



Ferreira's Ducks aim to end Pac-10 skid

The volleyball squad looks to 'take care of business' against the Arizona schools this weekend

By Adam Jude
Oregon Daily Emerald

Losing consecutive matches on consecutive nights to two of the best teams in the nation could be devastating for many clubs.

But the Oregon volleyball team is forgetting last weekend's disappointing trip to Los Angeles, as well as the league games before those.

Instead, the Ducks are trying to look ahead and disregard their 0-5 start to the Pacific-10 Conference season.

"Now, when you look in the mirror, you say 'eek' and realize that you might not accomplish the things you want," said first-year head coach Carl Ferreira, who has led the Ducks to a 7-6 overall start this season. "But we are still in reach of accomplishing some of the things we want. And winning is our first goal."

After a four-match home stand, in which the team went 1-3, Oregon headed into its meetings in Southern California knowing it had to be nearly perfect to beat No. 1 USC and No. 5 UCLA.

"Those teams have a high level of intensity and put pressure on your execution, which increases the difficulty of play," Ferreira said. "And that just makes you even more irritated that you let [matches against Stanford, California and Oregon State] slip away at home."

In their quest for their first conference win of the season, the Ducks must contend with Arizona State and No. 6 Arizona this weekend at

McArthur Court.

"At home, we need to take care of business," Ferreira said.

Set me up

Junior Julie Gerlach and sophomore Sydney Chute are leading the complex Oregon 4-2 Flex offensive scheme. The two setters are the cornerstone of the system, leading the squad with a combined 521 assists (nearly 10.5 per game).

Additionally, the duo accounts for one-fourth of the Ducks' overall attacks.

Thus far, Gerlach and Chute have combined for 465 attacks, compared with last year's total of just 201 attacks.

Ferreira compares the setters to the quarterback of a football team or the point guard of a basketball squad.

"Julie and Sydney are key components and critical to our success," he said. "Teams with the best quarterbacks are hard to beat. They [Gerlach and Chute] are doing a great job."

A bench killer

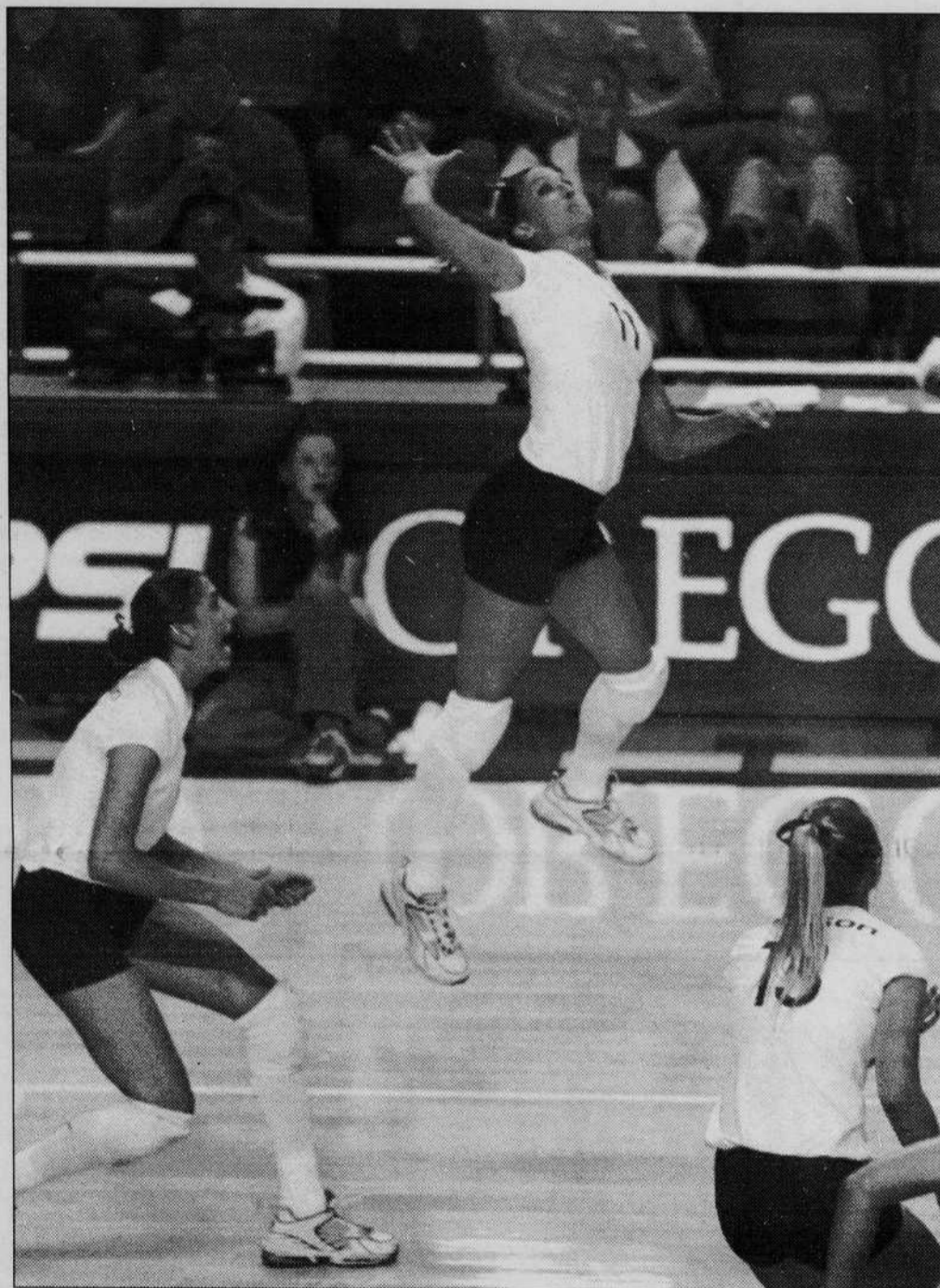
Sophomore middle blocker Amanda Porter is proving to be a solid addition to the Ducks' lineup and is usually the first to be called off the bench.

The Idaho transfer, who came to Eugene with coach Ferreira, has recorded 69 kills this season and is third on the team with a .258 attack percentage and third in total blocks with 34.

A chemical reaction

Despite zero conference wins, the Ducks still have confidence in their abilities and in each other.

"I really like our chemistry. Turn to Volleyball, page 6



Kevin Calame Emerald

Senior Amy Banducci (11) and her teammates have been playing with a new found sense of purpose and have recorded seven wins compared to six losses. However, the Ducks are 0-5 in Pac-10 play—a record the Ducks expect to improve.

Now, when you look in the mirror, you say 'eek' and realize that you might not accomplish the things you want. But we are still in reach of accomplishing some of the things we want. And winning is our goal.

Carl Ferreira
volleyball coach

Ice, ice baby: It's time to fire up the 2000 NHL season



TWO MINUTES FOR
CROSSCHECKING
PETER HOCKADAY

I am Dick Vitale. Right now I am the Philly Phanatic, the Dallas Cowboy cheerleaders and Barrelman all rolled into one.

It's hockey time, babeeeee!

Yes sir, today marks a very important date on my calendar. Today, the Dallas Stars and the Colorado Avalanche will start a nine-month marathon of hockey when they drop the puck on ESPN. Nine months of bliss.

So why should you watch this game tonight, you ask? Why shouldn't you watch, say, the Yankees play the A's?

The answer is: Watch those teams, but flip over to ESPN every once in a while. You'll see a more exciting game.

Yeah, I called hockey exciting. Why not? Name an NFL player that can hit as hard as the Stars' Darien Hatcher. Name someone in sports with as many ooh-ahh moves as Buffalo goalie Dominik Hasek.

If you think hockey isn't tough, ask Anaheim forward Paul Kariya what it feels like to have more concussions than Steve Young and Troy Aikman combined — and still be playing.

Ask ex-Bruin Marty McSorley what it feels like to go on trial for assault and battery after an almost routine hockey play. Ask Dallas' Mike Modano what it feels like to go face-first into the boards on national television.

More global than basketball,

faster than football and less predictable than baseball, hockey is ... where it's at.

And I've got two turntables and a microphone.

So I guess it's time to make some fearless predictions for the 82-game season. Fearless.

Western Conference — Central Division

1. St. Louis Blues. The tide has turned in the Western Conference. The speed and sleekness of Detroit has given way to the toughness and playmaking of the Blues and the Dallas Stars. St. Louis has all the makings of a dynasty: the veteran leadership of Al MacInnis, the hard-hitting play of Chris Pronger and the goalkeeping of Roman Turek. Look for the Blues to make it further than last year's disappointing first-round loss to San Jose.

2. Detroit Red Wings. 3.

Nashville Predators. 4. Columbus Blue Jackets. 5. Chicago Blackhawks.

Northwest Division

1. Colorado Avalanche. Where did Ray Borque, one of the best defensemen in the game, go when he wanted to win a championship? Colorado, of course. The Avalanche are a no-brainer to win the Division, and maybe the Conference. Colorado has dominating forwards like Peter Forsberg, one of the best centers in the game, and big-name players up and down the roster. The Avalanche have a goalie, Patrick Roy, who is four wins away from breaking the all-time NHL record. Colorado, meet Lord Stanley.

2. Vancouver Canucks. 3. Calgary Flames. 4. Edmonton Oilers. 5. Minnesota Wild.

Pacific Division

1. Dallas Stars. The Stars are still

one of the best teams in the NHL, despite being embarrassed in a few playoff games last year. But if Dallas is going to win a Stanley Cup, this is the year to do it. Ed Belfour and Brett Hull are 35 and 36 years old, respectively, while Mike Modano, Joe Nieuwendyk and Sergei Zubov are all in their 30s. The Stars proved all their doubters wrong last year by making it to the finals despite their creakiness, and could easily do it again in 2000-01.

2. San Jose Sharks. 3. Phoenix Coyotes. 4. Anaheim Mighty Ducks. 5. Los Angeles Kings.

Eastern Conference-Atlantic Division

1. New Jersey Devils. The Devils will use their superstar firepower to win the division title this season. Forwards Claude Lemieux and Patrick Elias, defenders Scott

Turn to Ice, baby, page 6