

SPORTS

Friday

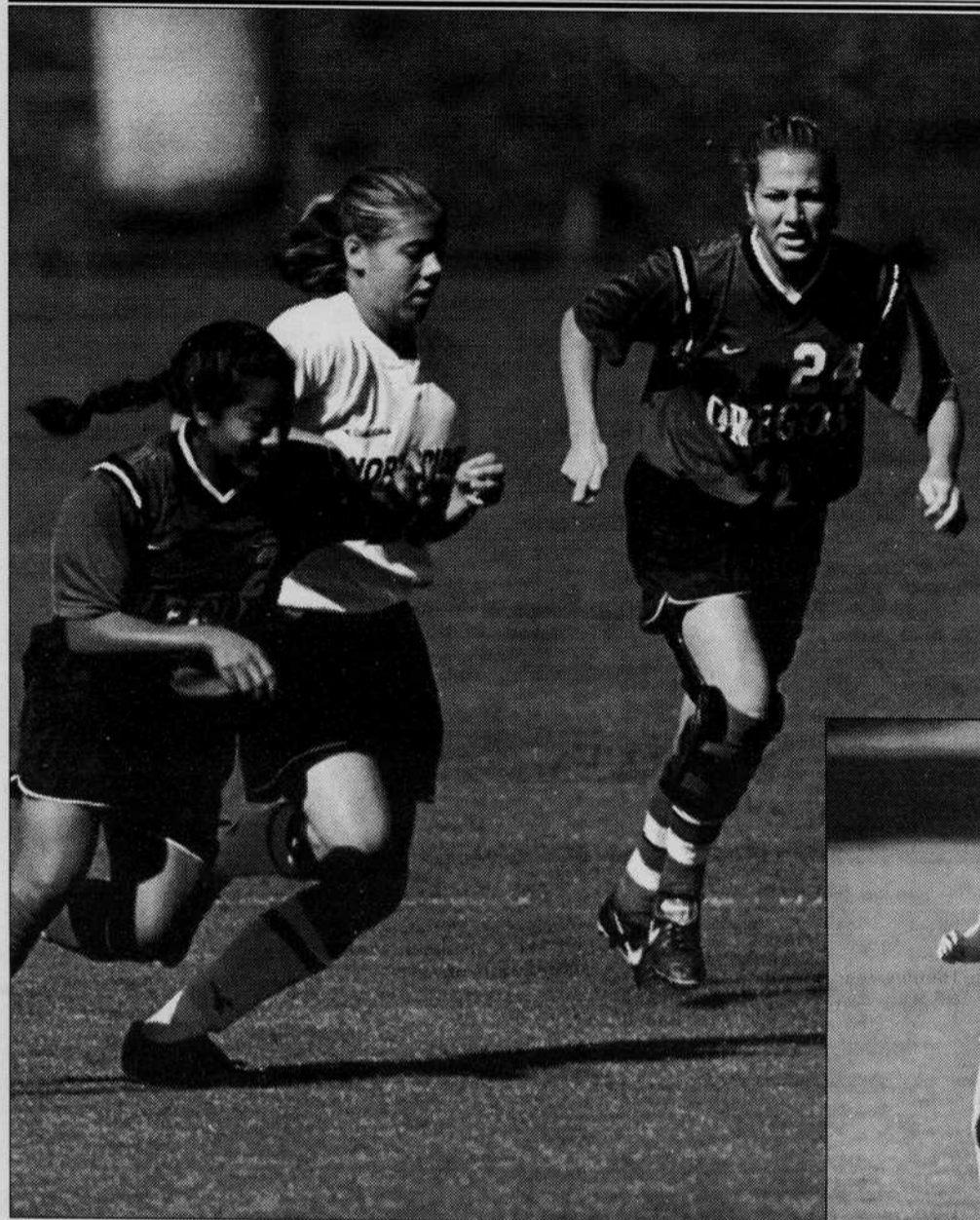
Best Bet

MLB: Chicago vs. Seattle
7 p.m., FoxSports Northwest



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HOME *sweet* HOME

■ The Ducks will play their fourth home game of the season on Sunday against No. 21 Florida State

By Peter Hockaday
Oregon Daily Emerald

The Oregon soccer team knows what it's like to compete against premier teams. The Ducks have taken on North Carolina, Duke and Santa Clara — all Top-25 teams — in the past few

weeks.

The question that Oregon head coach Bill Steffen is asking is this: Will the Ducks need more than experience to beat No. 21 Florida State at 1 p.m. Sunday on Papé Field?

"We know the level," Steffen said. "But we're home. We love to play at home. It's more comfortable for the kids."

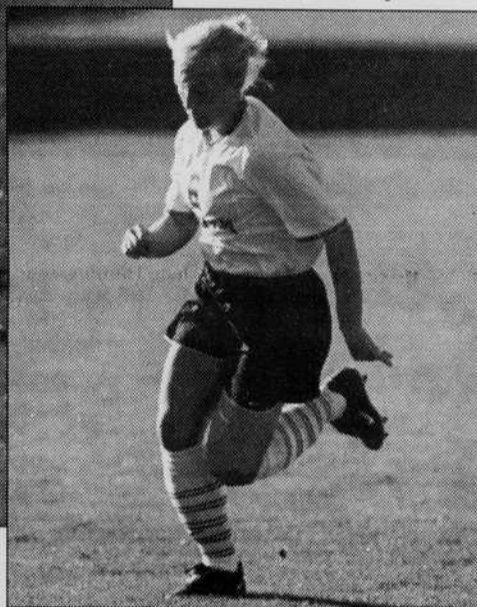
So yes, the Ducks will need more than experience. They'll need the Papé Field advantage.

Papé Field doesn't have the fabled win streak of Autzen Stadium, the rock-and-roll atmosphere of McArthur Court or the hallowed tradition of Hayward Field, but it's home all the same.

In fact, the Ducks have won two of their three games at home this season, and have a 5-6 record in Eugene over the past two seasons. But perhaps the most important win in Oregon

“ We love to play at home. It's more comfortable for the kids.

Bill Steffen
Head soccer coach ”



Emerald Archives

Chalise Baysa (2) and Beth Bowler (24), above, along with Allyssa White, right, will try to lead the Ducks past Florida State at home this weekend.

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A miracle? Volleyball hopes for upsets in L.A.

■ In its first Pac-10 road trip, Oregon must tackle two nationally ranked heavyweights in No. 4 USC and No. 5 UCLA

By Adam Jude
Oregon Daily Emerald

In search of its first Pacific-10 Conference win of the year, the Oregon women's volleyball team is hoping for an early Christmas.

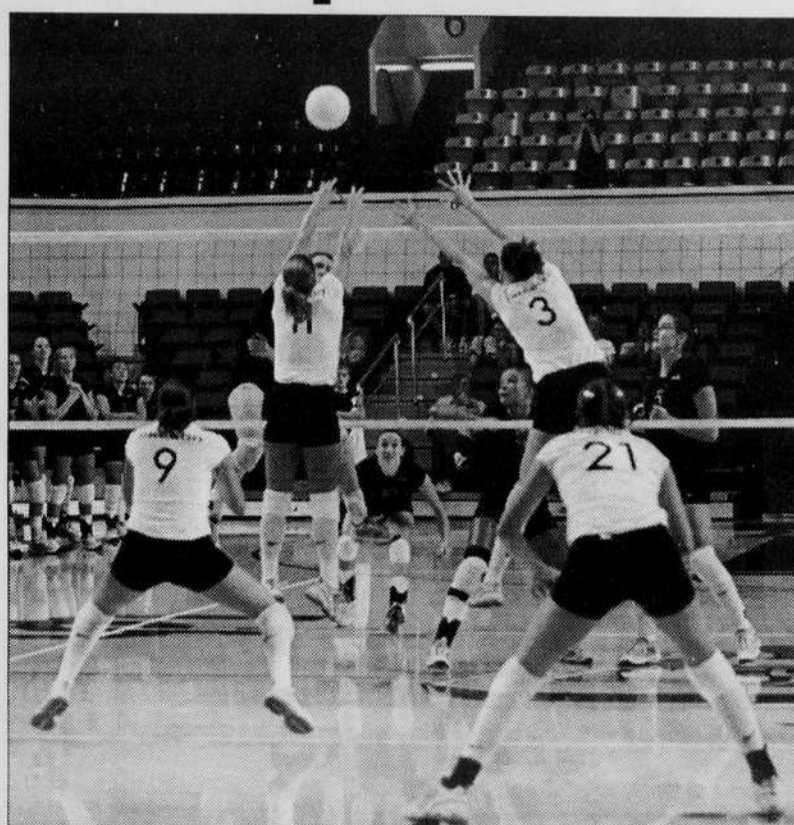
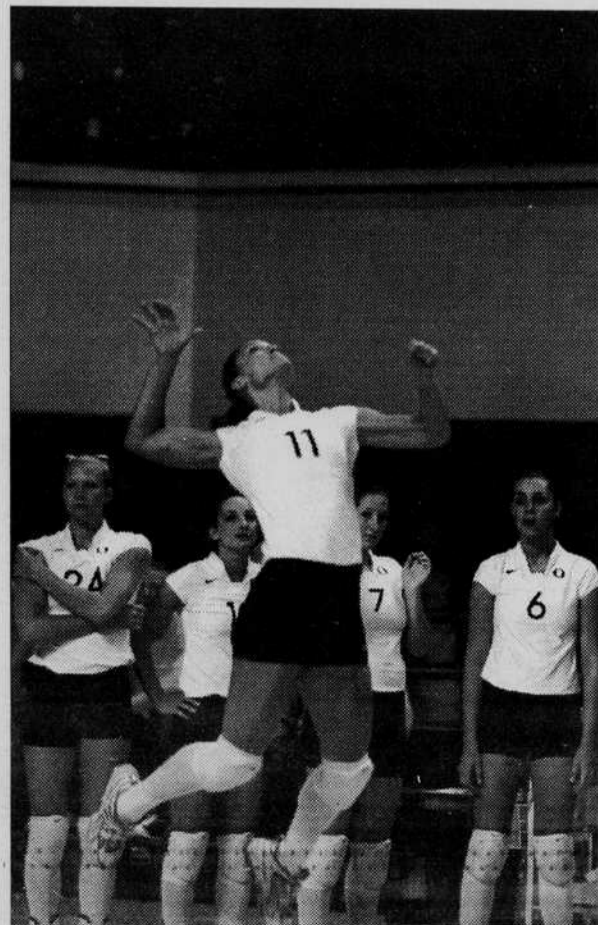
This weekend, the Ducks (7-4 overall, 0-3 Pacific-10) head south to battle two of the country's elite teams — No. 4 USC and No. 5 UCLA.

"This is definitely our most difficult road trip of the season," head coach Carl Ferreira said.

Friday's contest features a Bruin team that is undefeated in conference play (4-0) and 9-3 overall. UCLA holds a 31-3 series advantage over the Ducks, with Oregon's last victory coming way back in 1987.

"When you play better teams, they know how to put pressure on both sides of the ball," Ferreira said. "They make scoring points harder. But the good news is that we have a lot of confidence in understanding that we can play at this level."

UCLA's Kristee Porter leads the conference in kills average with 5.37 per game, and is a candidate for the honor



Kevin Calame and Dan Brunell Emerald

Senior outside hitter Amy Banducci (left) is second on the team with three aces this season. Defensively, the Ducks — (left to right) Monique Tobbagi, Banducci, Amanda Porter and Sydney Chute — are averaging 2.3 blocks per game.

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