

Tennis

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normal position, and it's even tougher when you have to step up two or three spots."

But last season's struggles have set the stage for success this season, as long as Oregon can remain healthy.

Kaneshiro, who has competed at the No. 6 spot for singles spot this season, is part of possibly the best Oregon women's team under Griffin.

"Our team this year has a lot of depth compared to years past," says Kaneshiro, who is the Pac-10's shortest player at 5 feet. "Everyone is looking forward to an injury-free season and just to do a lot better than we did last year. We want to go to the NCAA Regionals."

Five years from now, the Ducks want to be one of the nation's top 20 teams.

If that happens, Kaneshiro won't be around to enjoy it, but her positive attitude will have played a significant role in helping Oregon achieve it.

"She's been a super player to have," Griffin says.

"This is as cohesive a team as I've ever been associated with, and that has a lot to do with [Kaneshiro's] ability to set the tone for how we want to act, and what kind of effort we want to put forward."

"I think she wants to set that tone for the team next year and in the following years."

Kaneshiro has been immersed in the game for along time. She grew up playing tennis in Mililani, Hawaii, where she used to tag along with her older sister and grandfather when they went to play.

"My sister would be out there playing, and I'd be in the corner just whacking at a string on the fence," Kaneshiro says. "Then when she'd drink water, my grandpa would bring me on the court to hit a couple balls."

It wasn't a difficult decision for her to bring her game to Oregon, Kaneshiro says, because she wanted to go to school in the Pacific Northwest, choosing Oregon over Washington.



KANESHIRO

Since arriving, she's shown dedication on and off the court. An accounting major, Kaneshiro has a 3.61 grade point average. Last year, she was honored as an Intercollegiate Tennis Association all-academic in addition to being a member of the Pac-10's all-academic team.

"She sets a good example in school and in practice with her work ethic," Griffin says. "I didn't recruit her, but if someone would have asked me what kind of players I wanted on my team, she would have a lot of the characteristics I was looking for."

Sports Brief

Firebug Viking gets probation, fine

EAU CLAIRE, Wis. — A Minnesota Vikings fan who calls himself "the Grand Viking" was placed on two years' probation and fined \$200 Wednesday after pleading guilty to setting on fire the clothing and hair of two Green Bay Packers fans.

Brian E. Siegmann, 23, of Eau Claire, pleaded guilty to two misdemeanors in return for more serious charges being dropped.

Eau Claire County Circuit Judge Thomas Barland also ordered Siegmann to spend 30 days in jail or perform 240 hours of community service and to get an assessment for drug and alcohol abuse, Assistant District Attorney Keri Singstock said.

"Is he a bad man who tried to set the entire Water Street on fire? Probably not," Singstock said Wednesday, referring to the street of taverns where the encounter took place last Oct. 4, the night be-

fore a Packers-Vikings game.

Siegmann was accused of lighting Casey Connors-Herm's left pants leg on fire and then setting Meagan Corcoran's left jacket sleeve and hair on fire after they identified themselves as Packers fans. Neither was seriously injured.

Siegmann told police he tied a shirt to the end of a piece of metal and lit it on fire and was attempting to stir up a rivalry between fans by creating an "Olympic torch."

He pleaded guilty Tuesday to endangering safety by negligent use of a weapon and negligent handling of burning material.

In return, prosecutors dropped one felony count of first-degree endangering safety and one of second-degree endangering safety. Those charges carried a maximum punishment of seven years in prison.

— The Associated Press

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