL**, Page 13