

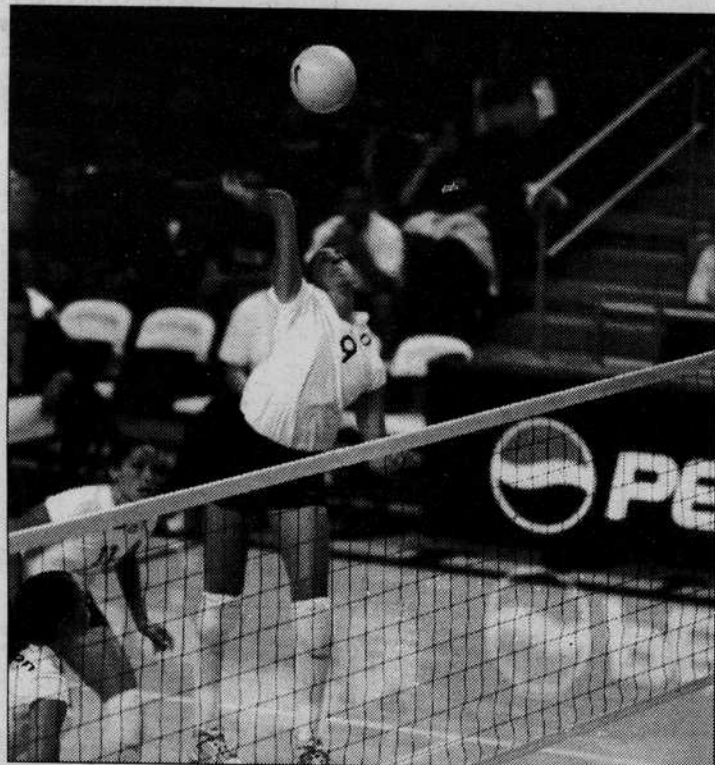
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Kevin Calame Emerald
Junior outside hitter Monique Tobbagi leads the team with 3.85 kills per game and is proving to be one of the most recognized leaders on the floor.

Volleyball

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of national player of the year.

"We're looking to win," said junior outside hitter Monique Tobbagi, who leads the young Duck squad in kills with 3.85 per game. "We know that if we execute our offense, we're headed in the right direction and we can take these teams."

“We need to improve our point scoring efficiency. Against these two top teams, you don't get your chances back. You have to take care of the possessions you get. You have to have a very high level of efficiency; if not, they'll capitalize... Everyone is beatable. If we run our system, we can beat anybody. We just want to compete as hard as we can and leave it all on the court.”

Carl Ferreira
Head volleyball coach **”**

On a positive note, the Ducks lead the league in service aces with 2.18 per game. Sophomore setter Sydney Chute is second in the Pac-10 with 25 aces this season.

"Regardless of the outcome, in the conference you have to learn how to handle the results maturely in order to play back-to-back," Ferreira said. "If you win, you have to do it again tomorrow. If you lose, your opponent is hoping you have a pity party for yourself so you're

not good tomorrow. So the second game is key."

And that second game will not get any easier for Oregon.

The undefeated USC Trojans, ranked No. 1 according to Volleyball Magazine, has yet to even drop a game this season, sweeping all of its opponents.

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The Pac-10's most ferocious blocking team is led by Trojan junior Jennifer Pahl, who posted a .750 attack percentage against Stanford on Sept. 22 and was named the Pac-10 player of the week.

"Everyone is beatable," Chute said. "If we run our system, we can beat anybody. We just want to compete as hard as we can and leave it all on the court."

Despite enormous odds, Ferreira said his team does a good job of not anticipating certain outcomes.

"We're not going to predetermine winning and losing based on what's on your jersey or what you're ranked nationally," said the first-year Oregon coach. "We're going to play and focus on what we can control, not what we can't control."

In three Pac-10 matches this season, the Ducks have taken each of their opponents to the deciding fifth game. Against Stanford, then the 11th ranked team, Oregon nearly pulled out an upset.

"It's exciting," Ferreira said. "Anything can happen. This is a very mature team that has competed consistently every single night."

Last Sunday, the Ducks ended their three game slide by sweeping the Portland Pilots for their first home win of the season.

Following this weekend's trip to Los Angeles, Oregon will come home to face Arizona State on Oct. 6 and Arizona the following night.

Soccer

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history came on Papé Field — last year's almost scary 2-1 decision over UCLA on Halloween.

The Ducks will use a new-found confidence to take on Florida State, with coach Steffen hoping that confidence will blend with the home-field advantage and the Ducks' experience to create the perfect victory mix.

"There were a lot of reasons for us to quit," Steffen said about his team's come-from-behind victory over James Madison last Sunday. "The fact that we stayed with it and we maintained and actually raised our level of play after giving up the goals, I think that shows we're battle tested."

On the field, junior Starr Johnson anchors a tough defense, while sophomore Sarah Peters will start at goalkeeper. Forward Crystal David, the junior transfer from the University of San Francisco, joins junior midfielder Chalise Baysa as the Ducks' main offensive threats. Allyssa White, who scored the game-winner against James Madison, and Beth Bowler, who has taken the most shots for Oregon this year, provide depth up front.

Johnson thinks the defense could be the most important part of the Duck attack.

"The less we're on defense, the less stress we have," the Hawaii-native said. "When the offense has the ball and controls the ball, it means the less we have to do to keep the ball out of our defensive third."

That theory helped the Ducks win against James Madison. The

Ducks took more shots, more corner kicks and less fouls than James Madison after the Dukes' first two goals. Oregon also finished its scoring chances, which Steffen has pointed to as a problem area for the Ducks.

"When you haven't scored in awhile you start to feel snakebit, like you just can't score," Steffen said. "The first score is always the hardest. Once we got that one I felt better, and then we converted on

“There were a lot of reasons for us to quit. The fact that we stayed with it and we maintained and actually raised our level of play... I think that shows we're battle-tested.”

Bill Steffen
Oregon soccer coach **”**

two more chances after that."

Oregon went five games without scoring before Annie Murphy's goal in a 3-1 loss to Xavier on Sept. 22. The Ducks took 40 shots in that five-game span. The floodgates opened against James Madison, though, as the Ducks received goals from leading scorers Baysa and David before White's rebound shot with just over two minutes left in the game. In less than 70 minutes, Oregon scored more goals than it had in its previous seven games.

"We broke the ice," Steffen said. The Ducks can only hope the ice doesn't freeze back in Sunday's game against Florida State.

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