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# Oregon can't find cure for curse

*The Ducks drop to 4-8 with losses to UCLA and Southern California*

By Tim Pyle  
Oregon Daily Emerald

The curse has found the Oregon women's soccer team again. It disappeared for the first five games of the season, and it looked as if it was gone for good. But a return to Pacific-10 Conference play in the Ducks' third season has brought it back to life.

Oregon was haunted by its inability to score again last weekend in Los Angeles with conference losses to No. 19 UCLA, 2-0, on Friday and Southern California, 4-0, on Sunday.

In their first two seasons, the Ducks were plagued by a lack of goals. Last season, Oregon was blanked five times in nine Pac-10 games, including three of its last four.

This season brought new hope as the Ducks (4-8-2 overall, 1-4 Pac-10) scored seven goals in their first three games and were not shut out until their sixth game against San Diego.

But now the scoring drought has returned — Oregon has not seen a number higher than zero

posted beneath its name in four of its last five games.

The Trojans (10-6-1, 4-2) put the Ducks in an immediate hole when Megan Orach scored the first of her two goals just one minute into the game on assists from Christy Callier and Katie Ticehurst.



Carol Hatcher's goal on a pass from Courtney Barham in the 42nd minute gave USC a 2-0 half-time lead.

Oregon could not recover, allowing second-half goals by Kim Clark and Orach in the 49th and 51st minutes, respectively. Isabelle Harvey assisted on both, and Barham recorded her second assist of the match on the second Orach goal.

The Trojans outshot the Ducks, 24-7, in front of 277 fans at the Los Angeles Coliseum to earn their fourth straight victory and send Oregon tumbling to its fifth straight defeat.

Ducks' head coach Bill Steffen was not pleased with his team's performance.

"We came out flat," Steffen said. "We just did not have the

energy, emotion and desire that we had against UCLA."

The Bruins (14-2-1, 4-1), who advanced to the quarterfinals of last season's NCAA Tournament, found themselves battling their own scoring curse until the 49th minute of their game with Oregon at Spaulding Field.

High-scoring forwards Staci Duncan and Tracey Milburn connected at that point to give UCLA a 1-0 edge. After Duncan blasted a shot off Duck goalkeeper Amanda Fox, Milburn deposited the rebound in the back of the net. The goal was Milburn's eighth, while the assist was Duncan's seventh, which is the Pac-10's top total.

Larisa Kiremidjian closed out the scoring with a Bruin goal off an assist from Janine Altman in the 74th minute. The goal was Kiremidjian's fourth.

Fox made seven saves as UCLA outshot the Ducks, 14-3. Bruin goalkeeper Lindsay Culp got her ninth shutout and lowered her minuscule goals-against average to .52.

Steffen said he was impressed with Oregon's intensity, and he singled out Ducks' sweepers Carrie McLanahan and Jori Gangnes as top individual performers.

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## Sports Briefs

### Smith up for National Quarterback Award

Oregon quarterback Akili Smith has been named one of the top 10 candidates for the Davey O'Brien

National Quarterback Award, as selected by a nationwide panel of sportswriters and commentators, according to a release on Oct. 21 by the Davey O'Brien Foundation in Fort Worth, Texas.

The award, presented annually to the top college quarterback in the country, will be announced Dec. 10 as part of the 1998 Home Depot College Football Awards Show.

## STUDENTS • FACULTY • STAFF Flu Vaccination

Influenza vaccinations will be given at the University Center for faculty and staff every Wednesday, Thursday and Friday from 8:00 a.m. to 9:00 a.m. and for students Monday - Friday from 9:00 a.m. to 4:00 p.m. Beginning Wednesday, Oct. 14

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