



Erin Swanson-Davies Emerald

Junior Annie Murphy chases a ball against Oregon State last Friday. Murphy and the Ducks will be looking for upsets against Washington and Washington State, their final home matches of the year.

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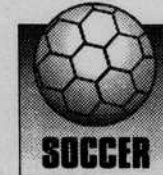
Soccer takes on best after a sub-par show

■ The Ducks prepare to wrap up their home season against the University of Washington, which is No. 2 in the nation

By Peter Hockaday
Oregon Daily Emerald

The Oregon soccer team was disappointed after a 2-2 tie with Oregon State, but it's over that.

It lost a few games, 11 to be exact, but that's in the past.



One of the best teams in the nation, No. 2 Washington, is coming to town, but the Ducks are ready.

"I think we can win against anyone," said freshman Ann Westermarck, who had one of the goals last Friday against the Beavers.

"If we play like we're capable ... for 90 minutes, we're in good shape," said Oregon head coach Bill Steffen about this weekend's games.

The Ducks (4-11-1, 1-3-1 Pac-10) will host Washington State (10-6-0, 2-4-0) Friday and No. 2 Washington (15-1-0, 6-0-0) Sunday in Oregon's final home games of the year.

Senior send-off

Sunday's game will mark the final home match for four Ducks: Midfielders Melissa Parker, Allyssa White and T.J. Johnson, and transfer forward Mary Cascio.

The three midfielders have been with Oregon since the team's second season, in 1997, and have all played key roles for the Ducks this year.

White tallied the game-winning goal in a 3-2 victory against James Madison. Parker leads the midfielders — along with junior Annie Murphy — with four points on the season, and Johnson had been Oregon's "12th man" off the bench until a rib injury sidelined her for most of the Pac-10 schedule. Cascio has been a welcome addition to the squad this year after three seasons at Portland State, and has played in all 16 games.

War (not) on the Wazzu floor

The Ducks have traditionally locked horns with Washington

State, and this season should be no different.

"We're excited to play Washington State because it's always a battle," Steffen said.

The two teams' history started two seasons ago, when the Cougars barely pulled out a 1-0 victory in Eugene. The game was a defensive

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Bill Steffen
Soccer coach

masterpiece: The Ducks held Washington State to just nine shots, and took only five shots themselves.

Last year, it was a different story up in Pullman, Wash., where Oregon notched a 2-1 overtime miracle.

Now-sophomore Julie McLellan's shot in overtime went past the Cougars' goalkeeper, and was tipped in by a Washington State defender. In contrast to 1998's affair, the Ducks took 22 shots on goal, while the Cougars took nine.

Can they get a medic, please?

The Ducks just can't seem to shake the injury bug. Sophomore Lindsey Peterson, one of Oregon's most physical defenders despite her 5-foot-3 height, went down with a sprained left ankle against UCLA and could miss the rest of the season.

Johnson took a hit Friday, and re-injured a rib in her first game back from that injury. The senior has a 50-percent chance to return this weekend, according to Steffen.

"We've got decent depth, so while we missed Lindsey, I think Marie stepped up and did a good job for us," Steffen said about defender Marie Selby stepping in for Peterson Friday. "They each bring different things to the table."