

**Oregon Daily
Emerald**
Editor in chief: Laura Cadiz
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Sports

Best Bet
MLB Postseason
Houston vs. Atlanta
1 p.m., ESPN



Worst of times continue for Oregon

■ The Ducks suffer an embarrassing 3-1 home loss to previously winless Portland Tuesday night

By Mirjam Swanson
Oregon Daily Emerald

It can't get worse. The Oregon volleyball team lost 3-1 to previously winless Portland (1-12 overall) Tuesday evening, and the Ducks (6-9, 0-6 Pacific-10 Conference) tumbled to their ninth straight loss by doing so.

"This is as disappointed as I've ever been as a coach," head coach Cathy Nelson said. "We're not finding answers to what our problems are. We look and look and look and look in practice — give my team credit, we work really hard — but it's not transferring over."

Oregon lost the first two games of the match 15-11 and 15-13, before rebounding by taking advantage of a barrage of Pilots' errors to win the third game.

But the Ducks' comeback ended there, as they fell behind 8-1 in the fourth and final game.

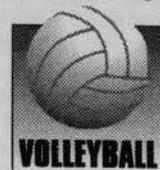
"It's a combination of things that are our problems right now," Nelson said. "I don't think we can pinpoint one thing, but I can tell you that it's more mental than it is physical."

Portland certainly came to play. The last-place West Coast Conference team wanted nothing more than to get its first win of the season on the road against a Pac-10 team, and it showed.

The Pilots fought back from an early 13-9 deficit to win game 1 and set the tone for the rest of the match in the process.

"Portland played with a lot of heart, and we didn't," Nelson said. "How that can happen when we've been losing a lot of matches and in our home gym is beyond me. We are not a very tough team."

The absence of outside hitter Monique Tobbagi didn't help the Ducks. Tobbagi — the team's leader in kills, digs and service aces — will be out of action for at least the



Turn to **Volleyball**, Page 8



UCLA Athletic Department

Oregon Volleyball

Tuesday

Portland defeats Oregon 3-1 (15-11, 15-13, 5-15, 15-5)

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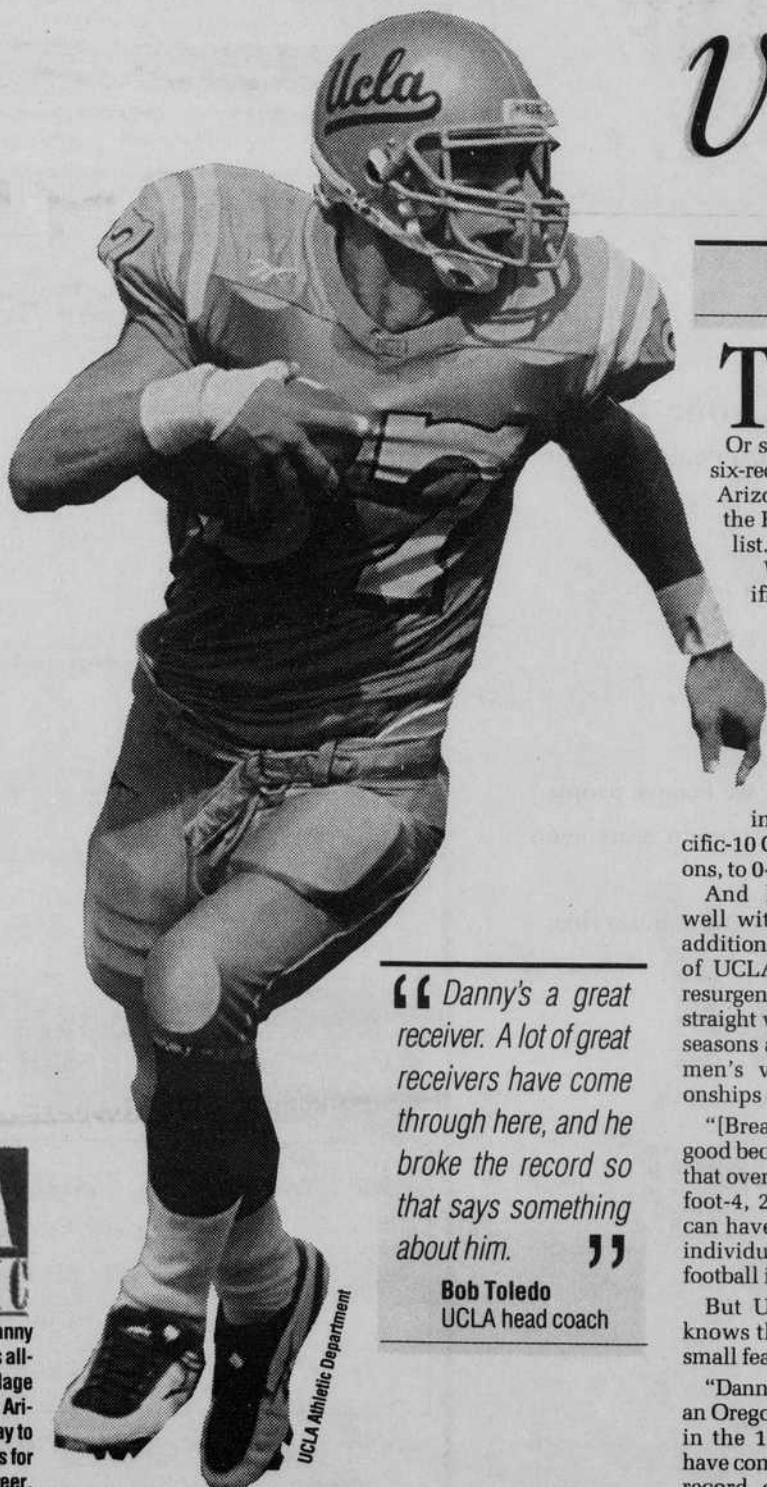
Oregon (6-9, 0-6) at Oregon State (7-7, 1-5) on Friday, 7 p.m.

Senior wide receiver Danny Farmer became UCLA's all-time receiving-yardage leader with 148 yards at Arizona State last Saturday to boost him to 2,651 yards for his career.

UCLA VS OREGON

view from the TOP

Senior standout Danny Farmer no longer has any superiors on UCLA's career receiving-yardage list



Ten or 15 years from now, Danny Farmer may derive satisfaction from what he accomplished last Saturday.

Or so UCLA's senior said about the six-reception, 148-yard performance at Arizona State that vaulted him atop the Bruins' career receiving-yardage list.

Why no immediate sense of gratification?

Well, UCLA blew a 21-7 half-time lead and lost 28-27 to the Sun Devils on a 49-yard touchdown pass with 23 seconds remaining.

The defeat dropped the Bruins, the defending Pacific-10 Conference champions, to 0-2 in league play.

And losing doesn't sit well with Farmer, who in addition to being a key part of UCLA's recent football resurgence that included 20 straight wins in the 1997-98 seasons also has two NCAA men's volleyball championships on his Bruins résumé.

"[Breaking the record] didn't feel too good because we lost, and that's the thing that overshadows everything," said the 6-foot-4, 210-pound history major. "You can have the greatest game in the world individually and still lose, and that's why football is a team sport."

But UCLA head coach Bob Toledo knows that Farmer's achievement is no small feat.

"Danny's a great receiver," said Toledo, an Oregon assistant coach for six seasons in the 1980s. "A lot of great receivers have come through here, and he broke the record so that says something about

him."

Farmer does admit that the accomplishment is one that he sought.

"It was kind of a goal for me when I first came here," said Farmer, whose 2,651 career receiving yards surpassed Kevin Jordan's previous program record of 2,548. "So it's kinda nice to have that. It's something I'll look back on with pride."

Of more pressing concern to Farmer and the Bruins (2-3 overall, 0-2 Pac-10) is Saturday's 7:15 p.m. matchup with the Ducks (3-2, 1-1) at the Rose Bowl in Los Angeles.

Following three losses in four games, UCLA is in desperate need of a victory in its Pac-10 home opener. And if last season's 41-38 overtime Bruin win is any indication, Saturday's affair should be another wide-open, high-scoring affair.

Farmer rattled the Oregon secondary for seven receptions, 161 yards and two touchdowns in the best single-game performance of his career. Overall, Farmer produced career highs of 58 catches, 1,274 receiving yards — a program record — and nine touchdowns last season.

"He's a big, physical guy," said Duck cornerback Justin Wilcox, who will have the unenviable task of guarding Farmer at least some of the time Saturday. "He runs good routes."

"Defending [the Bruin receivers], we'll need to be on top of our game as a defensive backfield and as a defense all together. It'll be a good challenge for us."

And a different one than the Oregon defense faced last weekend in Seattle against Washington's punishing rushing attack.

Turn to **Farmer**, Page 8

**UCLA
ATHLETIC**

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