

More mixed results for UO

■ Oregon freshmen continue to excel, picking up singles wins for the men and women

By Robbie McCallum
Oregon Daily Emerald

One would expect a veteran team to be hitting its stride at this point of the season and a team of mostly rookies to be experiencing growing pains, but in the Oregon tennis teams' cases, the exact opposite is happening.

The Oregon men and their five freshmen won their fifth match in six tries this weekend, bringing their season record to one game above the .500 mark at 7-6.

The veteran women's squad however, dropped two matches in Fresno, Calif. this weekend, leaving head coach Jack Griffin looking for answers.

On the men's side, Duck freshmen went 4-2 in singles play to lead Oregon over Portland and Santa Clara by identical scores of 6-1.

Newcomer Buck Mink led the way with two straight-set wins over Portland's Jeff Nunnenkamp and Santa Clara's Victory Camargo.

"Buck has been on fire the last few weeks," Oregon men's coach Chris Russell said. "He is one of

the guys on the team who plays solidly. We know what he's going to do on the court."

Mink also teamed with sophomore Jason Menke for two dominating doubles victories against the Pilots and Bronco's.

Fellow freshman Martin Pawlowski came through at the No. 2 singles position despite battling the flu. The Norrkoping, Sweden, native picked up his first back-to-back singles victories of the season.

"Martin was a big factor all weekend," Russell said. "Not having him fully healthy and battling through his matches was phenomenal for us."

The Ducks' veterans also performed well this weekend. Sophomore Oded Teig added to his team-leading wins mark (18) with victories over aces Peter Malacek of Portland and Ryan Livesay of Santa Clara. Menke moved one match above the .500 mark with two singles victories.

The men close out their home schedule on Saturday against Portland State.

The Duck women have as many returning players as the men have rookies, but are amidst a five-match losing streak at the mid-season mark. Oregon lost a narrow 4-3 decision to Loyola Marymount on Saturday before falling to No. 30 Fresno State 4-2 on Sunday.

Oddly enough, the Ducks' two

freshman have been the most reliable lately. Freshman Courtney Nagle picked up singles wins in each of Oregon's losses this weekend, bringing her win total to 10.

Fellow freshman Davina Mendiburu earned Oregon's second point against Fresno State, defeating the Bulldogs' Courtney Jantz, 6-3, 6-2.

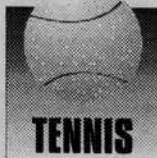
On Saturday, the Ducks came within a point of defeating Loyola Marymount, but were edged in a crucial three-set singles match at the No. 2 position. Oregon capitalized on winning the doubles point with wins by Mendiburu and junior Janice Nyland, 8-5 and junior Adeline Arnaud and sophomore Jeanette Mattsson, 8-6.

In singles, only Mendiburu and Nyland were able to win.

On Sunday, rain put an end to any Oregon comeback hopes against Fresno State. The Bulldogs led 3-1 when an unexpected storm hit, canceling the final three matches.

Junior transfer Vickie Gunnarson fought Fresno State's Simone Jardim to the third set, but because Jardim led 2-1, she was awarded the win. No. 48 ranked Leisl Fitchbauer needed only one point to defeat Mattsson at the No. 2 spot.

Oregon drops to 3-5 on the season and heads to Washington next weekend for Pacific-10 Conference matches against Washington and Washington State.



TENNIS

Men's

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urday's final score could have been much worse.

Needless to say, Oregon's (13-14, 4-13) season presumably has just one game left, and for the first time in weeks, not a single player or coach brought up the NIT.

"To know exactly when your season is over ... you never want that," said junior guard Freddie Jones, who could only muster four points to follow up his career-high of 36 against Arizona State on Thursday. "I came out and didn't play how my team needed me to play."

But this loss was hardly Jones' fault. One man couldn't have prevented the assault that the ninth-ranked team in the nation put on.

The Ducks were handed a textbook blowout.

Oregon actually played with Arizona for the first few minutes and were only down 10-9 when Tucson-native Anthony Norwood knocked down two of his seven points with just over 15 minutes to play in the half.

Then Arizona's Gilbert Arenas drilled two free throws, Loren Woods swished a jumper, and Michael Wright converted a bucket.

And the rout was on.

Oregon was held scoreless for just less than six minutes during a stretch in which Arizona outscored the Ducks 25-4. Soon, the run turned into a 41-8 Wildcat advantage.

Thanks to Ben Lindquist's two last-minute three-pointers, the Ducks entered the half only trailing 55-25.

"They got a great start and had all the momentum, and it just had a snowball effect," said freshman Luke Jackson, who was the only Duck to score in double figures with 15. "It hurts, especially in

this fashion. I don't think anyone on this team likes to lose like that."

Things didn't get much better in the second half. Arizona opened the last frame with a 26-7 run to take an incredible 81-34 lead at the 11:36 mark.

It got even worse. When Arizona senior Eugene Edgerson put in a rebound basket, it put his team ahead 89-38 with still 9:21 to play.

That's a 51-point lead — the largest of the game.

But then Arizona head coach Lute Olson loosened his reigns and let the youngsters and the departing seniors have some fun together.

"It was a great day for us," Olson said. "We had the chance to give everybody a substantial amount of playing time."

The stat sheet again was ugly for the Ducks. Oregon had 26 turnovers (16 in the first half), committed 29 fouls and was out-rebounded 41-25. Arizona, meanwhile, had all five starters score in double figures with Wright leading the balanced attack with 18.

The one Duck that showed up to play early was Norwood, but his seven first-half points were his only ones, as foul trouble plagued the guard in his return home. He fouled out with 12:02 to play.

"Very frustrating," Norwood said. "It's built up to that. We let ourselves get to that. We've got to make some changes."

Besides the emotion of the Arizona seniors, who were honored after the game in a lengthy ceremony, Oregon had to deal with the revenge factor.

After the Ducks beat the Wildcats in Eugene earlier this season, many Arizona players mentioned how they were looking forward to Oregon's visit to Tucson.

"The way we played up there [at Oregon], we shot ourselves in the foot," said Woods, who scored 17 points. "But we knew they were coming down here."

Men's Pac-10 standings:

	Pac-10	overall
Stanford	15-1	27-1
Arizona	13-3	21-7
UCLA	13-3	20-7
California	10-6	19-9
USC	9-7	19-9
Arizona St.	5-11	13-14
Washington St.	5-11	12-14
Oregon	4-13	13-14
Oregon St.	4-13	10-19
Washington	3-13	9-19

Since Oregon's win on Feb. 1, both teams have gone in opposite directions. The loss was a wake-up call for Arizona, which has since won seven of eight and is preparing for a date at No. 1 Stanford on Thursday.

Oregon, on the other hand, has dropped eight of its past nine in that span and 13 out of 16 overall since starting the season 10-1 after beating Oregon State on Jan. 6.

Now, the Ducks have a losing record for the first time all season and face the task of having to beat the Beavers in Corvallis next Saturday just to finish 14-14. Technically, a .500 record would make the Ducks NIT eligible, although they're not holding their breath for an invitation.

With the way the Ducks played in this trip to Arizona, they had the look of a fatigued team that was just waiting for the season to end. But according to many Oregon players, that couldn't be farther from the truth.

"I don't feel that way, and I hope nobody else does," Jackson said. "If that's our last game [Saturday], I'd like to end on a winning note. I'd like my team to be known as a team that fights to the end."

"I don't want this to happen again."

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