

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

# Sports

**Best Bet**  
NBA Basketball  
Portland vs. Utah  
5 p.m., KEVU



## Volleyball proves skid was a fluke



**Scott Pesznecker**

**F**ootball is usually the first thing that comes to mind when Oregon sports fans hear the words "Civil War." In the winter, fans may also think about basketball.

Volleyball, which is present in most athletic programs, goes unnoticed by most sports fans. It lacks the glamor, spectator base and media exposure that thrusts other sports into the national limelight.

And when your school's volleyball team has an overall record of 7-16, it is even less compelling to follow.

But on a weekend when the Oregon football team rolled over Washington State and the women's basketball team won its exhibition game, an intense Civil War matchup was overlooked.

To see the volleyball team dominate Oregon State the way it did Friday night was nothing short of sensational.

It was spectacular.  
It was something special.  
Oregon's victory over the Beavers should have come much easier than it did. The week before the match, Oregon State offensive-leader Sarah Bjeldanes quit the team for personal reasons and setter Brandi Bonnarens injured knee, putting her out for the rest of the season.

Meanwhile, outside hitter Monique Tobbagi returned to the Ducks and led her team in kills through the four matches she played.

But by 7 p.m. Friday at McArthur Court, Tobbagi was not in uniform. The sophomore had aggravated her previous injuries and was in too much pain to play.

Then, early in the first game, outside hitter Heather Gilmore left the game with a sprained right ankle.

On any other day, Oregon would have been in trouble.

Perhaps it was the Civil War. Maybe it was a chance to pay back a team that dominated the Ducks before. Maybe the Oregon volleyball team just got tired of losing.

Or maybe the players finally realized that they can win.

Whatever happened, the Ducks turned up the intensity to a level at which Oregon State couldn't survive.

Oregon blocked. Oregon killed. Oregon hustled. One play in the third game had a shot going long, clearly out of the Ducks' reach. That didn't stop three Oregon jerseys from sprinting off the court and diving for the impossible hit.

Besides an overall team effort, something happened that has been waiting to happen all season — a leader emerged.

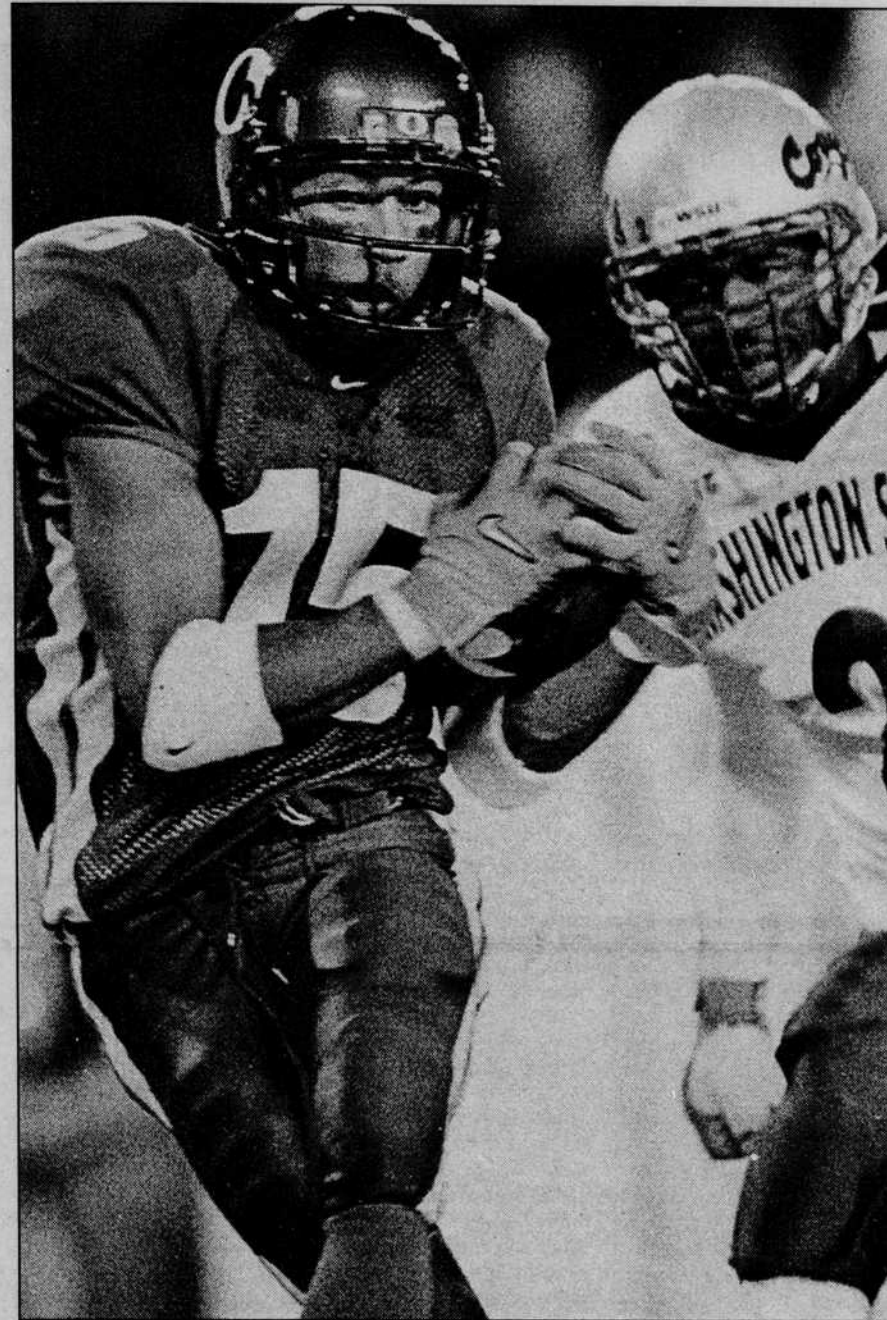
It may not last beyond that match, but junior Amy Banducci was repeatedly the go-to girl of the Oregon offense. She rose to the occasion, scoring a career-high 21 kills at the time her team needed her most.

The Ducks' first conference victory should have come much sooner than Nov. 5. Constantly plagued by unforced errors, lapsing defense and injuries, Oregon's confidence seemed to plummet early as it lost matches it should have easily won.

Had Oregon shown the poise it showed against Oregon State throughout its season, this would not have been the team that set a school-record losing streak. This could

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## Howry following Hartley... again



Freshman Keenan Howry has surprised even himself by becoming an integral part of Oregon's attack.

■ The Ducks' starting wideouts, who attended the same high school, are both making marks in the record books

By Tim Pyle  
Oregon Daily Emerald

Keenan Howry is quickly making a name for himself.

The true freshman wide receiver from Los Alamitos, Calif., has claimed a spot in the Oregon football team's starting lineup despite being underaged — he's just 18 — and undersized — he's listed as just 5-foot-9, 160 pounds.

Good is what the split end is.

With two regular-season games and a probable bowl game left in the Ducks' season, Howry has 22 receptions for 367 yards and four touchdowns.

"When I came in, what I was working for was just playing a little here and there, backup, whatever," Howry said. "But never to this extent, where I'd be starting by the third game. I had no idea that it'd come that soon."

Comparatively, senior flanker Tony Hartley, who became Oregon's all-time career receiving-yardage leader Saturday, had 25 catches for 387 yards and one touchdown as a true freshman.

The similarities between the Ducks' two starting wide receivers don't end there.

Hartley is also from Los Alamitos, and both played for John Barnes at Los Alamitos High School.

Is Howry trying to follow in Hartley's record-breaking footsteps?

"Yeah, it's been like that for the last five years," Howry said with a chuckle. "The things he's done are so far ahead of where I'm at right now. I've got three more years to look at that, so right now I'm just gonna worry about the present."

Hartley doesn't hesitate in anointing Howry the next great Oregon receiver.

"He's doing awesome," Hartley said. "These records will probably be his in a couple years."

But before Howry turns his attention to the all-time marks, he has a more immediate

Turn to **Football**, Page 9

## Baumgartner expects good Ducks in Hawaii

■ The No. 21 women's golf team has had a roller coaster ride of a fall heading into the Hawaiian Fall Golf Classic today

By Jeff Smith  
Oregon Daily Emerald

The roller coaster continues for the No. 21 Oregon women's golf team.

After four tournaments — two good, two bad — it is still tough to tell what kind of team this is.

Head coach Renee Baumgartner has not lost faith, and she is expecting big things as the Ducks participate in the Hawaiian Fall Golf Classic today and Wednesday at the Kapolei Golf Course in Kapolei, Hawaii.

"There's an incredible amount of talent on this team," Baumgartner said. "I still truly believe that this team is the best team I've ever coached, and it's time for them to start believing that."

The fall got off to a great start for the Ducks with a seventh-place tie at the NCAA Fall Preview on Sept. 15, but then two weeks later Oregon couldn't defend its home turf in the Oregon Invitational as it crumbled on the final day and finished second behind Pacific-10 Conference rival California.

But the Ducks' spirits were lifted Oct. 3, as they captured the Fall Nittany Lion Invitational in convincing fashion, setting a three-round school record with a score of 885. But then Oregon went downhill on Oct. 24, placing in a tie for 16th out of 18 teams at the Stanford Invitational.

"I feel we've been through so many peaks and valleys this fall," Baumgartner said. "A lot of it has to do with self-doubt. We learned a lot from Stanford by getting embarrassed. But there was a lot of positive talk afterwards, and I know it will make us better in the long run."



Baumgartner has been pleased with the play of senior Pam Sowden and junior Jerilyn White, who led the team at the Nittany Lion Invitational and Stanford Invitational, respectively.

"Pam and Jerilyn have really taken on the responsibility of knowing what their role is and going out there and doing it," Baumgartner said. "As soon as we start to get the rest of the girls going, we'll step it up. I think we're a spring team, and we're using the fall season as a learning curve."

The Ducks participate in a field of 15 teams, headlined by defending tournament champion Oklahoma State, which is ranked No. 8. The field also includes fellow Pac-10 rivals Oregon State and No. 25 UCLA.

"It's a good field with three or four teams that can potentially win," Baumgartner said. "I'm optimistic about our chances because it seems that the harder it is, the better we play."

The tournament consists of an opening round of 36 holes today, followed by 18 holes Wednesday, with tee time for both days set at 7:30 a.m. It is the Ducks' final tournament of the fall, as the team won't resume play until Feb. 21, 2000.

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**Renee Baumgartner**  
Head Coach