

# Leading the pack toward the end of 'happy' times

**Halie Mazza and Amy Banducci will compete in the final matches of their careers against Stanford and Cal**

By Adam Jude  
Oregon Daily Emerald

The scene looked rather bleak for Oregon's two seniors last Friday.

It was the end of their careers in a home volleyball uniform, and they had just been thoroughly beaten in front of friends and family.

But that didn't matter to a group of about 30 young fans, who eagerly waited outside the women's locker room of McArthur Court, hoping to catch a final glimpse of Halie Mazza and Amy Banducci.

The mob, swarming Banducci as she made her first appearance after the match, waved pamphlets and posters in hopes of taking home some autographed memorabilia.

For Banducci, this is what it's been all about during her four years in a Duck uniform.

"The fans here are great. It's always nice to see such friendly faces after a match," said Banducci, a Malibu, Calif., native. "That was one of the biggest reasons I decided to come here.

"I had a little girl tell me that she was me for Halloween, and that was the nicest feeling in the world."

While they haven't had as much success as they would have liked,

the two seniors said playing Division I volleyball has been a tremendous experience.

"It's been a great learning experience for me," said Banducci, who has played in 386 out of 398 total games in her four-year career. "I've endured a lot ... and I have no regrets."

Mazza, the team leader in blocks and attack percentage, transferred from Texas-Arlington after her sophomore campaign, despite leading the squad to a 24-7 overall record and a conference championship. Texas was just not the place for her, she said, and the decision to come home was not a difficult one.

"I wasn't a happy person in Texas," the 6-foot middle blocker from Hood River, Ore., said. "I'm very happy I came here. I've enjoyed the time here, especially with my teammates, who I am definitely going to miss."

A new volleyball life under first-year head coach Carl Ferreira's system has not been an easy adjustment for the team, but Mazza and Banducci have helped mold the team into a potential conference contender in the years to come.

"Players spend a lot more time with each other than they do the coaches," Ferreira said. "You need the upper-division kids to believe in the philosophy. [Mazza and Banducci] have put a blind trust in me, and they haven't complained about anything."

All season, Ferreira has said that

the team follows in the footsteps of its upper-division leaders — primarily Banducci and Mazza. The added pressures of having to carry the team mentally took some adjustment for the duo in the beginning of the season, but their leadership has netted the Ducks their best season in four years (10-15 overall, 2-14 Pacific-10 Conference).

"I think we've come a long way and are more consistent leaders now," Mazza said.

Additionally, a strong support for each other on and off the court has molded their leadership skills.

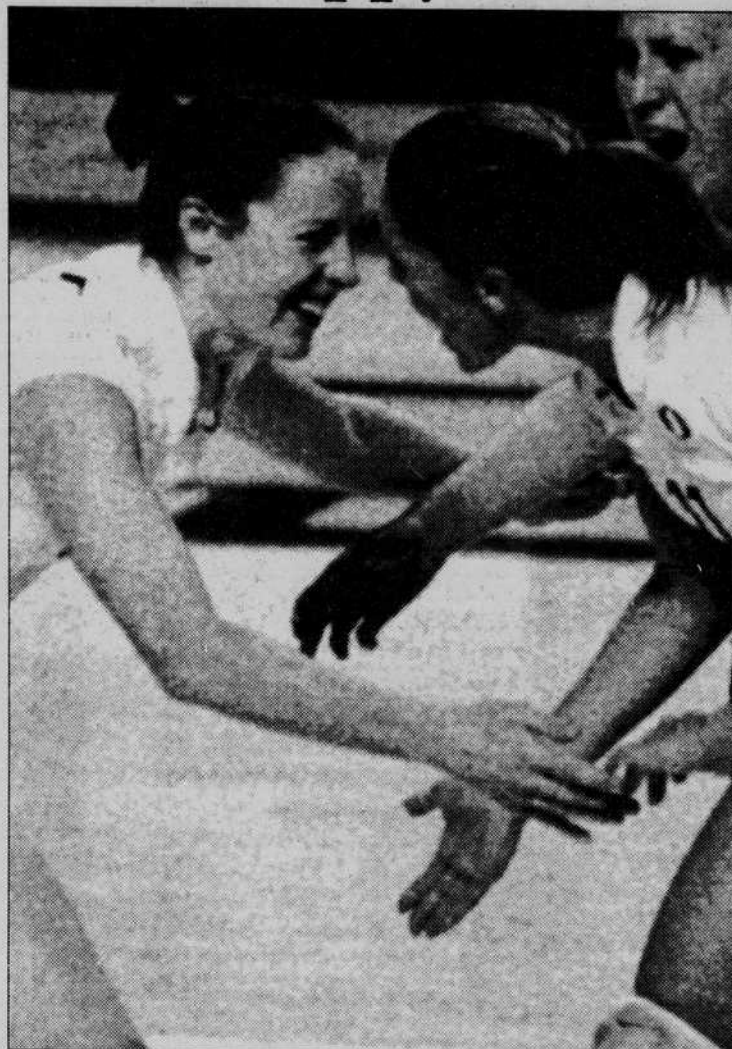
"We get along really well," said Banducci, who is eighth on the Pac-10's active digs list with 642. "We've come a lot closer and understand each other better. We help each other out a lot ... and are able to laugh at each other on the court and be competitive at the same time."

In the final Pac-10 road trip of their careers, Banducci and Mazza are looking to upset one of the top programs in the nation tonight — No. 21 Stanford (15-11, 8-8). They will finish the regular season Friday at Berkeley.

"I want to go out with a win," Banducci said.

In the first two conference matches of the season, the Ducks took both the Cardinal and Cal to five games.

"Considering the amount of effort they put in, I really want to win just for them," Ferreira said.



Catharine Kendall Emerald  
For four years, Banducci (right) has been an integral part of the program, while Mazza (left) has led the team in blocks and attacking for the last two years.

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**Horoscope by Linda C. Black**

**TODAY'S BIRTHDAY** (Nov. 16). Don't procrastinate. Travel first and make plans later. Get out of town in November. Find another source of income in December, to cover costs. A loved one's got the experience you need in January. Toss out old stuff and bring in new in February. Heed an elder expert again in May. Let the money grow in June. Travel's a hassle in July; talk on the phone, instead. Even that's too much trouble in August, as plans seem to go nowhere. The biggest challenge is asking advice of a know-it-all in August and following it through September. It could make all the difference, however.

To get the advantage, check the day's rating: 10 is the easiest day, 0 the most challenging.

**ARIES** (March 21-April 19) — Today is a 5 — Romance beckons, but making the connection won't be easy. Set something up, anyway, even if it's a late date. You'll want to put your feet up and talk freely with somebody you trust. You need a pep talk to boost your morale.

**TAURUS** (April 20-May 20) — Today is a 7 — A misunderstanding with your mate could wrinkle your brow. Make sure you both know who's supposed to do what, when. You're a good manager, and you'll get the chance to prove it. Remind everybody ahead of time so your plans will go smoothly.

**GEMINI** (May 21-June 21) — Today is a 5 — Work could be a challenge. You're sailing along fine, doing everything right, and whap! — a breakdown. If you're working with a computer, make sure you keep backups. You'll fix everything, but it may be late by the time that happens.

**CANCER** (June 22-July 22) — Today is a 7 — Start the day by telling the people you love how much you care about them. Mention that, if a child mistakes love for gifts. You can love a person very much, but that doesn't mean you'll buy them whatever they want. They're two different things.

**LEO** (July 23-Aug. 22) — Today is a 6 — You're up against stiff opposition. Explain everything as clearly as you can. Also, take time to listen. If the other person doesn't think you've heard him or her, he or she may not list

ten to you. That'll make the whole thing take longer.

**VIRGO** (Aug. 23-Sept. 22) — Today is a 7 — Don't argue with the boss today. Even if you win, you'd come out a loser. Instead, provide the information that's needed. That'll make you look like the good guy, no matter what happens.

**LIBRA** (Sept. 23-Oct. 22) — Today is a 6 — Move slowly, even if you think you're onto a good thing. The bonus you think you'll earn may be more fantasy than reality. Don't believe everything you hear, either. Something that seems like a done deal might not happen. Cover all your bets.

**SCORPIO** (Oct. 23-Nov. 21) — Today is an 8 — Your intuition's working well. If you get the idea that you shouldn't say something, you're right. You, more than anybody, know how to keep your mouth shut. It's a gift. Listen and find out what they think. Don't tell them what you think.

**SAGITTARIUS** (Nov. 22-Dec. 21) — Today is a 3 — You've got a burning story you want to tell. It could get you support from a person you admire, but keep it to yourself, anyway. You don't want to tell somebody a story that has to be changed, later. You may not know it all, yet.

**CAPRICORN** (Dec. 22-Jan. 19) — Today is a 7 — A referral from a friend could lead to more business. Be careful how you handle this situation, however. This job could be more trouble than it's worth. Ask for enough to make it worth the effort.

**AQUARIUS** (Jan. 20-Feb. 18) — Today is a 5 — You and your buddy have a good idea. When you take it to your supervisor or teacher, though, you get turned down. This is frustrating whether you're a kid or a congressperson. Don't give up. This will just take longer than you thought.

**PISCES** (Feb. 19-March 20) — Today is an 8 — You could get a great new assignment soon. Unfortunately, this could interfere with your private life. Call your sweetheart as soon as you find out. Don't just be late. Set the date for late, instead, and at your place, if possible.

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