

Oregon beats Bears, loses to the Cardinal

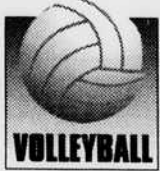
The Ducks' win over the Bears was their first in Cathy Nelson's tenure

By Allison Ross
Oregon Daily Emerald

Whoever said "winning isn't everything" probably never lost much.

Winning is everything, especially for the Oregon volleyball team, which has not had a winning season since 1989.

The Ducks are not on track to finish above .500 this season but have had a successful season nonetheless. They beat a ranked opponent, something they have not done since 1992, and they have four players ranked in the top 10 in various categories in the Pacific-10 Conference.



On Sunday, Oregon reached another milestone. For the first time in head coach Cathy Nelson's tenure, the Ducks beat the California Bears.

Oregon (8-20 overall, 3-13 Pac-10) downed the Bears 13-15, 15-10, 15-8, 15-12 in Berkeley, Calif.

In Game 1, the Ducks outkilled Cal 19 to 13 but committed 12 errors, and the Bears were able to capitalize on the mistakes.

"We were highly error-prone in Game 1," Nelson said in a released statement. "But we steadied out the rest of the match, controlling Cal's offense in Games 3 and 4."

It was perhaps the Ducks' best effort of the season. They did not hit below .100 attack percentage in any game and held Cal to .069 hitting percentage in Game 3. Oregon had five players who recorded 10 or more kills and no players who hit below .100.

However, there was a dark moment in all of the glory. Senior Alli White sustained a concussion in Game 4 when she and fellow senior Madeline Ernst went up for a

block and Ernst's elbow connected with White's temple, leaving her unconscious. White's status will be updated today.

Despite the injury, White led all attackers with a career high 24 kills followed by Ernst and Tanja Nikolic who recorded 22 and 15 kills, respectively. Nikolic continues to be a force for Oregon, tallying a .542 attack percentage.

"Alli and Tanja played great for us today," Nelson said in a released statement. "They really had a nice day offensively and were key to our victory. Cal is a hard team to get a rhythm against and this gives us momentum going into this weekend's Civil War match in Corvallis."

Oregon outkilled (84-57) and outdug (55-48) the Bears and tallied eight service aces.

If the Ducks manage to defeat Oregon State in their final conference match on Friday, it will be the first time in Nelson's career that Oregon has won four Pac-10 matches in a season.

Sunday's win was a welcome change for the Ducks, who suffered their worst defeat of the season against Stanford (22-2, 15-0) on Friday at Maples Pavillion. The No. 4 Cardinal downed Oregon 15-2, 15-3, 15-3.

Oregon had negative hitting percentages in Games 1 and 2, finishing the match with a .048 attack percentage to Stanford's .423.

"It was one of those nights where Stanford played like the great team they are," Nelson said in a released statement. "I was disappointed in our team. I don't think we competed as we have been able to lately."

Stanford registered Oregon's offense null and void, as it held Ernst to five kills and allowed the Ducks just 23 total kills. Oregon had no blocks and doubled the Cardinal errors with 19.

The Cardinal offense was led by Michelle Chambers and Kerri Walsh, who recorded 13 and 10 kills, respectively.

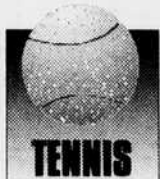
Washington Invitational brings mixed results

Mirjam Swanson
for the Emerald

In its final tournament until January, the Oregon men's tennis team had mixed results at the Washington Invitational in Seattle this weekend.

Several Ducks posted wins during a successful first day of competition on Friday, but most of Oregon's players faltered in their remaining matches.

On Sunday, Oregon posted three victories with Carols Navarro and David Becker combining for a 7-6, 6-3 doubles' win against a pair from New Mexico. Carlos and teammate Bertrand DeVilliers also scored individual victories on Sunday.



However, Saturday was a tough day for the Ducks. Their only win came in the doubles' competition when junior Guillermo Carter and Devillers teamed up to defeat Ryan Davies and Jon Svensson from Minnesota, 8-1. Before that win, Carter and Devillers lost to Washington's Robert Kendrick and Jeremy Berman in two sets, 6-3, 6-4.

The Ducks lost all of their other matches on the day. Minnesota's Adam Selkirk beat Devillers 6-3, 6-4, and Svensson overtook freshman Thomas Schneiter in straight sets, 6-4, 6-0.

Navarro came up short as well, losing to Martin Michalowski, 6-2, 6-2. Becker lost 6-4, 6-4 to the Golden Gophers' Martin Kristofferson.

Also in action was Oregon's Miguel Arriaga. The senior first lost to Washington's Chuck Tilley, 7-5, 6-0, then to Minnesota's Jorge Duenas, 6-4, 6-4.

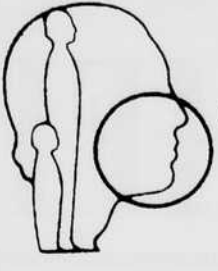
Oregon's Alex Christy, a freshman, also suffered two losses Saturday, falling twice in straight sets. First to the Huskies' Jeff Eichler, 6-3, 6-0 and then to Karl Sloss from Minnesota, 6-4, 6-2.

The Ducks fared better on Friday, as they began the tournament with four wins and only two losses.

Carter beat Minnesota's Adam Selkirk, 3-6, 6-4, 7-5, and Devillers had his way with Marius Lunde of Washington, 6-2, 6-2.

Navarro was also victorious, beating Minnesota's Kristofferson in three sets, 6-3, 3-6, 6-3.

Another win came by way of Oregon's duo of Arriaga and Becker, who defeated Minnesota's Sloss and Davies, 6-7, 6-2, 6-3.



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