

UO in must-win situation

■ The Oregon men's tennis team needs a win in its final home match to qualify for the NCAA tournament

By Robbie McCallum
for the Emerald

Facing elimination can bring the best out in a team.

Needing a win in its final conference match of the season to qualify for the NCAA tournament, the Oregon men's tennis team is backed into a corner.

The No. 55 Ducks are having their best Pacific-10 Conference season in school history, but it will all mean nothing should the team fail to reach the NCAA's. On April 7, Oregon earned its first Pac-10 win in more than five years. Two days later, the Ducks made it two in a row for the first time ever.

Saturday, the Ducks' post-season fate will be decided when No. 28 Washington comes to town. The two teams have identical 2-4 con-

ference records and so the winner of tomorrow's match will earn fourth place in the Pac-10 outright.

"[The match] has big implications and our guys are aware of that," head coach Chris Russell said.

The two teams tangled earlier this season on April 2, with Washington prevailing in Seattle, 4-3.

"The guys had them in a battle," Russell said. "It was the closest we'd come to beating Washington in a long time. We have to be tougher mentally and really finish our matches."

Home field advantage was a major factor in the earlier match.

"It was a very vocal crowd [in Seattle]," Russell said. "If we can plug in the crowd thing and get that intensity, that will be a big help."

The match will be the fourth time this season that the teams have faced each other. The Ducks and Huskies participated in two pre-season tournaments in the Northwest.

Since the April 2 matchup, both teams have fallen to the Los Angeles schools. On April 7, Washing-

ton lost to Arizona State, a team Oregon defeated 5-2.

Leading the Ducks into action will be streaking seniors Guillermo Carter and Joaquin Hamdan. Carter continues his month-long stay in the ITA rankings at No. 45 while Hamdan has won seven out of his last nine matches to push his overall record to 18-11.

A freshman duo also give the Ducks a boost. Oded Teig and Leslie Eisinga are first and third among the team in total wins. Sophomore Thomas Schneider has made several appearances in the national rankings this season.

Washington counters with No. 98 freshman Matt Hanlin, who defeated Carter earlier this season.

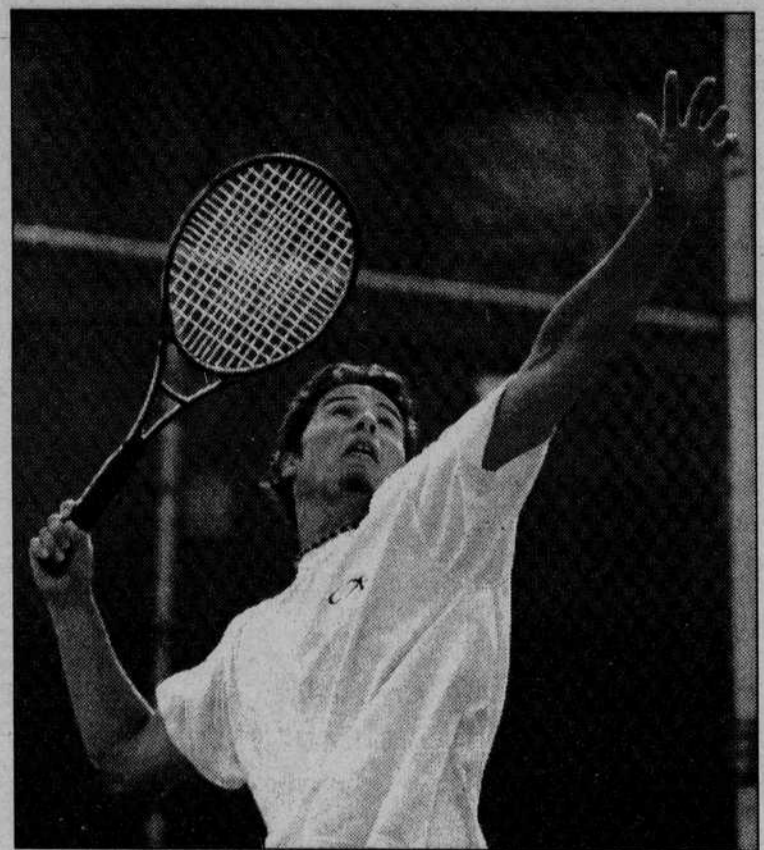
On Tap:

What: Men's tennis

Who: No. 28 Washington vs. No. 55 Oregon

Where: Either the 15th Avenue courts or Willow Creek Racket Club

When: 2 p.m.



Catharine Kendall Emerald

Leslie Eisinga has made an impact; the freshman is third on the team in wins.

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Horoscope by Linda C. Black

TODAY'S BIRTHDAY (April 21). You could stash away a lot this year, and if you do, you could accrue great wealth. Why not? Couldn't happen to a nicer person. Take a jaunt instead of a voyage in April and save a bundle. Put your budget into writing in May, with a clear goal in mind. By July, you should be able to make another good-sized investment. Do it for the children. Fall in love in September and count your winnings in December. Pass on a friend's crazy scheme next February and take a secret vacation next March.

To get the advantage, check the day's rating: 10 is the easiest day, 0 the most challenging.

ARIES (March 21-April 19) — Today is an 8 — You've had a couple of tough days, but now you could get a chance to travel. This will be a good weekend for a trip. If you're traveling on business, so much the better. You'll be in a good mood and willing to make a deal — for a profit, of course.

TAURUS (April 20-May 20) — Today is a 7 — By relying on your experience, you should be able to handle whatever stresses come your way. Don't worry if it looks like you've made a bad deal. You can use what you learn to do better next time.

GEMINI (May 21-June 21) — Today is a 6 — Expect an argument today. You're kind of self-conscious, and that could throw you off your stride. If you can postpone a competition for a couple of days, do it. Might as well be in top shape for a peak performance.

CANCER (June 22-July 22) — Today is a 6 — Service to others is the key to your success. The truth could be revealed in your workplace, too. If you don't like it at first, just relax. As you get used to an initially startling idea, you may find it will be to your advantage.

LEO (July 23-Aug. 22) — Today is an 8 — Don't waste time, but do have fun. Give a project your full attention, and you might complete it, finally. Later on, try something you've never done before. The odds are good you'll be pleasantly surprised. This could describe trying a new restaurant, too.

VIRGO (Aug. 23-Sept. 22) — Today is a 6 — You're being pushed to stay home and tidy up. You may need to get rid of a few things, too. While you're sorting through the stuff, look for valuable items. You may find something that makes it all worth while.

LIBRA (Sept. 23-Oct. 23) — Today is a 7 — Look out for surprises. You're liable to learn something that shatters your reality. We're going through a phase when the truth is being revealed, just about everywhere. Don't worry; this could turn out to be to your advantage.

SCORPIO (Oct. 24-Nov. 21) — Today is a 6 — Today you and your partner should go on a search for buried treasure. This could be a new way to invest your retirement account. Or, you might discover that those rhinestones your Grandma left you are really diamonds. Check into it!

SAGITTARIUS (Nov. 22-Dec. 21) — Today is an 8 — You have a compulsion to tell the truth. If you're thinking about blowing the whistle at work, be careful. Do it in such a way as to get a promotion, not a pink slip! Present the solution, not just the problem.

CAPRICORN (Dec. 22-Jan. 19) — Today is a 7 — You know that dream you had that you've just about given up on? Well, how about taking it out and dusting it off again. The situation may have changed in your favor. Don't do it during working hours, though. Get your day job done first.

AQUARIUS (Jan. 20-Feb. 18) — Today is an 8 — You and your team might need to reassess your situation. You've struggled to achieve the group's goals, while taking care of your responsibilities at home, too. You may not be able to do it all now, either. Save Sunday for your family.

PISCES (Feb. 19-March 20) — Today is a 6 — An opportunity that you thought was over and done with could show up again. This could take a little work on your part, but the goal you were after might be attainable. This lesson could be about never giving up. So, go for it one more time.

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