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UO tumbles to 0-11 in Pac-10

■ The Ducks suffer sweeps at both Washington State and Washington amid more dismal displays

By Scott Pesznecker

Time is running out for the Oregon women's volleyball team.

Hoping to catch their first Pacific-10 Conference win of the season during the weekend, the Ducks were instead swept twice on the road. They lost to Washington State in Pullman, Wash., Friday night (15-4, 15-0, 15-7). On Saturday, the Ducks lost in Seattle to Washington (15-8, 15-8 15-8).

Not even the return of outsidehitter Monique Tobbagi could spur the Ducks (6-14 overall, 0-11 Pac-10) to victory. Tobbagi's strong performance against the Washington schools earlier this season wasn't duplicated. She had an attack percentage of .091 against the Cougars and .132 against the Huskies.

However, Tobbagi did resume her role of leading the Oregon offense. The sophomore had 10 kills against Washington State and 15 against Washington.

"She hasn't jumped much in the past month, but Washington was one of her best matches in quite awhile," Oregon head coach Cathy Nelson said. "She was error-prone, but considering she's only played two matches after being off for a long time, I'm

pleased with how she performed."

What Nelson wasn't pleased with was the Ducks' loss to the Cougars.

While Oregon had a match attack percentage of .118, Washington State hit for .410. The defensive end was equally lopsided — the Cougars won the edge in blocks, 10.5-2, and digs, 46-25.

Game 2 was the most crushing defeat for Oregon. The 15-0 loss marked the second straight weekend that the Ducks were shut out in a game, the first coming at the hands of Southern California last Saturday.

"I don't think we played well at all," Nelson said. "We did all the things we try so hard to get out of in practice.

"There's no way in the world we should lose to anybody 15-0."

LaToya Harris led Washington State with 12 kills on 21 attempts, plus a service ace. Joy Sperry added nine kills to the Cougars' total of 53. After the poor showing in Pullman, Oregon held a team meeting Saturday before playing the Huskies. Among the biggest topics of conversation was the need for a better on-court attitude.

"We just need to relax, play hard and see who cares," Nelson said. "I think [the team meeting] showed through against Washington."

And it did. Instead of being blown out, Oregon was able to keep the score close. Even though the Ducks couldn't find a way to win any games, Nelson said the Ducks' attitude was far improved from the night before.

"It was a big turnaround for us against Washington State," Nelson said. "I thought we played much better, and the attitude was very different from the way it has been lately. The way we've been supporting each other lately has been a problem, so I see this as a step in the right direction."

Lisa Underhill and Allison Richardson were the Huskies' key players. Underhill had 13 kills and hit .500, while Richardson had 12 kills with a .524 attack percentage. Kristina Laffling also scored in double figures with 10 kills.

Oregon returns home to play California on Thursday and Stanford on Friday.

Sports brief

Women's golf struggles at Stanford Invitational

Three weeks after winning the Nittany Lion Invitational, the Oregon women's golf team finished a disappointing tie for 16th out of 18 teams at the Stanford Women's Intercollegiate.

The Ducks concluded the three-day event with an overall score of 931, 67 shots over par.

They got off to an uncharacteristically poor start Friday, shooting 308, 14 strokes behind the day-1 leader.

Oregon shot 308 again on Saturday and 315 Sunday.

The Ducks' top individual finisher was Jerilyn White, who finished tied for 20th place with a total score of 224, 8 over par. The next highest Oregon finisher was Pam Snowden, who wound up 35th with a score of 228.

Tulsa won the team tournament, largely due to the winning individual performance by Stacey Prammanasudh, who finished with a 6-under-par score of 210.

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going down than

(And spend less time in the bathroom.)

coming up-

* This bit of reality was unearthed by the 1998 UO Student Health Survey. Brought to you by the Office of Student Life. 346.3216.

