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Tobbagi

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couldn't play volleyball would I still like this school, and with Oregon it felt like home right away."

Not to mention Mount Bachelor is pretty close. With the volleyball season flying by and winter approaching, Tobbagi says she will finally have time to test her snowboarding skills on the Oregon slopes. Not that she is eager for the season to end.

"I can't believe it's almost over," she says. "I'm not ready for it to end. I love every warm up everytime. I love the feeling of suiting up and the crowd and everything. I just love it despite the losses."

Perhaps the most disappointing loss came on Oct. 25 when Oregon took No. 25 UCLA to five games, only to lose the fifth game by three points. Tobbagi's sister, Amy, an English major and lacrosse participant at UCLA, was pulling for the Ducks.

"Even though she goes to UCLA she wants us to win because of me," Tobbagi says.

If Tobbagi's performance thus far is any indication of what kind of player she will be in Pacific-10 Conference play, then she will be a force to be reckoned with. Against No. 7 Stanford, she led all attackers with 17 kills and had an overall attack percentage of .367. She recorded a career-high

"I love the feeling of suiting up and the crowd and everything. I just love it despite the losses."

Monique Tobbagi
Oregon outside hitter

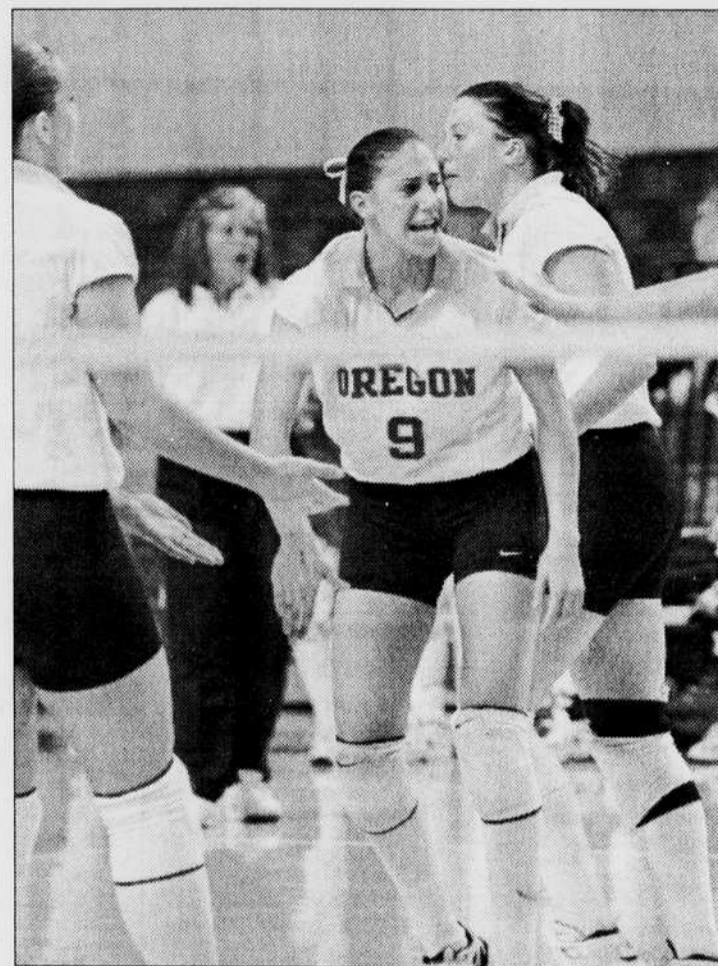
21 kills against Washington and 12 more against UCLA.

"Monique is the future of our program," Nelson says. "She is one of the best freshmen in the conference. I think she will be a leader for us next year, both on and off the court."

Nelson isn't kidding when she talks about Tobbagi's athleticism. Against UCLA Tobbagi flew into the water cooler and nearly into the stands as she kept the ball in play.

"I have a bruise from that," she says. "But I didn't even see it. Even if I did I'm not going to stop just because it's there. One thing we always say before every match is to just go all out so when it's all over we can say we played our best."

If Tobbagi does represent Oregon's future in volleyball, then things can only get brighter. And people had better know how to spell her name.



Fellow Ducks congratulate Tobbagi following her performance against UCLA Oct. 25.

Pyle

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before motivational clips of glorious plays in Oregon football history began to bellow from Duck Vision.

Fidgety press row became silent. I could almost see the electricity in the stadium as the video scoreboard emitted superimposed images of the Ducks' mosh pit upon Saladin McCullough's touchdown run against Air Force in last season's Las Vegas Bowl.

Former Emerald sports reporter Chris Hansen (now a freelancer for the Fighting Ducks Review), Moseley and I were prepared to tangle with USC ourselves. But, luckily, we did not have to sacrifice ourselves in front of a sold-out Homecoming crowd.

The real Oregon football team sprinted onto the field, ready to dismantle the Trojans itself.

As USC's Adam Abrams booted the game's opening kickoff high into the late afternoon sky, I found myself hoping that this would be the first of many times I would witness such a thing from the mecca of sports that is the press box.

While the game progressed, I jotted down notes even though all the play-by-play accounts and statistics were handed to me at the end of each quarter.

When Akili Smith cut upfield and ran untouched for the Ducks' winning points in the fourth quarter, I was barely able to restrain myself from hollering.

Moseley, Hansen, the rest of the press corps and I scurried down to the field to position ourselves for postgame interviews as Oregon ran the final ticks off the clock.

I then walked amongst the players into the Casanova Center and talked (mostly listened) to the athletes who had just completed their most recent battle.

As night fell and I finally ventured out of Autzen Stadium with Moseley and Emerald sports editor Joel Hood, I knew one thing for certain: My first taste of covering college football had left me starving for seconds.

Tim Pyle is a sports reporter for the Emerald. He can be reached via e-mail at tpyle@gladstone.uoregon.edu.

Team effort lifts Pittsburgh to victory

By Dave Goldberg
The Associated Press

KANSAS CITY, Mo.— The Kansas City Chiefs were ready for Jerome Bettis and Kordell Stewart. They didn't count on Lance Brown, Fred McAfee, Hines Ward and Josh Miller.

But that's what they got as Bettis, Stewart and their four unsung teammates led the Pittsburgh Steelers to a 20-13 victory over the Chiefs on Monday night.

Bettis rumbled for 119 yards on 33 carries and Stewart threw a 5-yard TD pass to Charles Johnson with 10:05 left in the game for the winning score.

But it would have been futile without contributions from the others.

After Miller dropped a punt dead on the Kansas City 1-yard-line, Brown blocked a first-quarter punt that McAfee fell on for a touchdown.

McAfee added 36 yards rushing on a late first-half drive that resulted in a field goal. And Ward, a running back-wide receiver-quarterback in college at Georgia acted like the new "Slash" the Steelers hope he is by taking a handoff from Stewart and throwing back to him for 17 yards on a third-quarter drive that led to one of Norm Johnson's two field goals.

The win left Pittsburgh (5-2) in a tie with Jacksonville for first place in the AFC Central, while Kansas City (4-3) fell three games behind Denver and a game behind Oakland in the AFC West.

The Chiefs certainly didn't help themselves.

On their second possession, fullback Tony Richardson, wide open in the end zone, fell as Elvis Grbac threw what appeared to be a TD pass and the Chiefs had to settle for a 20-yard field goal by Pete Stoyanovich.

Then, on the opening kickoff of the second half, Ted Popson was called for holding on what would have been a 95-yard kickoff return for a touchdown. And later, after the Steelers had gone ahead 20-13, what might have been a 43-yard TD pass from Grbac to Andre Rison hit the receiver on the helmet and bounced away.

The Chiefs got the ball back with a minute left, but Grbac fumbled on the first play when he was sacked Jason Gildon.

Miller set up Pittsburgh's early touchdown, punting the ball 47 yards to the Chiefs' 1 where it

rolled dead. The Chiefs gained only one yard in three shots and on fourth down, Louie Aguiar was only able to go 12 yards deep to punt.

Aguiar, who had never had a punt blocked in 587 previous attempts as a pro, never had a chance. Brown broke through and blocked it and McAfee fell on it among a swarm of Steelers that gave Pittsburgh a 7-0 lead less than five minutes into the game.

The Chiefs moved well between the 20s on their next two drives, but had to settle for field goals of 20 and 28 yards by Stoyanovich.

The Steelers added a 34-yarder by Johnson to make it 10-6 at halftime after a 65-yard drive on which McAfee ran three times for 36 yards. Johnson's 22-yarder with 5:30 left in the third quarter made it 13-6.

But on the first play after the kickoff, Grbac and Derrick Alexander combined on a 65-yard pass play that put the ball on the Pittsburgh 13. Five plays later, Grbac found Rison from the 2 for the TD that tied it at 13.

But the Steelers came right back, going 60 yards in 14 plays that included a key 10-yard third-down pass from Stewart to another unsung Steeler, David Dunn.

Sports briefs

Club soccer improves its season record

The Oregon men's club soccer team improved its season record to 3-1-2 with two wins and a tie in three games this weekend.

The team started the weekend's action with an 8-1 rout of Umpqua Community College Friday afternoon. B.J. Terrett took the team to the win with two goals. The Ducks then tied the Beavers 1-1 Saturday, playing a hard-fought contest against their rivals from Corvallis. Team manager Chad Wright said the Beavers are the best team the Ducks have played this year. A 4-3 victory over Central Oregon Community College in Bend rounded out the action Sunday.

Ultimate frisbee

In its first competition of the season, the Oregon men's club ultimate frisbee team started the year victoriously by beating Oregon State 15-9 Sunday at the South Bank field.

The win was a "good team effort over a pretty good OSU team," team member Will Birdsong said.