

UO: Women play for first home win

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ranked No. 43 in the Rolex Collegiate Tennis Rankings and has a 14-7 record, will play for its second win of the season over the No. 37 team of Eric Drew and Robert Kendrick (17-6) in No. 1 doubles.

After losses to Southern California and UCLA last weekend, Kergroach and Carter need a victory to help their chances of qualifying for the NCAA Championships, which selects 32 teams nationally.

"They still have a shot, but they need to change gears and pull out of the rut of the last two matches," Russell said.

Kergroach will also be trying to ensure a position in the singles portion of the NCAA Championships, which selects 64 players, with a win against Kendrick in

No. 1 singles.

No. 66 Kendrick (24-8) defeated No. 53 Kergroach (20-7) in their earlier match.

In No. 2 singles, Carter (14-14) will try for a winning individual record for the season against No. 86 Drew (16-8).

The women's tennis team (3-16, 0-8 Pac-10), on the other hand, is not playing for a winning record against Portland on Sunday at 2:15 p.m. — a mere win will do.

In its first home dual match since a March 29 shutout loss to Washington State, the Ducks will try to simultaneously end an 11-match losing streak and register their first home win of the season.

The Pilots (8-8) will be looking for their fifth win in their last seven matches.

Oregon has not won since Feb.

22 when it beat Pacific, but injuries have hampered the Ducks all season. In fact, in 13 of its 19 matches, Oregon has been forced to default at least one match because of injury.

The only constant in this season of frustration for the Ducks has been Alina Wygonowska, who has not missed a match and leads the team in wins.

No. 74 Wygonowska (16-16) is making a late-season push to qualify for the NCAA Championships in singles. She defeated No. 14 Annica Cooper of UCLA in straight sets last Sunday.

Portland's Jane Clarke will be Wygonowska's opponent in No. 1 singles Sunday.

Both the men's and women's tennis teams begin play in the Pac-10 Championships on April 23 in Ojai, Calif.

Ducks: Second in Pac-10 in team batting

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the Ducks to sweep UCLA in Los Angeles on Saturday and to have a chance to upset the No. 4 Huskies in Washington on Sunday.

"We don't want to put any unnecessary pressure on ourselves at this point," Gamez said. "We must stay relaxed and make sure we take care of business."

Easier said than done, as the Ducks haven't found a capable No. 2 starting pitcher to back up Jennie Cook. In fact, Gamez was not even named a Game 2 starter for either series. The only sure bet is that Cook will be the Game 1 starter on both days, he said.

Another concern for the Ducks will be the rigorous flight schedule that has them playing at polar ends of the West Coast in two days.

"I hope it doesn't bother us," shortstop Jill Robinson said. "I am worried about the traveling a little bit. I hope we can get enough rest."

Rest that could prove vital for Oregon on Sunday when it matches up with Washington ace Jaime Graves, who leads the Pacific-10 Conference with a .069 earned-run average and has a 13-2 overall record.

Washington ranks second in the conference in pitching, while the Ducks (32-17 overall, 4-6 Pac-10) rank dead last in both pitching and fielding percentage.

Oregon pitchers allowed 18 hits and 10 runs in two games against Oregon State on Saturday. However, Gamez was most concerned with the Ducks' effort in the field and at the plate.

"We know we didn't play the way we're capable of, but this is a big weekend for us," Gamez said. "We need to come out ready to play."

Oregon's players agree. "We're all expecting four wins this weekend," outfielder Lindsey Welch said. "I think we're due. We need to go in with the right mindset."

And for the Ducks, that means confidence at the plate.

Despite scoring just three combined runs against the Beavers, Oregon ranks second in the Pac-10 in team batting and has at least one player ranked in the top 10 of every major offensive category.

"We all feel the pressure of getting back on track," Robinson said. "Losing to Oregon State was kind of a rude awakening for us, and I think we need at least three wins this weekend."

Three wins would put the Ducks back to .500 in the Pac-10 and set the stage for a showdown with No. 1 Arizona and No. 9 Arizona State on the road the following week.

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All events during weekdays are free and open to the public.