



Sophomore Amy Banducci, who ranks fifth in the Pac-10 with 3.1 service aces per game, makes a lunging effort against Washington.

## Ducks better than record shows

*Despite a poor record this season, Oregon has all the pieces needed to be a winning team*

By Allison Ross  
Oregon Daily Emerald

Records can be deceiving. The Oregon volleyball team finished its home schedule last weekend falling to both Washington schools in four games, thus dropping its conference record to 2-13.

But statistically the Ducks are better than their record indicates. Four of Oregon's six starters rank in the Pacific-10 Conference. As a team, the Ducks also rank among the conference's best.

Senior Madeline Ernst's 1,270 total kills so far place her third among active kill leaders in the Pac-10. Ernst is averaging 5.36 kills per game, placing her second in the conference behind USC's Jennifer Kessy. Ernst's 515 kills this season surpass her season total of 363 last year.

Senior Alli White's average of

3.73 kills per game ranks her ninth in the Pac-10 and second on the team. As a team the Ducks are third in the conference, averaging 16.48 kills per game.

Oregon has also gotten maximum potential from its freshman and sophomore class. Pac-10 all-Freshman team candidate setter Julie Gerlach's 1,300 assists thus far are the third-most by a Duck in a season. Gerlach is averaging 13.54 assists per game, which is third best in the Pac-10. As a team, Oregon also ranks third, averaging 15.29 assists per game.

Freshman outside hitter Monique Tobbagi worked her way into the starting line up on Oct. 9 and made an instant impact. Tobbagi recorded a career-high 23 kills against Washington State on Nov. 6 and has recorded 10 or more kills in all but one of her appearances as a starter. Tobbagi is averaging 2.65 kills per game which moves her to third on the Oregon roster.

The Ducks proved the weapons they have are deadly as they upset

No. 16 Arizona on Oct. 30. Oregon tallied a record 18 service aces in the match — the most by any Pac-10 team this season. With that showing, the Ducks average improved to 1.64 service aces per game which is also best in the Pac-10.

Ernst recorded a career-high six service aces in the match, and moved to third in the Pac-10, averaging .41 per game. Sophomore Amy Banducci is tied for fifth, averaging .31 service aces per game.

Despite the Ducks' lackluster season, fans continued to show their support. Oregon averaged 817 fans per match, a 166 per game increase from last season. For the first time in 10 years the Ducks had back-to-back crowds of 1,000 or more when 1,176 showed up for the civil war matchup with Oregon State on Sept. 18 and 1,117 showed for the Arizona State match on Oct. 2.

The Ducks play their final five matches on the road beginning with No. 4 Stanford on Friday and California on Sunday.

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