



The Oregon volleyball team will battle a tough conference and new scoring, but the Ducks are confident all the same.

## Sports

continued from page 11A

Aug. 26 in Eugene, then launches into the regular season with another home matchup Aug. 31 against Gonzaga.

### Volleyball

How much of an impact did coach Carl Ferreira have on the Oregon volleyball program last year? In terms of the Ducks' record, not much. Oregon went 10-19 last season and only managed two wins in Pacific-10 Conference play.

But that was only a tune-up, Ferreira said.

"I'm dealing with a much more mature group of players this season," Ferreira said. "They know what they want."

Not only have the Ducks learned a new winning attitude under the new coach, but he has brought in new talent as well. In two major recruiting coups, Ferreira landed last year's Oregon Gatorade Player of the Year, outside hitter Katie O'Neil, and the national junior college player of the year, middle blocker Stephanie Martin.

Joining the new recruits, fearsome outside hitter Monique Tobbagi should continue to star for the Ducks. Tobbagi has led Oregon in kills per game for the past two seasons, and her hard-hitting presence should be felt around the league once more.

This season, the Oregon squad will have to deal with a major NCAA rule change in scoring. All matches will now be rally scoring, which eliminates side-outs and speeds up the game.

The Ducks begin their quest for the NCAA Tournament with an exhibition game at the Moshofsky Center Saturday, as part of the Oregon football team's autograph day.

### Cross Country

The Oregon men's cross country team will try to build on last season's NCAA track and field success, while the women long-distance runners will try to quickly bring some new blood through the ranks.

Jason Hartmann should star once again for the men, who also return Adam Bergquist, John Lucas, Brett Holts and Noel Paulson from last year's team. All those runners finished in the top 25 at the Pacific-10

Conference Championships last year.

On the women's side, the Ducks lost two of their top athletes, Katie Crabb and Hanna Smedstad, to graduation. A handful of other runners, including Eri Macdonald, Tara Struyk and Laura Harmon, will try to perform in the absence of Crabb and Smedstad.

Both the men and women will compete in six races, if they can qualify for the NCAA Championships. The Ducks will jumpstart their season at the Roy Griak Invitational in St. Paul, Minn., Sept. 22.

### Golf

Traditionally, the Oregon golf teams bookend their year-long season with tough tournaments. They open with some test tournaments, and, of course, try to end at the NCAA Championships.

This year will be no different. The women open Sept. 24 at the NCAA Fall Preview, a tournament that usually boasts last year's NCAA Championships participants, while the men will see tough competition Sept. 9 at the Northwest Classic, hosted by Oregon State.

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