

Volleyball

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close, but Oregon couldn't put it away, despite recording more kills (23-21) in Game 3 and keeping even with Arizona State with 19 kills in Game 4.

"We played great for a lot of the time," Nelson said. "We are doing things statistically better now than we were earlier this year, and I think we are starting to build momentum."

The Sun Devils (10-10, 7-6) were led by Amanda Burbridge, who led all attackers with 23 kills, and Michelle Mortensen and Shawna Vanley, who recorded 14 and 13 kills, respectively. Defensively, it was Jami Coughlin who rallied for Arizona State, tallying 24 kills along with five block assists.

Oregon outkilled (73-70) and outdug (68-67) the Sun Devils, but committed more errors, finishing with a .213 attack percentage to Arizona States .234.

On Friday, the Ducks stunned No. 16 Arizona beating their first ranked opponent since defeating No. 21 Oregon State in 1996. Oregon broke an 11-game losing streak and for the first time in Nelson's tenure won two Pac-10

"To be down 11-4 and come back like that is awesome."

Cathy Nelson
Oregon head coach

matches in a season.

"This was like the UCLA match," Nelson said. "But this time we learned from it, and we were finally able to push it through in a Game 5 situation."

Arizona is not an easy team to beat in five games. The Ducks ended the Wildcats 12-game winning streak in five-game matches.

The Ducks came out firing in Game 1, scoring three straight points on service aces by Tobbagi. Tobbagi finished the match with a career high five service aces, and Oregon set a school record with 18 total service aces. The Ducks are now second in the Pac-10 record books in aces, just one behind first (19).

The Ducks slipped up in Game 2, recording just 13 kills and 10 errors for an attack percentage of .061. But it was in Game 3 that the

Ducks pulled it together. After falling behind 11-4, Oregon rallied back to win 15-12.

"We made plays down the stretch when we needed to," Nelson said. "We used Game 3 as momentum. To be down 11-4 and come back like that is awesome."

The Ducks had five players who recorded kills in double digits, led by Ernst's 20, Amy Banducci's 12 and Alli White's 11. Banducci and White both recorded double doubles adding 10 digs each.

The Wildcats (17-4, 8-4) were led by Raelene Elam and Marisa DaLee who tallied 21 and 16 kills, respectively. Arizona outkilled (71-61), outdug (62-58) and outblocked the Ducks (19-11) overall, but Oregon's persistence paid off as it rallied to a 15-13 win in Game 5.

"Statistically they outplayed us in every category except our serving, which was exceptional," Nelson said. "I still feel we are one of the hottest teams in the Pac-10. We are looking forward to playing our last home match next weekend."

The Ducks host Washington State on Friday at 7 p.m. and Washington on Sunday at 1 p.m.

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