

UO women eager for first test

■ Six scholarship players and one walk-on will see how they match up at weekend tournament

By Matt O'Neill
for the Emerald

In its first test of the year, the Oregon women's tennis team heads to Seattle to compete in the Washington Invitational.

Idaho, Portland and host Washington join the Ducks in the four-flight tournament. Each flight contains two players from each team. The top flight features the No. 1 and 2 players from each team. Each school's No. 3 and 4 players will take part in the second flight, No. 5 and 6 players will compete in the third flight and the No. 7 and 8 players will play in the fourth.

Seven Oregon players will make the trip north with head

coach Jack Griffin. But only six of those are on scholarship — because of the late arrival of one recruit.

Monika Gieczys, from Poland, had difficulty obtaining her visa and will remain in Eugene to register for classes. So walk-on Lisa Cummings will take Gieczys's place in the tournament.

"With Monika not making the trip, it will give Lisa a chance to compete," Griffin said.

Alina Wygonowska, Janice Nyland, Sarah Colistro, Adeline Arnaud, Amy Juppenlatz, and Valerie Youngwill also participate.

Because the Ducks are only taking seven players, each player is guaranteed three matches in the singles draw.

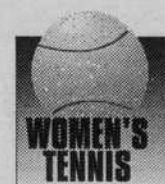
The tournament also features a three-flight doubles draw.

One team from each school will compete in the first and second flights, and the third flight will contain remaining doubles teams. For the Ducks, freshman Amy Juppenlatz and sophomore Janice Nyland will be in the top flight. Alina Wygonowska and Sarah Colistro will be in the second flight, while Valerie Young and Adeline Arnaud will compete in the third.

"This tournament will help set individual rankings, both regionally and nationally," Griffin said. "That's important around January."

While his team is ready for the tournament, Griffin said he sees room for improvement.

"We are extremely happy with how they are playing," Griffin said. "But we have a lot of work to do."



Ducks set for first tourney of year

■ Five players begin their Oregon careers this weekend at the Fresno Bulldog Classic

By Matt O'Neill
for the Emerald

Beginning today, the Oregon men's tennis team will compete in the Fresno Bulldog Classic, which runs through Sunday.

The open-draw tournament, featuring both singles and doubles draws, is the first chance for head coach Chris Russell to get a look at this year's team.

"This will be a good chance to test our mettle and see how we stand up in the heat of battle," Russell said.

Russell brings some untested players to the tournament.

Newcomers Oded Taig, Leslie Esinger, Jason Menke, Josh Hartley and redshirt sophomore T. J. Cameron get their first chance to compete as

Ducks because Guillermo Carter and Thomas Schneider are not currently in school. Oregon's two top returners are competing on their own this fall but will both re-enroll at Oregon in January.

Until recently, Taig's eligibility was in doubt because there was concern that he would have to serve mandatory military service in his native Israel. Russell is happy to finally have Taig in the fold.

"Oded got cleared and will be a Duck this year," Russell said. "He'll be a big addition to our squad."

Joining the five first-time Oregon players are veterans Joaquin Hamdan, David Becker, and Cedric Vanhaver.

Hamdan and Vanhaver will start their senior seasons this weekend. Becker will embark on

his third year as a Duck.

"This trip will allow our top guys to do well," Russell said. "And it will aid our young guys' growth."

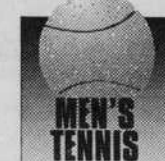
In the singles part of the tournament, each player plays at least two matches, while each doubles team is guaranteed only one.

All eight players will compete in both the doubles and singles draws.

Taig will be paired with Hamdan, while Esinger and Becker will play together. Vanhaver will be paired with freshman Menke, and Hartley and T.J. Cameron will play as a team.

This will be a good test for the Ducks to see where they are as a program, Russell said.

"It will be nice to go against someone else for once," Russell said. "We're tired of playing each other all the time. This tournament will be a good early test for us."



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