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Pac-10 woes continue for UO

The men's and women's tennis teams struggle with the Arizona schools

By Mirjam Swanson
Oregon Daily Emerald

Both the Oregon men's and women's tennis teams came away empty-handed in their quest to earn their first Pacific-10 Conference wins of the season against Arizona and Arizona State last Friday and Saturday.

For the first time ever, Oregon's No. 31 women and No. 59 men had higher rankings than the Wildcats heading into Friday's matches. And so, for the first time, both Duck teams wound up victims of Arizona up-sets.

The men (7-11 overall, 0-4 Pac-10) suffered their sixth one-point defeat of the season, 4-3, while the women fell, 8-1.

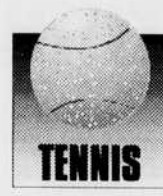
Then, the men and the women were both routed Saturday by talented Arizona State teams, both of which are ranked among the nation's top 15.

However, the Oregon women did bounce back and salvage a win against Boise State on Sunday, beating the Broncos 5-2.

But the losses to No. 45 Arizona and No. 15 Arizona State dropped it to 0-5 in the Pac-10 and 10-7 overall.

The Ducks were hindered by the absence of Sarah Colistro, their No. 3 singles player, who has an injured knee and didn't travel with the team to Pullman, Wash., for the matches at the neutral site.

Oregon's only singles point against either Arizona school belonged to Alina Wygonowska, as she beat Arizona's No. 1 player, Lindsay Blau, in straight sets on Friday.



Wygonowska also helped Oregon capture its only point Saturday when she teamed up with freshman Janice Nyland to win a tight doubles match against Arizona State's Alison Nash and Celena McCoury, 8-5.

Like their counterparts on the women's team, the Oregon men also had a tough weekend. But head coach Chris Russell said the weekend wasn't without its positives.

"We played hard," Russell said. "We just didn't play as well as we needed to play."

He wasn't displeased with his team's play against No. 12 Arizona State. The Ducks picked up one doubles win and took leads in nearly all of their singles matches.

However, senior Miguel Arria-

ga — 15-2 this season — was the only Oregon player who was able to hold his lead, beating the Sun Devil's Tim Hammond, 7-6, 7-5.

"We really made them earn it," Russell said. "That's great for whatever it's worth, but it's not quite the result that we're looking for."

In doubles play, freshman Thomas Schneiter and sophomore David Becker defeated Arizona State's duo of Gustavo Marcaccio and Alex Osterrieth, 8-6.

In Friday's match at Arizona, Arriaga, who usually plays in the No. 6 position of Oregon's lineup, continued to perform like one of the best in the nation at that spot. He beat the Wildcat's Jari Niskali in straight sets.

"Miguel continues to display the type of confidence that we need," Russell said. "Any time you can record a sweep at the Pac-10 level, that's a great building block."

Along with fellow senior Carlos Navarro, Arriaga also recorded a doubles victory against Arizona, as they defeated Adnan Novo and Brian Jackson 8-5.

"If we stay objective and continue to fight and make progress, we're going to scare some teams," Russell said. "We're going to get that confidence and eventually we're going to pull one off."

Yankees new Rocket set to launch

By Rob Gloster
The Associated Press

OAKLAND, Calif. — This may be baseball's strongest fashion statement all season: Roger Clemens in Yankees threads.

Clemens, the five-time Cy Young Award winner, unveils his new look Monday night when the World Series champion New York Yankees open their season at Oakland.

"I think it will be very special — especially since I'm with a new club and a new bunch of guys who are going to be behind me. I'll have to channel my emotions early and make them work for me," Clemens said. "I'm not nervous, but I get excited about it."

Clemens, who won his last 15 games in 1998 en route to his unanimous selection as Cy Young Award winner for the Toronto Blue Jays, was traded to the Yankees in mid-February for pitchers David Wells and Graeme Lloyd and second baseman Homer Bush.

"It's something when you're facing the best team in baseball and the best pitcher in baseball over the last 10 years," A's designated hitter Matt Stairs said. "There will be a lot of adrenaline, we'll just be trying to keep our emotions down."

Because he'll be wearing the Yankees' road grays, he won't start in the famed pinstripes until Saturday against Detroit.

Yankees interim manager Don Zimmer, taking over while Joe Torre recovers from prostate cancer surgery, said he doesn't expect Clemens to be affected by the attention he'll receive in his first start for the Yankees.

"He's a five-time Cy Young winner, so it's just another day at work for him. And that's the way he works every day, anyhow,"

Zimmer said.

"You go in the clubhouse and you've got to look in nine places to find him, he said. "But wherever he's at, he'll be working and doing something. There aren't too many pitchers who can keep up with the conditioning that Roger Clemens goes through every day."

"We know they're the best team in baseball, and we can find out where we measure up real quickly"

Art Howe
Oakland manager

Clemens' counterpart will be Gil Heredia, who has a 22-24 career record and became the A's opening day starter only because staff ace Kenny Rogers is recovering from a stiff elbow.

Heredia, who pitched 7 2-3 scoreless innings in a win over the Yankees in New York last September, said he's trying to ignore the comparisons with Clemens — who has 233 career victories.

"I really haven't even thought about Roger Clemens vs. Heredia. I can't even put them in perspective," the A's right-hander said. "I'm just taking it as far as me against the Yankees. Roger has nothing to do with my performance."

The Yankees are coming off a tumultuous spring that included the Clemens trade, Torre's diagnosis with prostate cancer and Darryl Strawberry's battle to come back from cancer surgery late last season.

Another twist was added to that in recent days when owner George Steinbrenner called Hide-

ki Irbu a "fat ... toad" and decided to leave the pitcher behind when the team broke training camp.

But after Zimmer penciled in Ramiro Mendoza instead of Irbu for the start Wednesday at Oakland in the Yankees' third game of the season, Steinbrenner announced he was hoping Irbu would start that game.

"I'm the manager, I try to do what's right for the ballclub. My mind is not going to be changed by anybody," Zimmer replied Saturday night in Los Angeles. "George Steinbrenner has been good to me, but, to me, you can't sit back here and be a little wimp."

Irbu rejoined the Yankees on Sunday and apologized for his absence. Zimmer, meanwhile, reiterated that Mendoza would start Wednesday and that Irbu would be in the bullpen.

"I talked to the boss (Steinbrenner) this morning, and he said he didn't mandate that anyone start," General Manager Brian Cashman said. "This isn't as big as it's been made. There was certainly a bump in the road the last few days; there's no question. We've dealt with bigger things."

It's been a much quieter spring for the Athletics, who finished last in the AL West the past two seasons and likely will end up there again this year.

They look forward to starting their season against a team that won a record 125 games last season and added a future Hall of Famer as its No. 1 starter.

"We know they're the best team in baseball, and we can find out where we measure up real quickly," A's manager Art Howe said.

Got a story idea? Give us a call. **Emerald 346-5511**