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# Oregon kills 16-match skid

■ The Ducks say goodbye to their school-record 16-match losing streak with a win over Oregon State

By Scott Pesznecker  
Oregon Daily Emerald

Amidst triumphant music and cheers from the crowd of 986 fans Friday night, the Oregon volleyball team savored the moment it had been waiting for all season — a conference victory.

The Ducks (7-16 overall, 1-13 Pacific-10 Conference) put an end to their school-record 16-match losing streak, beating Oregon State (8-14, 2-12) in four games by scores of 13-15, 15-10, 15-5 and 15-7.

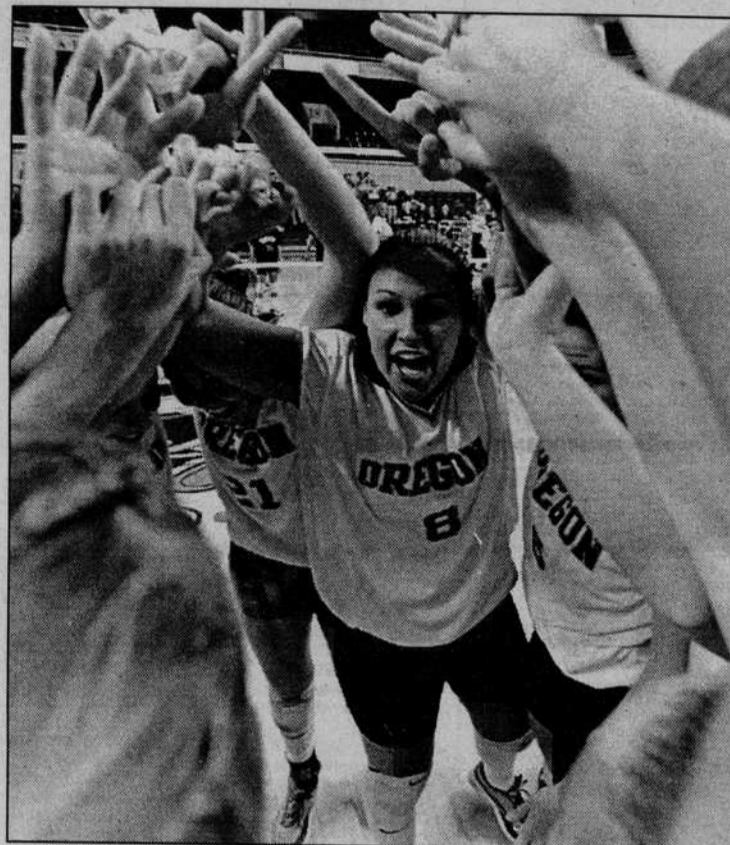
"This may be the most significant win we've had here because of where we had been," Oregon head coach Cathy Nelson said. "It took a lot of strength and courage for the team to come out and play like they did."

It was a hard-fought victory in a match the Ducks controlled from start to finish. It was a fierce display of Oregon's potential offensive power. It was a free clinic on how to play suffocating defense.

And to the joy of Nelson, all this was accomplished against the Ducks' in-state rival.

"The Civil War is another match, but it isn't," Nelson said. "There is something to that, just because it's the rivalry. We always want to beat the Beavs in everything we do here at Oregon. That makes it a little more significant."

Junior Amy Banducci had a career-high 21 kills to lead the offense, along with a team-high 17 digs. Setter Sydney Chute, who had 56 assists, looked for Banduc-



Nicole Allen celebrates with teammates following Friday's victory over Oregon State.

ci all night long as the duo proved to be a nightmare for the Beavers.

Chute was serving in the fourth game when Oregon scored its final four points. In that span, she collected one of her four service aces.

"We've been working constantly on serving in practice, and I think it has really paid off," Chute said. "I was just concentrating on hitting the area that my coaches were calling for me."

Laura Norton and Nicole Allen

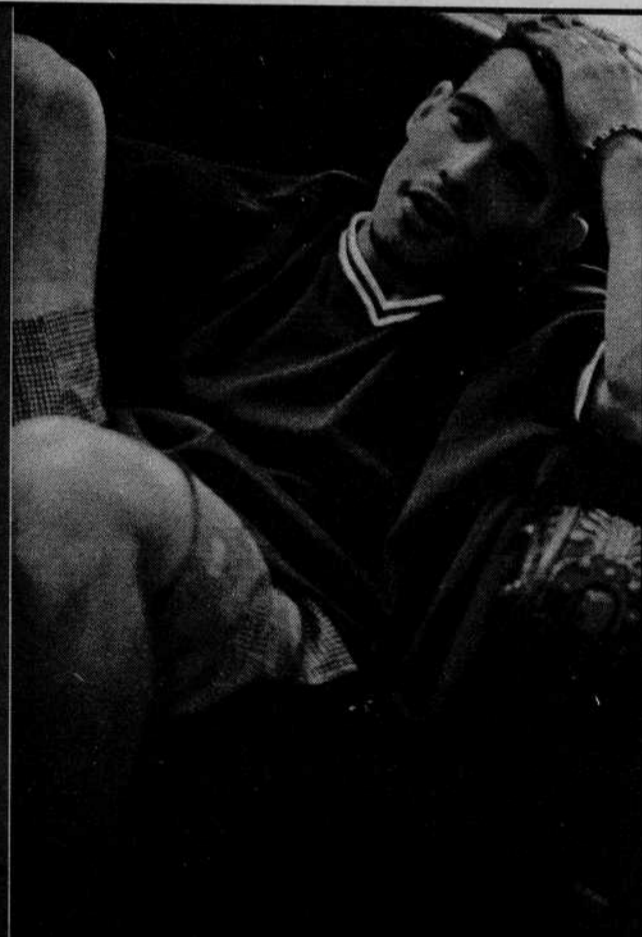
led the Ducks to 15 team blocks. Norton added 11 kills, and Allen had seven kills and 10 digs.

"It feels great [to win]," Norton said. "We've been waiting for it, and it feels just like we thought it would."

Oregon won despite two major setbacks. Monique Tobbagi did not play because of injuries and could be out the remainder of the season, and Heather Gilmore left the game early with a sprained right ankle.

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