

Ducks drop first two matches of Pac-10 season

■ After starting the season 8-1, Oregon loses to Arizona and Arizona State in conference play

By Hank Hager
Oregon Daily Emerald

The Oregon volleyball team traveled to Arizona this weekend looking to upset the No. 3 Arizona Wildcats and the always-tough Arizona State Sun Devils but came away with two losses to start the Pacific-10 Conference season.

On Thursday, the Ducks (8-3 overall, 0-2 Pac-10) took on the Wildcats (7-0, 2-0) in Tucson, Ariz., at the McKale Center, but could muster only one game win in a 30-19, 30-19, 31-33, 30-18 loss.

After trailing 18-14 in the third game, the Ducks may have made a name for themselves in the conference with a strong comeback.

A key block by setter Sydney Chute and middle blocker Lindsay Closs helped the Ducks tie the game at 25, only to see Arizona take a 5-2 run and push their lead even further. With the Wildcats leading 29-26 in the third stanza, the Ducks held off match

point with a kill by outside hitter Heather Gilmore. After a service error by Arizona, the Ducks took the lead at 32-31. Gilmore again came up big, securing the Ducks' first Pac-10 game win of the season with a service ace.

The Ducks led four times in the third game, but Arizona dominated in the fourth and deciding game, ending the chances of an Oregon comeback.

Outside hitter Monique Tobbagi led the Ducks with 16 kills, but Gilmore was the key player in the match for the Ducks, helping Oregon hand Arizona its first game loss this season. Gilmore has emerged as a new offensive force for the Ducks, complementing Tobbagi.

Also helping the Ducks to an impressive showing against the Wildcats were middle blocker Stephanie Martin, who had 12 kills, Closs, who had a team leading six blocks, and outside hitter Lindsay Murphy, leading the team with 10 digs.

In the second match of the week-

end, the Ducks, riding high after an impressive performance against Arizona, traveled to Tempe, Ariz., looking to end the Sun Devils (6-4, 1-1) four match winning streak.

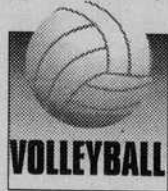
With 876 in attendance at Wells Fargo Arena, the Ducks fell in three straight games to the Sun Devils, 30-17, 30-19, 30-27.

Despite six kills by Murphy in the first game, the Ducks fell behind early, 9-3, and could not recover.

The Sun Devils again dominated the second game, leading 3-0 early on. The Ducks never led the second game, and a 25-12 run by the Sun Devils put the Ducks away for good.

Finally, in the third game, Oregon jumped to a 5-1 lead before Arizona State came back to tie the score at 7-7. Eight more lead changes led to a deadlock at 26 before the Sun Devils eventually won 30-27.

After being offensively dominated by the Wildcats in the earlier match, the Ducks could not do much else against the Sun Devils. Thirty-five kills, led by Martin's 13, were a far cry from Arizona State's 53. The Ducks tallied no service aces in the match, while the Sun Devils were able to record five.



VOLLEYBALL

College Football Polls Associated Press Top 25

1. Miami, Fla. (2-0)
2. Florida (3-0)
3. Oklahoma (3-0)
4. Nebraska (4-0)
5. Texas (3-0)
6. Oregon (3-0)
7. Tennessee (2-0)
8. Virginia Tech (3-0)
9. Georgia Tech (3-0)
10. Fresno State (4-0)
11. Kansas State (2-0)
12. UCLA (3-0)
13. Washington (2-0)
14. LSU (2-0)
15. South Carolina (3-0)
16. Northwestern (2-0)
17. Michigan (2-1)
18. Florida State (2-1)
19. Oregon State (1-1)
20. BYU (3-0)
21. Mississippi State (1-1)
22. Illinois (3-0)
23. Michigan State (2-0)
24. Purdue (2-0)
25. Toledo (3-0)

Coaches' Top 25

1. Miami, Fla. (2-0)
2. Florida (3-0)
3. Oklahoma (3-0)
4. Nebraska (4-0)
5. Texas (3-0)
6. Oregon (3-0)
7. Virginia Tech (3-0)
8. Tennessee (2-0)
9. Kansas State (2-0)
10. UCLA (3-0)
11. Georgia Tech (3-0)
12. Washington (2-0)
13. Fresno State (4-0)
14. LSU (2-0)
15. Florida State (2-1)
16. South Carolina (3-0)
17. Michigan (2-1)
18. Northwestern (2-0)
19. Oregon State (1-1)
20. BYU (3-0)
21. Purdue (2-0)
22. Mississippi State (1-1)
23. Illinois (3-0)
24. Michigan State (2-0)
25. Clemson (2-1)

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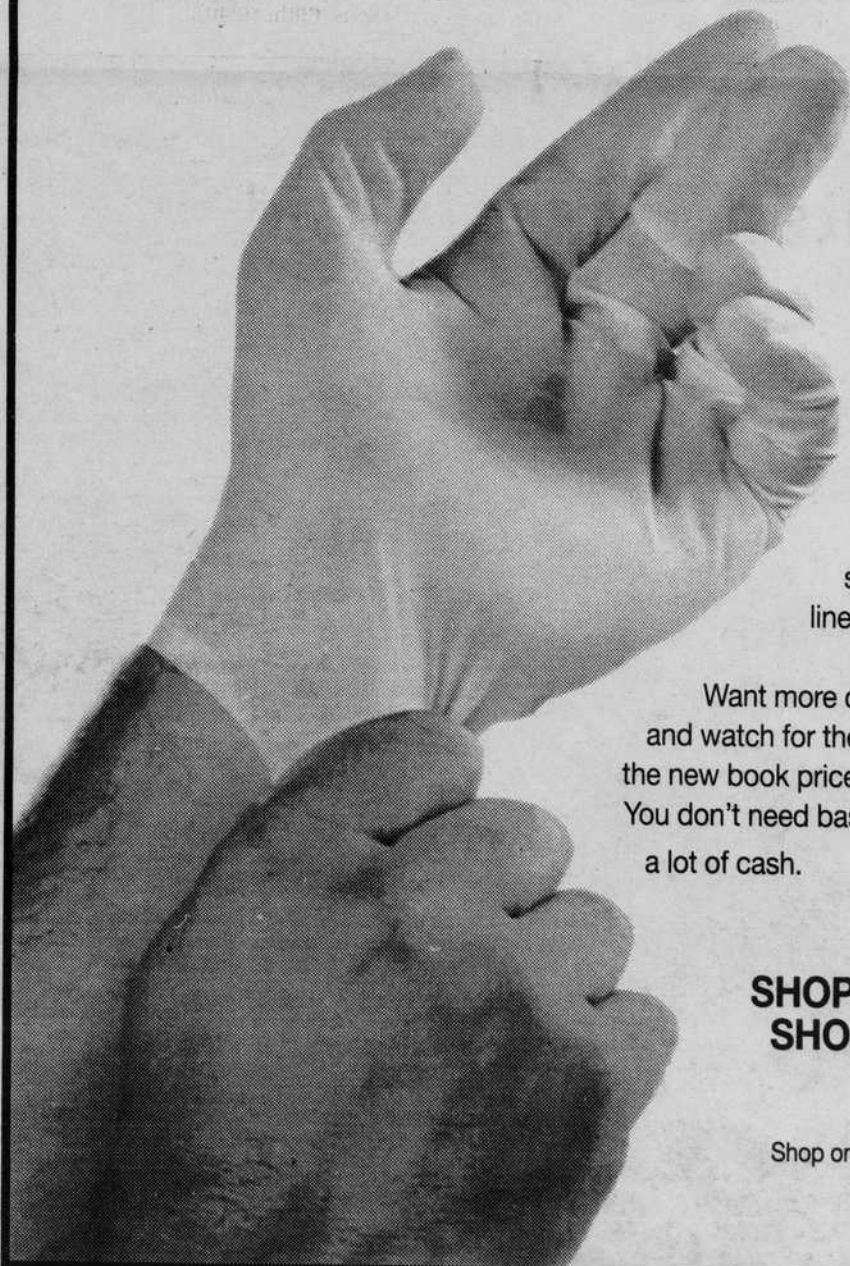
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