

Stanford's Tara Conrad extends for a kill against Monique Tobbagi and the Ducks.

## **No Duck surprises** for No. 2 Stanford

A strong performance in game 2 highlights Oregon's loss to No. 2 Stanford

By Scott Pesznecker Oregon Daily Emerald

One night after the Oregon volleyball team dropped its record-setting 15th-straight match, a Duck toppling of No. 2 Stanford — perhaps winning in an emotional five-game comeback — would have been a storybook ending.

But there was no grand upset Friday at McArthur Court. Oregon (6-16 overall, 0-13 Pacific-10 Conference) lost to the Cardinal (18-2, 10-1) by scores of 15-2, 15-6 and 15-4.

'They're an amazing, amazing volleyball team and an amazing group of athletes," Oregon head coach Cathy Nelson said. "You don't come in here [to play against Stanford] expecting to win; you come hoping to play well and to push them. I thought at times we really did that."
The Cardinal pounded the

Ducks on Sept. 30, winning in Palo Alto, Calif., in three quick games.

The Ducks did not roll over for

"We fought pretty hard," outside hitter Amy Banducci said.

Games 1 and 3 were typical. The Cardinal dominated both, as the Ducks seemed to unravel down the stretch of game 3.

The first half of game 2 was different. The Ducks were communicating well, making smart choices and hustling after each shot. Midway through the game, Oregon had forced four Stanford errors and trailed just 8-6.

But Stanford did not allow the Ducks another point.

"We decided to keep our mistakes downs and keep the ball in play," Stanford's Logan Tom said.

Monique Tobbagi may have taken a step back in recovering from a stress fracture in her fibula. The sophomore had six kills and eight errors, down from her 15 kills against California on Thursday.

'She was in probably more pain than she let me know and tried to deal with it," Nelson said.

Banducci had five kills on the night and a team-high eight digs. Freshman Heather Gilmore added two more kills.

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been a problem for the Ducks all season. But Sunday it was the Bruins turn to explain.

"It was ugly," said Ellis, in her first year as UCLA's head coach. "We didn't play well, and we haven't for a while.

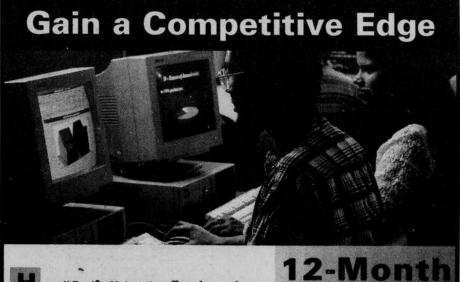
"But credit Oregon. They came

out and got it done."

When time expired, the Ducks joyfully rushed the field and tackled each other. The seniors had come a long way since the beginning their journey in the fall of 1996.

"It was emotional before the game, and this is a great way to end it," said senior Erin Anderson, Oregon's all-time leader in goals. "This is definitely one of our biggest wins ever."





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