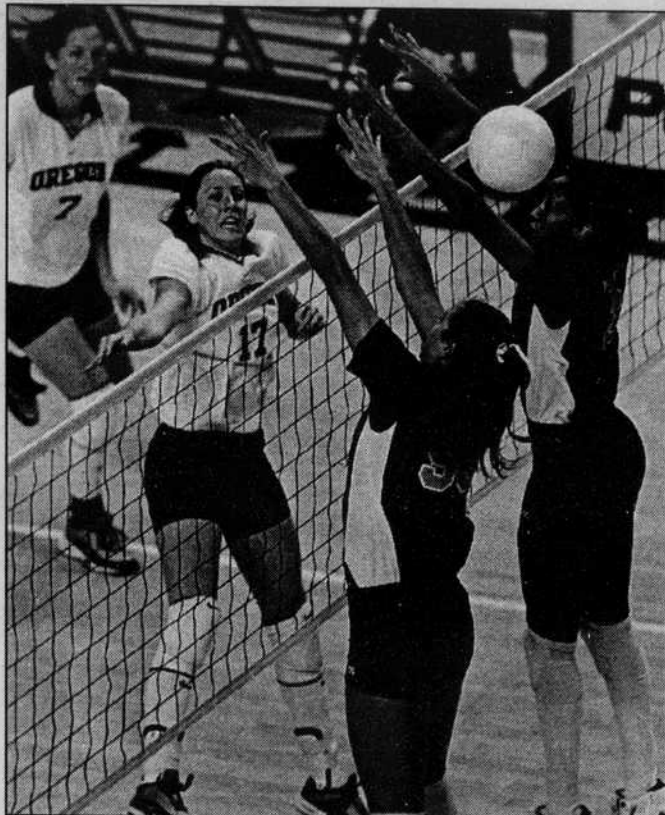


Sports

Oregon Daily
Emerald
Editor in chief: Laura Cadiz
Sports Editor: Tim Pyle

Best Bet
NHL Hockey
Chicago vs. Detroit
4 p.m., ESPN



Jeffrey Stockton Emerald

Junior Halie Mazza added four kills and had two digs against California.

Ducks drop 15th straight

■ The Oregon volleyball team can't find a way to beat Cal and must regroup in time to face No. 2 Stanford

By Scott Pesznecker
Oregon Daily Emerald

Point, game, match.
Record.

The Oregon volleyball team (6-15 overall, 0-12 Pacific-10 Conference) was swept by California (9-11, 4-7) 15-3, 15-7 and 15-7, eclipsing the 14-match losing streak set in 1994 under the reigns of coach Gerry Gregory.

"It looks like when we're doing well and we're going to win a game, we find a way not to," Oregon head coach Cathy Nelson said. "This is a team that has very little confidence and is a team that doesn't really believe it can win. It's kind of a self-fulfilling prophecy. Even when in position to win, we find a way to lose it."

After showing signs of improvement against Washington last Saturday, Oregon had high hopes before yesterday's match. The Golden Bears were the most beatable-on-paper team remaining on the schedule. Earlier this season, it came as a surprise to the Ducks when Cal beat them.

Oregon lost to the Golden Bears again, but it did not go quietly.

The Ducks responded from being down 7-1 in game 1 by closing the score to 10-8. Oregon held the momentum, but a pivotal no-call on a California ball-handling error resulted in a heartbreaking 13th point for the Bears.

With the score at 14-12, freshman Heather Gilmore made a heroic, cross-court save that barely made it over the net and earned Oregon the side out. Halie Mazza scored on a service ace before Cal's Courtney Guerra made the game-winning kill.

"We did more of what we did against Washington," Nelson said. "We got behind 7-1, but we showed that we were resilient."

Oregon fell behind 7-1 to start the second game but clawed its way back, trailing the Bears 9-6. Then it was California's Brooke Coulter who took control, scoring three of Cal's final four points.

The Ducks stormed to an impressive 7-1 lead in game 3, but the Golden Bears' game-winning 14-0 run was more impressive.

"We were ahead 7-1 and had things going our way, and then it just fell apart," Nelson said. "We're at that part in the season right now when that shouldn't be happening to us."

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The Hustle

Thursday
Cal 3, Oregon 0
(15-13, 15-7, 15-7)
Tonight
Oregon vs. No. 2 Stanford
7 p.m., McArthur Court

'Exciting step' awaits men at Pac-10s

■ Steve Fein is chasing his third individual title as the Ducks battle their Pac-10 Conference foes looking for postseason play

By Jeff Smith
Oregon Daily Emerald

Let the championship season begin. On Saturday, the No. 12 Oregon men's cross country team attempts to build on its successful season at the Pacific-10 Conference Championships, at El Dorado Regional Park in Long Beach, Calif.

The strong field of Pac-10 teams boasts four teams ranked among the top 12 in the nation. Beside Oregon there will be No. 2 Stanford, No. 6 Arizona and No. 9 Arizona State.

A year ago, the Ducks hosted the event and nearly came away with the win before finishing second by only two points to the Cardinal. Oregon continued on to its second consecutive second-place finish, while Stanford won its third straight Pac-10 title.

Head coach Martin Smith's youthful runners are coming off a strong seventh-place finish at the Pre-NCAAs on Oct. 16 where senior Steve Fein captured his second individual title

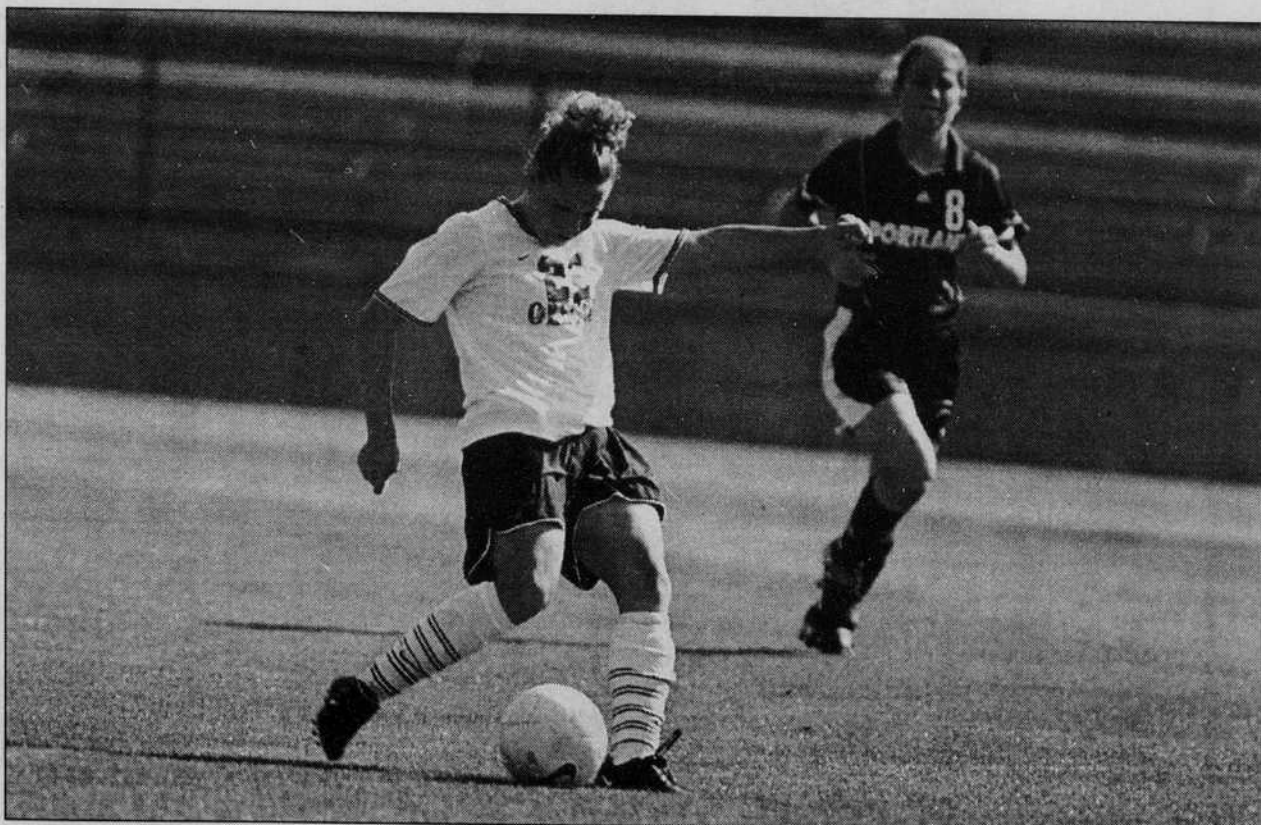
of the fall. Fein is favored to be the leader again this weekend, but will face stiff competition from Stanford junior Jonathon Riley, Arizona senior Micheil Jones and Washington senior Dave Bazzi.

Fein, who transferred from Wisconsin prior to the 1998 season, realizes the importance in helping Oregon continue the tradition of finishing at the top of the Pac-10.

"Obviously just talking to people here, they are excited about it and the chance of

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OREGON SOCCER



Scott Barnett Emerald

Senior forward Erin Anderson and her teammates take aim at knocking off a couple of Pac-10 foes for the first time this weekend.

UO hopes to end another loss streak

■ The Ducks are confident heading into this weekend's matches against No. 10 USC and No. 20 UCLA

By Brett Williams
Oregon Daily Emerald

Last weekend the Oregon women's soccer team ended its winless streak against the Washington schools with a 2-1 overtime win over Washington State. The Ducks attempt to do the same this weekend against No. 10 Southern California on Friday and No. 20 UCLA this Sunday at Papé Field.

Oregon (6-9 overall, 2-3 Pacific-10 Conference) is a combined 0-4 against USC and UCLA.

Last year the Trojans and Bruins dominated the Ducks offensively and Oregon lost 2-0 and 4-0, respectively.

"In the past we've played a lot of defense, and we want to change that," Oregon defender Carrie McLanahan said. "We need to attack them, score a lot of goals and give them a challenge."

Oregon head coach Bill Steffen said the Ducks sold themselves short playing against their Southern rivals in previous meetings.

"We had a decent match with UCLA

last year," Steffen said. "We haven't played up to our capabilities in the past." According to Steffen, the Ducks have grown mentally from their wins at Washington State and Oregon State.

"We're confident, and we realize we can [beat] good teams," Steffen said. "The better we get at knowing we can play with these teams, the better we are."

Oregon forward Julie McLellan agreed that Oregon's road wins boosted the team's confidence.

"The key things are mental, and the only thing lacking from our games before were our heart," said McLellan, who was

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