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# Oregon hopes to rebound

■ The Ducks aspire to return to their winning ways in Southern California this weekend

By Matt O'Neill  
Oregon Daily Emerald

Now the goal is consistency. Because so far that's been the missing ingredient for the Oregon softball team. In each of their games, the Ducks (9-7) have either scored ten or more runs or have been held to one or two runs.

"We need to jump on them early," head coach Rick Gamez said. "When we don't score early it becomes kind of a lull. We become not as effective. We would like to see a more balanced attack."

Oregon will need a more balanced attack this weekend when the team faces a powerful Cal State-Fullerton team at the Easton Showcase Tournament. The No. 16 host Titans boast a 16-2 record. They are led by senior infielder Kristy Osborne, who has an im-

pressive batting average of .469, and sophomore Monica Lucatero has knocked in 18 runs in 18 games.

Gamez hopes to negate the power of Fullerton with good pitching. He looks for Danielle



Haag to regain her old form and for Connie McMurren to bounce back from a tough weekend in New Mexico.

"We were able to bring Danielle back to where she was before we started games confidence-wise," Gamez said. "She gave a little boost because the other two [McMurren and Vidlund] didn't have as good a weekend as they did the first two weekends."

Oregon will also face Colorado State, San Diego State, Baylor, Missouri and University of the Pacific at the tournament. Each of those teams could get the best of the Ducks if their potent offense

doesn't produce. Junior Triawn Custer and sophomore Missy Coe have led the team in numerous offensive categories.

Custer paces the Ducks with an astounding .500 average, while Coe has hit five home runs and knocked in 15 RBIs. Coe is coming off a weekend where she hit four round-trippers and was named to the All-Tournament team in New Mexico.

Jill Robinson is also swinging a hot bat, leading the team with six home runs. Gamez hopes to get offensive support from other players in order to help his team win close ball games.

"Our biggest downfall this season has been that the top of the lineup has gotten off to a great start, while the bottom has not produced as much," Gamez said. "The bottom half of the lineup has to step it up for us to be successful. It's hard to win if you just have three, four or five kids contributing."

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# UO ready for more Pac-10 wins

■ The tennis team makes its final home appearance of the season against the Washington schools

By Robbie McCallum  
for the Emerald

The final two home games for the Oregon women's tennis team will be crucial to the Ducks' post-season hopes.

After claiming their highest national ranking in program history earlier this week, the No. 31 Ducks face two tough tests against Washington and Washington State this weekend.

The Ducks and their competition have similar goals: knock off an opponent ranked close to them and improve on their even records. Oregon (5-5, 1-5) faces No. 23 Washington (6-5, 1-2) on Saturday and No. 34 Washington State (4-4, 0-3) on Sunday.

"It will be an exciting weekend for us," head coach Jack Griffin said in a released statement. "They're going to be a big test for us, but right now I'm more concerned with how we respond mentally."

The matches will not only be critical for all three teams to climb out of the Pacific-10 cellar, but also in terms of them earning an overall winning record and thus bragging rights in the Northwest.

Washington poses the biggest challenge for the Ducks. The Huskies are one of the hottest teams in the nation, rattling off four straight victories.

Three of those wins came against ranked opponents, including No. 25 Fresno State and interstate rival

Washington State.

The Huskies are led by the nation's No. 2 player, Kristina Kraszewski. The junior from West Torrance, Calif., was a first-team all-Pac-10 selection last year and is a two-time NCAA qualifier. Kraszewski and No. 88 Zuzana Stunova pose a great challenge to Oregon's top players—No. 76 Alina Wygonowska and Monika Gieczys.

Oregon is more evenly matched with Washington State. Both teams have had a roller-coaster

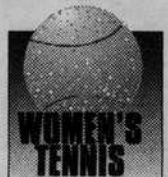
season, playing Pac-10 powerhouses and then nonconference paties. The Cougars are led by senior captain Melissa Pine, who was the top ranked Canadian throughout her junior career.

Polish players Wygonowska and Gieczys will face a familiar foe in Washington State's Patrycja Gajdzik, who hails from Szczecin, Poland.

Washington and Washington State "are big rivals in the Pac-10, but also in recruiting," Griffin said. "It's exciting because all three of us have improved over the past few years to the point that we're all in the top-50 and we're all about to break the top-30, so these matches get pretty intense."

Making an appearance in the Intercollegiate Tennis Association rankings for the first time ever is the doubles combination of Gieczys and sophomore Sarah Colistro. The 48th-ranked tandem is 6-2 this season with upsets over two other ranked doubles teams.

But Oregon won't be through with the Washington schools after this weekend. The three teams tangle again in Washington on April 31 and May 2.



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