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Wildcats pounce on Ducks

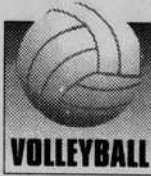
■ No. 4 Arizona delivers a hard uppercut to the Ducks' confidence and claims the Pac-10 lead for itself

By Adam Jude
 Oregon Daily Emerald

Arizona proved why it's the top team in the Pacific-10 Conference Friday night in Tucson.

In a match that lasted just 55 minutes, the No. 4 Wildcats (21-2 overall, 14-2 Pac-10) manhandled the Ducks in a decisive 3-0 victory (15-7, 15-2, 15-2).

Oregon is now 9-14 overall and



1-13 in conference play.

"We knew this was going to be a difficult match," head coach Carl Ferreira said. "They are a final-four team, but you always have a chance to win every match."

The Wildcats out-blocked (12-3) and out-killed (27-17) the Ducks, and Oregon showed off its lowest team attack percentage of the year.

Overall, Oregon hit minus-.162, while the Wildcats finished with a .339 percentage.

Junior hitter Monique Tobbago was the only Oregon player to have a positive attack percentage; she finished the match with seven kills and a .263 clip.

Senior Marisa DaLee, who leads the country in overall attack percentage, paced the Wildcats with

eight kills, no errors and a hitting percentage of .875.

In game one, Oregon jumped to a quick lead, but were flushed by a 12-0 run by the home squad at McKale Center, and eventually lost the opening game 15-7.

From there, the Wildcats didn't even blink. They opened game two by scoring 10 straight points (en route to a 15-2 win), and led 6-0 in game three, which they also won 15-2.

Oregon was also swept by Arizona State last Thursday in the first match of the road trip.

After a win over Oregon State on Saturday, the Wildcats took sole possession of first place in the Pac-10.

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Football win

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not. Our kids are not to be denied and they found a way to get it done."

For Washington State (3-6, 1-5), the hard-luck continued. It was the Cougars' third overtime loss this season, and even worse for the team, they lost their starting quarterback in the process. Jason Gesser broke the tibia in his left leg four minutes into the second quarter when he was sacked by Saul Patu. It could have spelled disaster for Washington State, but instead, Kegel came in and completed 10-of-20 passes for 107 yards.

"Kegel did a great job," Bellotti said. "I talked to him after the game and congratulated him. He didn't play like a back-up quarterback."

The redshirt freshman quarterback scored on a one-yard run at the 12:25 mark of the fourth quarter to give Washington State the 24-16 lead.

with receiver Marshaun Tucker for a 38-yard touchdown, and then to Keenan Howry for a two-point conversion to tie it up at 24 with 9:08 remaining.

"He was not really sharp and really accurate until when it counted in the fourth quarter," Bellotti said

"I just told them that they're making me an old man before my time. I'll take it anyway we can get it. I don't care if it's one point in overtime or not. Our kids are not to be denied and they found a way to get it done."

Mike Bellotti
 Oregon head coach

the best team. We need to play with some urgency."

It seemed Oregon had that urgency on its first play from scrimmage, a 48-yard pass to Tucker. Maurice Morris — who left the game with bruised ribs — ran it in from nine yards out to give Oregon the 7-0 lead. The Cougars answered with an Adam Hawkins one-yard touchdown run to tie it and kicked a field goal for the lead.

The Ducks recaptured the lead when cornerback Bauman ran back a 42-yard interception for a score, and Frankel knocked through his then-career-high 46-yard field goal. Washington State held the slim 17-16 halftime lead after Minnich ran it in from two yards out with 1:47 left in the second.

After the game, Oregon athletic director Bill Moos was just as relieved as the rest of the Ducks to escape the Palouse with a win.

"Now we get to go home and hopefully keep that home-winning streak alive, and then you know what's after that," said Moos, referring to the Civil War Nov. 18.

What is that?

"We don't talk about that yet," Moos replied, "but it's coming up."

That game could be somewhat trivial, though, if both Oregon and Arizona win next week.

Oregon failed on its next drive, but a 61-yard punt by Kurtis Doerr pinned the Cougars on their own five-yard line. The Duck defense forced a three-and-out, and Oregon took over on the WSU 40-yard line with under 10 minutes to play.

After a two-yard Allan Amundson run, Joey Harrington connected

of his quarterback, who was 18-for-39 for 212 yards.

Harrington was again pleased with the win, but stressed that improvement must be made.

"Rashad [Bauman] and I talked after the game and we're going to bring the guys together, and we have a lot to talk about," Harrington said. "We have to prove that we are

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kicker and Oregon head coach Mike Bellotti worked on changing Frankel's approach and closing his stance.

"I'm so grateful that coach Bellotti didn't give up on me," Frankel said. "He kept working with me, and it means the world to me."

And whatever they did, it worked. Before the game-winner, Frankel hit a 46-yard field goal to put the Ducks ahead 16-10 in the

second quarter.

"Those were very big, pressure-packed kicks," Bellotti said. "He hit them right down the heart and I'm very proud of him."

No matter the situation, Frankel said he's always had the confidence in himself.

"I've never got down on myself and I'm not going to get full of myself now," Frankel said. "I went up to that kick the same way I've gone up to all my kicks this season. I knew that the team needed it, more than at any other time this season. We needed the points."

Following Frankel's go-ahead kick in overtime, Washington State kicker Anousith Wilaikul had a chance to send the game into a sec-

ond overtime period.

"I really thought he was going to drill it. It was his destiny," Frankel said of the Cougar kicker, a former Oregon walk-on.

But the destiny was not to be for the crimson and gray. The destiny came in the hand of Jed Boice, the Oregon defensive tackle who blocked the kick and won the game for the Ducks.



"I don't know how much penetration I got, but I know I got a piece of it," Boice said. "I just pushed through as hard as I could, and I don't jump very high anyway. I knew it wasn't going 40 yards."

It didn't but Frankel's did. So goes the life of a kicker.

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Sports briefs

Golf Update

The Oregon men's golf team swings into action for the last time of its fall season today in California.

The Ducks will compete against a 15-team field in the Prestige at Palm Desert golf tournament today and Tuesday. The field includes only one ranked team, No. 7 Northwestern.

Oregon will try for its fourth-straight top-five finish at the Prestige. The Ducks finished fifth at the Northwest Classic to open the sea-

son, then took second at the Husky Invitational in September and fifth at the Pepperdine Intercollegiate last month.

The golfers will also be searching for their third individual title of the season this week. Sophomore Chris Carnahan took the individual crown at the Northwest, while sophomore John Ellis won the title at the Husky Invitational.

The Ducks play 36 holes of golf today and 18 more tomorrow to round out the tournament. The tournament will be Oregon's last of the fall season. Play resumes in late January.