

Volleyball

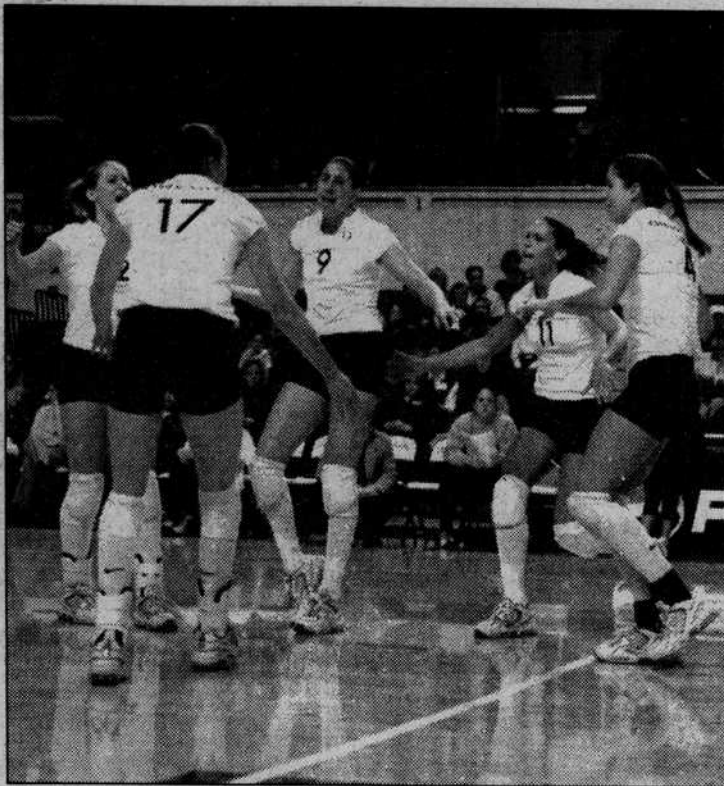
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with 16 kills.

"Arizona State is one of the top defensive teams in the conference; everything feeds off their defense," Oregon first-year head coach Carl Ferreira said. "When you're on the road, you automatically have to play with a high level of energy and commitment."

"If you're not prepared, you're going to have a long night," Ferreira said.

« When you're on the road, you automatically have to play with a high level of energy and commitment.

Carl Ferreira
Oregon head coach »



Emerald
With their Thursday-night loss to Arizona State, the Ducks fell to 1-12 in the Pac-10 and 9-13 overall. Tonight, Oregon travels to No. 4 Arizona looking for a win.

career-high 10 kills, three blocks and a team-high .350 attack percentage.

Sophomore setter Sydney Chute also provided some spark for Oregon with a .316 clip, eight kills and 28 assists.

The Ducks, in the midst of a three-game losing streak, now travel to Tucson to take on one of the

hottest teams in the conference. The Arizona Wildcats, ranked fourth in the country, have an overall record of 20-2 and are 12-1 and tied for the Pac-10 lead.

The Wildcats swept the Ducks in the first meeting of the season.

"I've said it before, but in this conference you have to have a short-term memory," Ferreira said.

And a long night it was for the Ducks.

From the floor, Ferreira's squad hit a dismal .097 attack percentage. Arizona State, on the other hand, had an overall attack percentage of .266.

The Ducks pulled to a quick 4-0 lead in game one before the Sun Devils went on an 11-0 run to take control. From there, Arizona State never looked back.

Senior Halie Mazza paced the Ducks with 10 kills, nine digs and four blocks. Freshman Alisha Stevens stepped off the bench for a

Soccer

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healthy team. For the first time in their Pacific-10 Conference season, the Ducks will play their 11 best players, top to bottom. Starting goalkeeper Sarah Peters will return from a bruised hand she suffered against Washington State. Lindsey Peterson, a starting defensive back, will return to the lineup after missing three games with a sprained ankle.

The second factor is the Ducks' finishing skills. After failing to score against UCLA and Southern California, Oregon rattled off four goals in its next three games against Oregon State, Washington State and Washington. The best result the Ducks could muster in those

games was a tie with the Beavers, as the breaks didn't go their way.

The final factor is that Oregon is experienced. Steffen's scheduling — the Ducks have played seven top-25 teams this season — may finally pay off in the season's final games.

"We're trying to get these kids accommodated to the pressure of playing these teams match in and match out," said Steffen.

If Oregon is accustomed to the pressure, they will need to use that experience to upset a ranked team for the first time this season.

The last time the Ducks beat a top-25 team was their 2-1 upset of No. 20 UCLA in Eugene last year. That win, which could have been the biggest in Oregon history, propelled the Ducks to their best-ever record last year.

This year, Oregon could end with its worst-ever record. In the team's inaugural season in 1996, the Ducks went 5-11-2, 1-3-1 in the Pac-10. Since they started playing Pac-10 games against the entire conference in 1997, the Ducks have won at least two conference games each season.

"We've moved on," said junior Chalise Baysa, the team's leading scorer. "You can't really dwell on the past."

Oregon's competition may have something to do with the decline in the Ducks' win column. The Pac-10 has emerged as one of the best conferences in the nation with five teams in the top-25. The Atlantic Coast Conference has five teams currently in the top-25, while the Big 12 claims two.

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