

# 1998 Oregon Soccer Preview

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Junior forward Erin Anderson, a starter in each of her first two seasons, is one of nine returning starters for the third-year Oregon Ducks. EMERALD

## Soccer: Goalkeeper Fox earns honor in elite league

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sists), and returning starting forwards Erin Anderson and Alyssa White will lead the Ducks in their quest to find the back of the net with regularity.

Melissa Sherman, Pam Gordon and Kristi Morris, who all started at least 10 games last season, also return in the midfield. Sherman, a senior, broke her fibula in a conference game against California Oct. 31 and has endured a long recovery process.

"[Sherman] hasn't had a chance to actually play much, but all of her fitness and rehabilitation has gone well," Steffen said, "so we're hoping she can get back into the swing of things."

Fullback starters Stacey Hebert and Carrie McLanahan are also back, although McLanahan has been plagued by a back injury that kept her on the sidelines throughout spring practices.

Oregon's goalkeeping will remain in the sticky hands of Amanda Fox, who led the Pac-10 with 138 saves and recorded two shutouts and a 2.67 goals-against-average last season. Fox recently was named to the all-tournament team for her performance this summer in an elite women's national soccer league that included U.S. Women's National Team players.

"[Fox] has a tremendous work rate and a tremendous heart, and I think the award was well-deserved," Steffen said. "For her to do as well as she did is exciting for me, as well as exciting for her."

Six other players return who started at least one game for Oregon last season.

Steffen's third recruiting class consists of three midfielders, two forwards, one defender and one goalkeeper. All of the newcomers are freshman except for Aly Hill, a midfielder who transferred from Utah and therefore will sit out this season before beginning her final two seasons of eligibility next season.

"What we're looking for [the newcomers] to do is really raise the whole level of our team," Steffen said. "We're really looking forward to trying to make everything as intense and focused as possible."

The Ducks begin fall practice Thursday afternoon after meeting the media and play two exhibition games in Texas from Aug. 27 to 29 against Texas A&M and Houston.

The regular season begins Sept. 4 against Tennessee, when Oregon will unveil its brand-new field adjacent to the Casanova Center. The field will be named at the Aug. 29 dedication of the

## 1998 Oregon Soccer Schedule

Date	Opponent	Place	Time
8/27	Texas A&M (exh.)	College Station	7 p.m.
8/29	Houston (exh.)	Houston	12:30 p.m.
9/4	Tennessee	Eugene	1 p.m.
9/7	UNC-Greensboro	Eugene	1 p.m.
9/12	Wake Forest	Portland	12 p.m.
9/13	Florida Int.	Portland	12 p.m.
9/18	San Diego	Honolulu	7 p.m.
9/19	Hawaii	Honolulu	7 p.m.
10/2	San Francisco	Eugene	3 p.m.
10/3	Portland State	Eugene	1 p.m.
10/9	Oregon State	Eugene	3 p.m.
10/13	Portland	Portland	3 p.m.
10/16	Washington	Eugene	3 p.m.
10/18	Washington State	Eugene	1 p.m.
10/23	UCLA	Los Angeles	7:30 p.m.
10/25	USC	Los Angeles	1 p.m.
10/30	Arizona	Eugene	3 p.m.
11/1	Arizona State	Eugene	1 p.m.
11/6	California	Berkeley	1 p.m.
11/8	Stanford	Stanford	1 p.m.

new Ed Moshofsky Center.

With nine home games on its 18-game regular season schedule, Steffen and the Ducks hope to bring winning Division-I college soccer to Eugene.

"We've been really trying to develop the program into a top-20 level program," Steffen said.

"That involves a couple of things. The first year was just getting the program together. Last year, we played the 24th-ranked schedule in the country, so we were getting a clue as to what we need to do to be competitive. What we want to do now is get a little more results-oriented."

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