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Tennis squads meet UA, ASU

The Oregon women go north to battle the Arizona schools in Washington

By Mirjam Swanson
Oregon Daily Emerald

Unfortunately for him, the first thing on coach Jack Griffin's mind is not the possibility that — for the first time — his Oregon women's tennis team has a very legitimate shot at beating a Pacific-10 Conference foe from the south.

Nor is he especially concerned with the Ducks' top-30 ranking as he prepares his team for Arizona today and Arizona State on Saturday in Pullman, Wash.

Instead, Griffin finds himself preoccupied — yet again — with the failing health of one of his players.

"We definitely lost Sarah for this weekend," he said of Oregon No. 3 singles player Sarah Colistro. Colistro found out that her degenerative knee problem was worse than previously thought after she underwent an MRI early in the week.

"She's on a week-long rest," Griffin said. "We're kind of in a wait-and-see mode."

"There's separation with her bone from her cartilage. And there's not really any treatment that she can do but rest and hope it gets better. If not, she's going to have to have surgery and they're going to have to put some pins in there. So she'll be staying home this weekend."

And the Ducks will have to take on both of the Arizona schools and then Boise State on Sunday without the contributions of Colistro, a redshirt freshman who sat out last season with a torn hamstring.

The good news for Oregon is that it can still put seven players on the court. Last season the Ducks endured a several-week span when they had to forfeit two or three points per match because of injuries.

This weekend Oregon's healthy players will have to step up to make up for Colistro's absence, Griffin said.

"We've got good players at seven and eight," he said about Jaime Martin and Valerie Young. "Hopefully Jaime and Valerie can step up and shoulder some of the load."

It won't be a light load.

Arizona, perennially a top-10 team, has slipped this year to No. 45, but has been playing well of late.

Track

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meters.

In the sprints, freshman Alexis Yeater will compete in the 100 and 200 meters as the Ducks will be without Abrante. Yeater was No. 16 among preps in the 200 meters last year.

Tish Henes and Aisha Wallace will compete in the 200 and 400 meters. Henes will also compete in the 400 hurdles, along with Melissa Abramson and Mariah Bowden.

Injuries have not weakened

Oregon's pole vaulters, who have found consistent success this season. All-American Karina Elstrom will make the trip to Pullman, along with NCAA-provisional qualifiers Holly Speight and Niki Reed.

Michele Dick will have to step up in the throws due to the absence of Fisk, and Tasha Cooper and Wendy Olson will be throwing the javelin.

Between injuries and harsh weather conditions in Washington,

The Oregon men go south to meet Arizona and Arizona State at home

By Mirjam Swanson
Oregon Daily Emerald

Going into this weekend's matches with Arizona and No. 12 Arizona State, the Oregon men's tennis team (7-9 overall, 0-3 Pacific-10 Conference) is playing very well.

But the Ducks could be playing better.

"We're playing better than we ever have," head coach Chris Russell said. "Now we need the concentration to go to a new level. To go from being a good team to being a great team, the great teams do that detail."

Oregon, currently ranked No. 59 in the nation, wasn't particularly pleased with its 1-2 showing at the Gaucho Classic Tournament during spring break. Russell said he thought his players should have performed better although Oregon's losses came against respected Oklahoma State and BYU teams and were both close.

"If anything, it pointed out that we didn't do enough detail," Russell said. "So if the guys are not OK with that, they can turn that concentration up to a higher level."

"It's up to them, it's what they choose."

Oregon will look to crank its play up a notch against two quality Pac-10 teams this weekend, starting with the Wildcats today.

Arizona is coming off a 4-3 loss to California last weekend. Russell's squad lost to the Golden Bears by the same score in January.

"They're ranked behind us for maybe the first time ever," Russell said. "But they've had better results than we have recently."

The Ducks will face Arizona State on Saturday in a match that will surely require Oregon's complete focus.

The No. 12 Sun Devils also lost by a 4-3 score last weekend, but did so against defending national champion No. 4 Stanford.

"They're a very good team," Russell said of Arizona State. "We've had some individual success against them. It [depends on] just if, collectively, the guys can put it together."

Heinonen does not expect the Ducks to put up their best results of the season. Still, he wants Oregon to perform well against the Cougars.

"The chances of getting really good marks is slim, given the weather we'll face in Pullman," Heinonen said. "It will be a very good competition, because Washington State is a very good team, but good marks will depend on the weather."

Heinonen added that Idaho should struggle against the Ducks and Cougars.

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