

Oregon club teams play big and small opponents

■ Oregon men's lacrosse faces the Huskies, men's rugby gets Cal and women's rugby expects the Cougars to bite

By Jesse Thomas
for the Emerald

Washington is looking for its first league win this weekend against the Oregon men's lacrosse team, but the Ducks are going to have something to say about that.

The Ducks are currently 3-2 overall and 3-1 in league play, whereas the Huskies are 2-2 overall and 0-2 in conference games. Also, Washington might be somewhat angry, considering it lost to Washington State last weekend in triple overtime.

"It's going to be a close game," coach Josh Barbour said. "It's not going to be easy, but I think we will come out on top."

Barbour mentioned how strong the players have been, including goalie Mike Zienkewics, attackers Jared Blanchette and Doug Hamilton, and mid-fielders Pat O'Donnell and Josh Waldman. Barbour also praised defensive player Jeff Schmid, an All-League defense last year who will play his first game this season after recovering from an injury.

The men came off a tough game against Whitman last weekend, where they started slow, trailing 5-

1 after the first. Oregon roared back and trailed 7-6 by the end of three, but Whitman stayed on top and defeated the Ducks 9-8.

"We need to watch our penalties against Washington," Barbour said. "It hurt us against Whitman."

The Ducks and the Huskies will face off in the anticipated battle at 1 p.m. Saturday outside the Student Recreation Center on the turf field.

Men's rugby

The Oregon men's rugby team will be in for a challenge this weekend as it plays California, one of the best teams in the country, in Eugene.

The Ducks are coming off a strong win against Central Washington and are playing well together, but Cal hasn't lost a game in the past few years.

Oregon head coach Bob Snyder compared the Ducks to being on the level of Sacramento State. The last time the Golden Bears and Sacramento met, Cal won 36-0, which puts things somewhat in perspective for the Ducks.

"It will be a respectable game, but we can't compare ourselves to them," Snyder said.

This matchup will definitely give the Ducks more experience, which will help them to ensure a spot in the national tournament. The only thing left standing in their way is Oregon State next weekend, because the game against Cal won't alter their national chances.

"If we can stay in the game for 80 minutes, I don't care what the score is," Snyder said.

Women's rugby

When one is 2-0, and the combined scores of the wins add to 175-0, it would seem that one shouldn't have much to worry about. But the Oregon women's rugby team is expecting strength from Washington State this weekend.

"This is definitely going to be a lot more challenging," coordinator Shelby Frail said. "They have a really solid program."

The Ducks realize that Washington is a much more experienced team compared to the other teams they won against, but the women feel prepared for whatever comes their way. The last time these two teams met was last season, and the Ducks were victorious.

"If we take them lightly, we could be in trouble," coach Greg Farrell said. "They [Ducks] need to keep their intensity going and have another good day."

In the women's past few matchups, they felt as if they had been playing more of a back game, according to Frail. Against the Cougars, she expects to see a lot more play from the forward side. The women will go head-to-head with Washington State Saturday on Southbank field at 2:30 p.m.

"We expect a very good squad from Washington State," Farrell said. "I need 80 serious minutes out of my team to win."

Prescott, Adams convicted of felony assault in circuit court

CORVALLIS — Two former Oregon State football players, including Robert Prescott, a starting wide receiver on last season's Fiesta Bowl-champion team, were convicted of felony assault Thursday for beating an OSU student at an off-campus party last summer.

"We're very, very disappointed with the verdict," said Prescott's lawyer, Stephen Ensor. "We're very surprised that a jury could find these young men guilty of assault in the third degree based on the flimsy evidence they presented."

A third player, James Newson, was acquitted. Newson, the only player among the three who is still on the team, cried after the verdict was announced Thursday morning in Benton County Circuit Court.

No date was set for sentencing. Prescott and Alton "Junior" Adams could be sent to prison for up to five years.

Coach Dennis Erickson was in Hawaii on Thursday and was not available for comment, the Oregon State sports information office said. Athletic Director Mitch Barnhart did not return a phone message from The Associated Press.

The charges were brought following a fight at a party last July 22.

The student, Victor Becerra, 22, was beaten and kicked so badly that he couldn't walk. He suffered no permanent injuries.

The players, all receivers, were among five initially charged in the case. The others — defensive back Dennis Weathersby and linebacker Noah Happe — were not indicted.

Prescott, a senior from Seattle, was the fourth-leading receiver for the Beavers, who went 11-1 and completed the best season in school history with a 41-9 rout of Notre Dame in the Fiesta Bowl on New Year's Day. Prescott caught 26 passes for 602 yards and four touchdowns during the regular season, and had two catches for 41 yards in the Fiesta Bowl.

Oregon State finished fourth in the final Associated Press poll.

Adams, a sophomore last season from Fremont, Calif., transferred to Montana State, which plays the Beavers at Reser Stadium on Sept. 15. Newson was a redshirt freshman last season and remains on the team. The players were suspended by Erickson for the first three games of the season, all against non-conference opponents.

During closing arguments Tuesday, prosecutor Liz Carle argued that the players went to the party looking for a fight, and that they "jumped" Becerra, referring to several witnesses' testimony that the defendants punched and kicked Becerra as he lay on the ground. Carle also dismissed the defense claim that the players were defending themselves against Becerra's threatening behavior.

After the verdict, Carle said: "The community has spoken through the jury."

Defense attorneys portrayed the brawl as a free-for-all, citing testimony of two witnesses who said they punched the defendants. Lawyers also questioned Becerra's conflicting accounts of how much he had to drink that night.

Oregon State basketball player Adam Masten was among the state's witnesses, saying he saw Prescott and Adams kicking Becerra.

Prescott testified that Becerra had bumped chests with him and appeared ready to fight.

"I thought he was going to hit me first, so I swung at him," Prescott said, adding that he punched Becerra twice more to try to get him to back away from the confrontation. Prescott said he was hit in the back of the head three times by a friend of Becerra's. Prescott said he fell down, was confronted by Becerra when he got up, and punched Becerra a fourth time.

Adams testified that Becerra kneed Adams in the face, splitting his lip. Oregon State kicker Ryan Cesca, who also was at the party, backed up Adams' account. Cesca and another witness testified that they never saw Newson strike Becerra.

The Associated Press

HOUSE OF RECORDS



BUY, SELL & TRADE

New & Used
Vinyl's
CD's & Tapes

258 E. 13th Eugene
342-7975

poppi's Anatolia

"The Land East"
Traditional
Greek & Indian Food



Lunch
Monday through Saturday
Dinner
7 Nights a Week
992 Willamette
Eugene, Or 97401
343-9661

USED CD SALE

NOW THRU MARCH 11th

20% OFF REG. PRICE

Save on every used cd in our amazing inventory...




OFFER GOOD THROUGH 3-11-01



Two locally owned and amazingly stocked stores!

MUSIC FOR EVERYONE

CD WORLD

EUGENE • CORVALLIS

WEST 11TH & SENECA 541 683-6902
EUGENE

955 N.W. KINGS BLVD. 541 752-9632
CORVALLIS



This paper can be
Recycled!