

Club water polo has high hopes for tourney

Both the women's water polo and Ultimate Frisbee squads will compete against top-notch teams this weekend

By Jesse Thomas for the Emerald

Having proved itself so far, the Oregon club sports women's water polo team enters this weekend's Regional Championships ranked first.

But the biggest challenge for the Ducks will be to again beat Washington, who they expect to be their toughest competition. The Huskies will travel to Federal Way, Wash., ranked second and as the defend-

ing national champions from a year ago.

"We're mostly concerned with the Washington team," Oregon coach Lea Bonebrake said. "It won't be an easy game, and we can't let them take control."

The Ducks just recently garnered their highest national ranking of the season at sixth with the Huskies close behind at ninth. The other teams the women will meet at the championships are Oregon State, Simon Fraser and Western Washington.

"It always feels good to be placed at the top," sophomore Kristi Neidig said. "Hopefully, it's intimidating to other teams."

The Ducks feel confident, thanks to the experience they received from playing some of the best varsity teams in a tournament at Santa Cruz, Calif., and also be-

cause of the way they have prepared during practices this week.

If Oregon is successful in its challenge this weekend and takes first place, it will advance to nationals, which takes place May 5-6. Even if the Ducks were to finish second, they could still receive a wild-card bid to the prestigious end-of-the-year tournament at Miami of Ohio.

So the challenge to advance begins this weekend as the women enter the tournament ranked first and plan to leave in the same fashion. It appears to these Ducks that the only thing they have standing in their way is the Huskies, who will seek revenge after losing once to Oregon earlier in the season.

"My gut feeling is we're going to do it," Bonebrake said. "When I watch them play, there is just this feeling that nothing can stop them."

Women's Ultimate to test its skills

The Oregon club sports women's Ultimate Frisbee team will be competing against the best of the best in an open tournament this weekend in Davis, Calif.

Not only will the women be playing other college teams on their level, but they will go head-to-head with club teams comprised mainly of adults who have already graduated.

"This will be much more difficult than a typical collegiate tournament," Oregon coach Rachelle Depper said.

The Ducks plan to win their games against other college teams and hope for the best against the club teams while gaining valuable experience. The biggest competition the women will have in the

collegiate level will come from Stanford, UC-Santa Cruz and British Columbia.

"You learn by playing the best," Depper said.

The Ducks have a well-balanced team this year as the freshmen have helped greatly by stepping up and contributing, according to Depper. Although the team has been strong, Oregon has been plagued by a total of six serious injuries this season, including ACL tears and broken metatarsals and patellas.

Looking ahead, the Ducks will compete in the sectionals on April 15 and then the regionals will take place May 3-4.

If they compete as well as they hope in regionals, the Ducks will move on to Boston, Mass., for the coveted nationals on Memorial Day weekend.

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Horoscope by Linda C. Black

TODAY'S BIRTHDAY (April 5). This is not an easy year, but your skills will certainly improve. You might even get to Carnegie Hall. Practice, practice, practice! Your first attempts may be quite awkward in April, but you sure look cute trying. Just stick to the schedule through May, and by June it will seem easier. A critical relative proves inspirational in July and helps you prepare for the real test in September. In December, take time for yourself and consider a radical change of scenery. By February, you've reached a new level and get to play with the big kids. Save part of March for smelling the roses and resting on your laurels.

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 7 — The trouble with turning fantasy into reality is that things don't always fit. In your head, it's all so perfect. In real life, problems show arise. But that's part of the adventure, right?

TAURUS (April 20-May 20) — Today is a 7 — Watch the other players closely as they place their bets. You could be the big winner, but it won't be due to mere good luck. You're only going to trounce them at a game you've played before. You have a hidden advantage.

GEMINI (May 21-June 21) — Today is a 5 — You and your mate or partner could have a tiff. Both of you have good points, and both are missing something. Be nice, and work out a compromise. It's your best chance for success — and romance.

CANCER (June 22-July 22) — Today is a 6 — Additional study leads to new solutions and several new problems. Don't give up. Each dead end is actually a step forward. Eventually, you'll narrow down the options to the one that works.

LEO (July 23-Aug. 22) — Today is a 7 — Don't blindly follow a friend's advice. It's too expensive, and it won't produce the results you want. Your sweetheart doesn't have the answer, either. Get it from an older person, one from whom you get money. Just ask; it's free.

VIRGO (Aug. 23-Sept. 22) — Today is a 6 — Even though you have more control, you still need to proceed with caution. Others, some of whom outrank you, have ideas that won't work. Telling them is risky business, of course. Be cool.

LIBRA (Sept. 23-Oct. 22) — Today is a 6 — Expect delays and disagreements. That way you won't be disappointed. You can talk folks into getting along. You're good at that. It takes time, though. Adjust your expectations.

SCORPIO (Oct. 23-Nov. 21) — Today is a 5 — Friends are pestering you to come out and play, but don't be distracted. Work still has to come first, just for a little while longer. Meanwhile, find a way to be more efficient. You've been doing something the hard way.

SAGITTARIUS (Nov. 22-Dec. 21) — Today is a 7 — You may notice that you're a tad on edge. This is perfectly natural. You've got a great idea, and you want to share it. Don't give up if the first reaction isn't as warm as you'd hoped. Give 'em a while to think about it.

CAPRICORN (Dec. 22-Jan. 19) — Today is a 7 — There's plenty of work; that's no problem. The money should be coming in, too. So why be sad? Is it because you're stuck inside when you'd rather be climbing green mountains? Pencil that onto your calendar now.

AQUARIUS (Jan. 20-Feb. 18) — Today is a 7 — Don't take anything for granted. You can bet there will be surprises, but whether they'll do you good or ill depends on you. No napping on the job. You snooze today, and there'll be big trouble.

PISCES (Feb. 19-March 20) — Today is a 4 — There's no shortage of confusion out there, so keep your own confusion to yourself. The less you say, the more you'll profit. You'll look like the only one who knows what's going on. You can figure it out later, at home.

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