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Women's tennis seeks revenge

The Ducks were lamed by injuries last year but feel they can win

By Mirjam Swanson
for the Emerald

With payback in mind, the Oregon women's tennis team faces Loyola Marymount today in Los Angeles and No. 25 San Diego State on Sunday.

Last year, Loyola beat an injury-depleted Oregon, 5-2.

This year, things are different. Oregon (4-2 overall, 0-2 Pacific-10 Conference) is healthy, and the Ducks are eager for a chance to avenge last season's loss.

"I know the players who were on the team last year are very, very

hungry to get them back," head coach Jack Griffin said. "We're a lot stronger than we were last year, so we should be able to handle it pretty easily if we play like we've been playing."

The Ducks, winners of four straight matches, hope that a good performance against Loyola will catapult them into their match with San Diego State, which is nearing a top-20 ranking by the Intercollegiate Tennis Association.

Two years ago, Oregon played the Aztecs twice, including a match in the first round of the

NCAA Regional Tournament.

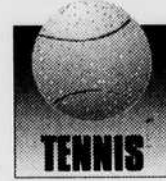
The Ducks lost the contests, but both times they went away believing that they could have won.

Now after struggling through last season, Oregon is back on track and primed for a chance to take down San Diego State.

"I'm excited about the match," Griffin said. "The players know that as a team they can handle them. We're very capable of winning."

A win would surely give the Ducks a greater measure of respect around the nation.

The match "will be a great gauge as to where we stand," Griffin said. "It's nice to have these opportunities when you're trying to build a program."



Oregon flattens Cal Poly SLO 6-1

Men's tennis wins two in a row as they come up on the Pac-10 season

By Mirjam Swanson
for the Emerald

Thursday's 6-1 win over Cal Poly SLO will give the Oregon men's tennis team some much-needed momentum heading into its showdown with No. 18 Washington this weekend.

The Ducks (3-6) have won two matches in a row after having dropped five of six to begin the season.

The wins seem to be coming at a particularly opportune time for the Ducks. With performances like Thursday's, they may be getting on track just in time for the Pacific-10 Conference season.

Thomas Schneider, a freshman playing his second career-match in Oregon's No. 1 singles position, won his sixth match of the season. He beat Tony Picutta in straight sets, 6-1, 7-6.

Junior Guillermo Carter also won, breaking out of a mini-slump with a convincing 6-1, 6-2, win against Brett Masi.

It took freshman Bertrand Devillers three sets to

put his opponent away. But he eventually did, winning 6-3, 4-6, 6-3.

Senior Miguel Arriaga, whose only loss came against No. 1 Stanford three weeks ago, won again Thursday. He beat Sevan Zenopian in straight sets, 6-3, 6-1.

Joaquin Hamdan, a junior, picked up Oregon's fifth singles victory, toppling Erin Carroll in two sets.

Senior team captain Carlos Navarro suffered the Ducks' only loss on the day, as he came up short in a close, three-set match with David Wermuth.

The Ducks also won the doubles point for the second consecutive match.

Oregon's duo of Carter and Devillers delivered an 8-2 win, while Navarro and Arriaga did away with the Mustang's Erin Carrol and Brandon Fallon, 8-4.

Saturday's match with Washington (4-3) at 2:30 p.m. at the Willow Creek Tennis Courts should be a more challenging one for the Ducks, head coach Chris Russell said.

"They're playing at a really high level right now," head coach Chris Russell said of the Huskies. "It's going to be a great opportunity for us to see if we can compete at that level. I think we can."



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