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Ducks to host Pacific, NMSU

The Oregon men's tennis team returns home for two key matches against New Mexico State and Pacific

By Robbie McCallum
Oregon Daily Emerald

The roller coaster ride of a men's tennis season continues this weekend with two home matches against very similar opponents.

In a season that began with top-ranked Stanford and winless North Carolina State, the No. 66 Ducks now find themselves up against No. 54 New Mexico State and No. 64 Pacific.

"Both teams are very competitive, competitive teams with wins over teams that will be in the [NCAA] tournament," Oregon head coach Chris Russell said. "These are the kind of matches that we have to win if we want to make it there too."

This weekend's matches will have a major effect on whether Oregon makes a return to the NCAA tournament. The Ducks' five losses

this season have all come to top-30 teams. The Ducks are 2-5 on the season after breaking a four-game losing streak last weekend at Idaho.

New Mexico State comes to town tonight at 5 p.m. at the Student Tennis Center. The Aggies were hurt earlier this season when ace Marc Legris suffered a hip injury. Legris played a key role in last season's 4-3 win over the Ducks. Senior Cesar Obieta has filled in, compiling a 7-1 record at the No. 1 spot. Legris is expected to play a limited role against the Ducks.

"We have found that Cesar's game fits the No. 1 position week-in and week-out a lot better than Marc's," New Mexico State assistant coach Carlos Vargas said. "We fell into this spot by accident, and it's like the best thing that could have happened to us as far as finding a No. 1 player who can handle the heat a little more consistently."

On Sunday, Pacific visits Eugene at 2 p.m. The Tigers are 1-2 after starting their season this month. Pacific is led by the doubles team of Claus Lindholm and Tobias Abrahamsson. The Tigers' No. 1 singles player is Dietrich Haug. Oregon players are 3-2 against Pacific players this season.

The Ducks counter with sophomore ace Oded Teig, who is 13-8 in singles play and coming off a big win over Idaho's Eddie Brisbois.

Oregon also has its first ranked individuals of the season. In the latest Intercollegiate Tennis Association poll, senior David Becker and freshman Martin Pawlowski are ranked No. 45 in doubles play. The duo, although having only played together since early January, are 3-3 on the season with upsets over California's Scott Kintz and Eric Dmytruk and Indiana State's Jonas Piibor and Dalibor Mihajlovic in their first match together.

"They've been playing real tough lately," Russell said. "They've been playing at the competitive level that we're expecting from them, and we're real proud."

Sophomore Jason Menke has eight singles wins this season, second highest on the team.

Today's match kicks off a three-week home stand at the Student Tennis Center.

"If we're not competitive, we're going to get pushed around the court," Russell said. "But these are wins we can get and will significantly increase our chances of getting into the tournament."

Club frisbee travels to San Diego

The Ultimate frisbee teams compete in a 54-team tournament, and rugby plans to move up to .500

By Jesse Thomas
For the Emerald

In their biggest competition so far, the Oregon Club Sports ultimate frisbee teams will go for glory in the San Diego President's Day Tournament this weekend.

The men's team will have 30 teams to go through to be the best, and the women will compete against 24 teams.

This will be the men's third tournament this year, whereas the women will play in their first big competition. The women, who enter the tournament ranked third, finished in third place at last season's tournament.

"We are absolutely going to try and take the whole thing," men's

coach Joshua Greenough said. "We have the ability to play with everyone else there."

The men finished eighth in last season's San Diego tournament.

Opponents that could offer the men and women a strong challenge in their journey to the finals include teams such as Harvard, Stanford, Colorado, Yale and UC Davis.

"We're going to learn how to win," women's coach Izzy Stohler said. "There are a lot of natural athletes on this team with some very good strength."

The women are a rather young team this year after losing 20 veterans from last season, but the Ducks have gained 10 to 15 newcomers who have a great deal of athleticism. The women expect a strong showing and are confident they can do better than last year's competition.

"We have practiced very hard and feel very prepared for this," Stohler said. "With our athleticism we are

ready to improve."

The men are deeper this year due to strong recruiting, and according to Greenough, the team has many big-game players. With the Ducks' experience, they will be disappointed in themselves with anything less than a strong showing in the semifinals.

The three-day test begins Saturday for the Ducks, who hope to better themselves after respectable showings in last season's well-fought performance.

Men's rugby

The Oregon Club Sports men's rugby team will take on Washington this Saturday at home after a tough loss against Brigham Young last weekend. This leaves the Ducks with a 1-2 record, but they are confident they can bring it to .500 with a win over Washington.

"Washington hasn't played anywhere near the competition that we have," coach Bob Snyder said.

Golfers surviving Waikoloa's dunes

The Oregon men's golf team is in third place after one round at the Taylor Made Intercollegiate

By Peter Hockaday
Oregon Daily Emerald

Instead of watching "Survivor" on television Thursday, the Oregon men's golf team was playing a game of survival at the Taylor Made/Waikoloa Intercollegiate tournament in Waikoloa, Hawaii.

The Ducks won their immunity challenge.

Oregon sits in third place after one round at the tournament, despite playing in winds reaching up to 40 miles per hour and a field

that includes 12 top-20 teams. The tournament is being played at the par-72 Kings Beach Course in Waikoloa.

Ducks Chris Carnahan and Brandon Harnden both shot 4-over-par 76s to finish the day tied for tenth overall.

"It was a day of survival," Oregon head coach Steve Nosler said. "I am proud of these kids. They stayed tough and hung in there."

Besides Carnahan and Harnden, John Ellis was 5 over par and 15th overall, Matt Genovese was 7 over par and 23rd and Aaron Byers finished 37th overall with a 9-over-par 81.

Texas, with a first-round team total of 302, leads the Taylor Made by five strokes over Texas Christian. The Longhorns are six strokes ahead of the Ducks. Arizona State is in fourth, five strokes behind Oregon, while Cal State Bakers-

field rounds out the top five.

Of six Pacific-10 Conference teams at the Taylor Made, Oregon leads the pack. The Ducks are fending off 10 top-20 teams, including golf powerhouses Georgia Tech, Brigham Young and Southern California.

The Ducks are trying to turn their season upright after two ninth-place finishes in their last two tournaments. In three tournaments prior to the Prestige at Palm Desert in November, Oregon finished fifth, second and fifth respectively.

Nosler said that in order to do well, Oregon just needs to keep up its intensity.

"We just have to continue to play hard," Nosler said.

The Ducks will start the second round of play today at 6:30 a.m. in a shotgun start.

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