

Farmer

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Farmer is well aware that UCLA is the only team to beat the Ducks in each of the last three seasons, but he said the victories have been far from easy.

"We did beat them, but the games were very close, very difficult, and they were just great games," said Farmer, a Los Angeles native who is also just three receptions from third place on the Bruin career receptions list with 139. "Last year's game was just unbelievable. And I think what's great about it is that both schools have a lot of respect for each other."

"Playing against them is a lot of fun because guys like Michael Fletcher, Justin Wilcox, Brandon McLemore — I've been playing with these guys and against these guys for so long that you kind of develop a certain relationship

with these guys."

Farmer seeks his second straight impressive performance after being severely hampered by a sprained left ankle in the Bruins' first four games, ultimately not even playing in two of them and making no receptions against Stanford in a third.

The Biletnikoff Award candidate and preseason All-American said he's now feeling the best he's felt all season. But that's still not 100 percent.

"It's feeling better," Farmer said. "It's not quite 100 percent, but it's getting there. It's getting better every day."

No physical pain can compare to the co-captain's remorse with UCLA's poor start.

"[The injury] was really hard, but more than anything I don't like losing," Farmer said.

Come Saturday night, Oregon just hopes Farmer can't get no satisfaction once again.

Danny Farmer



Year: Senior

Position: Split end

Height/Weight: 6'4", 210 pounds

Hometown: Los Angeles

Career Highlights: Holds UCLA receiving-yardage marks for season (1,274) and career (2,651) ... fourth on Bruin career receptions list (139) ... compiled season totals of 58 catches, 1,274 yards and nine touchdowns last season ... had single-game career highs in receptions (seven) and yards (161), including two touchdowns, against Oregon last season ... averages more than 19 yards per catch for his career ... won two NCAA championships with the UCLA men's volleyball team (1996 and 1998) ... named to preseason All-America teams of both Playboy and Lindy's ... a finalist for the Biletnikoff Award, which is given to the country's top collegiate wide receiver.

SOURCE: OUS 1999 budget

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Volleyball

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next two weeks with a stress fracture in her leg.

It's an injury she's dealt with since the Ducks' 3-0 win over New Hampshire in early September.

"She's been playing in pain and trying not to let it bother her," Nelson said. "[But] we felt it was in her best interest to keep her out."

"Anytime you have a player of Monique's caliber out that hurts you."

A healthy Tobaggi's presence on the court might not have changed the outcome, but it may have helped Oregon better its offensive output.

The Ducks were limited to an overall .212 attack percentage, in-

cluding the .379 they averaged in winning game 3.

Junior outside hitter Amy Bannucci led Oregon with 17 kills and eight defensive digs. Setter Julie Gerlach had 12 kills and two blocks.

Outside hitter Bridget DeChant was the stickiest thorn in Oregon's side. The sophomore came off the bench to record 16 kills, three assists and four defensive digs to go along with her two service aces.

The Ducks must now find a way to collect themselves for the second half of the Pac-10 season, beginning with Oregon State on Friday.

"I've got to find a way to do something different so that it will transfer over into our matches," Nelson said. "We need to be more ready for the challenge."

Sports brief

Hackett expects Wildcats to provide toughest test

LOS ANGELES — Southern California coach Paul Hackett is as baffled as anyone concerning the disappointing play of the Arizona Wildcats so far this season.

Nevertheless, he expects the Wildcats (3-2, 1-1 Pac-10) to provide his 22nd-ranked Trojans (3-1, 1-1) with their toughest test so far when the teams meet Saturday in Tucson in what could be a Pac-10 elimination game, since the loser will have two league losses.

"They were slated as the [Pac-10] favorite to start this year, and I don't think that information was too far off," Hackett said Tuesday at his weekly meeting with reporters. "It appears what has happened is that they haven't played as well as everyone would have

wanted them to because the expectations were so high coming off the great season last year."

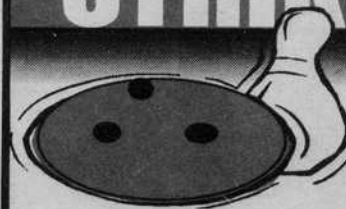
The Wildcats, 12-1 last season and stocked with several talented returnees, were ranked fourth in the nation before being hammered 41-7 by then-No. 3 Penn State in the Pigskin Classic on Aug. 28.

Arizona hasn't been the same since. The Wildcats opened conference play at home against Stanford on Sept. 18 as solid favorites, but were beaten 50-22. They bounced back to beat Washington State 30-24 before taking last weekend off.

"It's very confusing to me," Hackett said of Arizona's problems on defense. "They create a lot of problems for the offense. What's happened to them, I'm not really sure. Stanford got hot, their receiver [Troy Walters] made some big plays."

The Associated Press

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