



Jeffrey Stockton Emerald

Junior forward Aly Hill and the Ducks hope to build on their winning ways against the Arizona schools this weekend.

UO heads to desert on a roll

■ After the biggest win in program history last Sunday, the women's soccer team takes its game to Arizona

By Brett Williams
Oregon Daily Emerald

Oregon reached absolute euphoria with its 2-1 win over No. 20 UCLA in the seniors' last game at Papé Field.

After a week to reflect, the Oregon women's soccer team hits the road for its final two games of the season against Arizona State today and at Arizona on Sunday.

The Ducks (3-4 Pacific-10 Conference, 7-10 overall) are 3-1 all-time against the desert schools, including having swept them last season at Papé Field.

Oregon head coach Bill Steffen sees a lot of similarities in the three programs. Arizona's program surfaced in '94 and Arizona State joined the Pac-10 with Oregon in '96.

"We all have young programs and they're similar to us in a lot of ways," said Steffen, who is nearing the end of his fourth season as Ducks' coach. "We're all really young programs."

Oregon travels to Arizona with a large amount of momentum stemming from its win against UCLA,

which was the biggest win in the history of the program.

Midfielder Melissa Parker got major props for her performance against the Bruins. The junior from Tacoma, Wash., was named to Soccer America magazine's Women's Team of the Week for her game-winning goal against UCLA.

Steffen said Oregon's all-around play against the Bruins has given his team a large amount of confidence.

"The fact that we went the full distance and won is tremendous," Steffen said. "We let UCLA back in it and we gathered ourselves back up to score the game-winning goal."

Oregon midfielder Sierra Marsh said Arizona State should be the more difficult of the two games.

"They're doing well in the Pac-10 right now, and we need to go out and play hard," said Marsh.

In order to slow the Sun Devils' offensive attack, the Ducks will need to put tight clamps on midfielder Stacey Tullock. The sophomore, who was last season's Pac-10 freshman of the year and an All-American, has burned opponents this season for a Pac-10-best 16 goals and 39 points.

"She's one of the best in the conference, and we need to be able to

contain her," Steffen said.

Arizona has never beaten the Ducks, and Oregon would like to keep it that way. The Wildcats' Chrissy Sanford is Arizona's biggest weapon. She has 10 goals and five assists this year. Her 25 points rank fifth in the Pac-10.

According to Steffen, Oregon will take the same defensive approach against Sanford that they'll take against Arizona State's top player.

"She's done well, and it's the same thing as Tullock. Hopefully we can contain her," Steffen said.

Marsh said the Ducks need to ensure that they don't beat themselves when playing the Wildcats.

"We've played well against them in the past, and we have to not play down to their level or it will be difficult," said Marsh, who is tied for third on the team in goals. "We can't get too confident just because we've beaten them before."

This weekend should be emotional for Oregon. The 13 seniors who started the program in 1996 play their final games for the Ducks.

"It's always tough to see the transition," Steffen said. "At one point, we're proud of them, but at another point, we'll miss them, too. They've added a lot of character to the team."

Ducks in great shape for tourney

■ Oregon plans on improved execution and endurance helping them at the ITA Regional Tournament

By Matt O'Neill
for the Emerald

After an extended period of inactivity, the Oregon men's tennis team returns to action this weekend for the ITA Regional Tournament in Seattle.

The Ducks' second tournament of the fall takes place Nov. 6-9 and will feature a individual 64-person draw as well as a 32-team doubles draw.

Seven players on the Ducks' roster will make the trip north. Oded Teig, Leslie Esinga, Joaquin Hamdan, Jason Menke, David Becker, Cedric Vanhaver and T.J. Cameron will all be making the van ride with head coach Chris Russell.

Russell is excited for his team to return action from a month lay-off after a tournament in Fresno, Calif.

"The guys have done a lot of conditioning," Russell said. "We'll be in much better shape than we were in Fresno."

One Duck whose lack of conditioning was evident at the Bulldog Classic was the freshman Teig. The native of Israel played well in the tournament until he was overtaken by fatigue and cramping.

"Oded is in a lot better shape, he's had some more conditioning," Russell said. "He should be ranked in the top 16 seeds."

Russell is also looking for production from Esinga this weekend.

"Leslie is ready to make a big impact," Russell said. "The more

competition he and Oded get, the better they'll be."

Russell is looking for the whole team to show improvement from the intense conditioning.

"We feel like there is no comparison between us now, and at Fresno," Russell said. "I would like to see everyone set up to another level this weekend."

He is also looking for less unforced errors than at the Bulldog classic.

"We need to start making the other guys beat us," Russell said. "If we start to cut down on the free points, then I feel that we should be a little more deserving to win and be successful."

The Ducks will have six doubles teams entered in the tournament. Esinga will team up with Becker, a junior. Senior Vanhaver will play with Teig, and freshman Jason Menke will join Hamdan, a senior.

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