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Moseley: Finding Pac-10 talent difficult for Oregon

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Such has been the situation at the setter position the last two matches.

Crisler's fellow co-captain, Shelby Edwards, who was one of only four Ducks to appear in all 31 Oregon matches last season, has downed more cups of water on the bench than successful kills this year.

Alison Pepe and Dani Cordova have shown flashes of brilliance, but neither have the on-court presence to match Kara Milling, UCLA's dominate outside hitter who almost single-handedly beat the Ducks last weekend.

As always, there is hope for the future. Madeline Ernst, who leads the team with 182 kills, and Alli White, second last season in kills, are both juniors. Tanya Minion, another third-year player, has also played well in limited action.

Sophomore Michelle Christ has displayed the athleticism to be the go-to player in the future, as have freshmen Amy Banducci and Annie Pogue, who is red-shirting this season.

Freshman setter Michelle Graham has performed admirably in the face of both the uncomfortable situation at her position, as well as the intense competition

of the Pac-10.

But the bottom line is that Oregon is in geographic limbo, unable to recruit players capable of turning a program around in just four years.

To the north lie the Washington schools, each ranked in the top 25 nationally.

To the south is Stanford, national champions three of the last five seasons and ranked fourth this year.

Farther south are No. 6 USC and No. 21 UCLA, national champions in 1990 and 1991.

So the Ducks and Oregon State find themselves in the unenviable position of competing for the in-state players talented enough to compete in the Pac-10, of which there are six between the two programs.

It takes six players to make just one volleyball team, not to mention two full rosters.

Thus, Oregon has struggled, and unless Ernst, White and Co. can prove to be the foundation in this second rebuilding phase of the decade, the Ducks will continue to be a have not in a conference full of haves.

Rob Moseley is a sports reporter for the Emerald.

Women three shots back after first round

Renee Baumgartner has reason to be happy.

Her women's golf team is second after the first round of play in the Edean Ihlanfeldt Invite with 292, three shots back of Tulsa.

"It was a tough course, and there were lots of good teams so it was nice to play well," Baumgartner said in a released statement.

Pam Sowden paced the Ducks with a 71, good enough for a four-way tie for second place overall at the Sahalee Country Club in Redmond, Wash.

Tulsa's Christina Kuld leads the tournament with a first-round total of 70.

Among other Ducks, Paula Patterson is tied for seventh with a 72, Kylie Wilson shot a 74, Anika

Heuser at 75 and Karen Bristow at 79.

Rounding out the top five in the team competition is: Stanford at 298, San Jose State at 299 and New Mexico State at 302.

Four other Pacific-10 Conference schools finished in the top 10. Southern California shot

304 (sixth), Washington 305 (seventh), Oregon State 311 (eighth) and Washington State 312 (10th).

On the men's side, the Ducks are in 11th place after two rounds at the Wold Pack Classic in Reno, Nev., on Monday.

The Ducks shot a two-round to-

tal of 605 with rounds of 302 and 303 on the Northgate Gold Course.

Ben Crane and Ryan Lavoie shot two-round totals of 149 to lead the Ducks, tying them for 21st place overall, 10 strokes back of the leader.

Oregon is 19 shots off the pace set by Brigham Young, which shot a blistering 586 to lead second-place Nevada by 14 strokes.

Chris Cone and Nate Blauer both shot 154, and Derek Croskrey a 157.

Oregon State, the only the Pac-10 participant, is in seventh place with 600.

Fresno State's Mike Meyers leads the tournament with 139.

Play concludes in the 54-hole tournament Tuesday.

SPORTS BRIEFS

Tennis players ousted Monday

Guillermo Carter and Erwan Kergroach were eliminated in the third round of the Reebok All-American Championships on Monday.

Carter lost to Kansas State's Luis Urbia, and Kergroach was defeated by Kian Raiszadeh of California. Both players lost in straight sets.

"I think we could have gotten a little further," head coach Chris Russell said. "But we won more than matches than we did last year."

Kergroach and Carter, the two remaining Oregon competitors, also lost their doubles match Monday to Mark Undertag and Martin Stone of Rice.

Club rugby team wins by shutout

The Oregon Club Sports rugby team won its first game of the season by shutting out Reed College of Portland 28-0 Saturday at South Bank field.

It was the Ducks first shutout in more than a year, team member Alex Thomas said.

— Ryan Frank

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