

Volleyball

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Match two brings the Ducks to Seattle to take on the lowly Huskies (10-10, 3-8) at Bank of America Arena on Saturday at 7 p.m. In their third match of the conference season on Sept. 28, the Ducks never really stood a chance against the Huskies, losing in three. After the match, Ferreira held them in the locker room for 90 minutes in hopes of jump starting the team.

"I wanted to hear what they had to say," Ferreira said after the match. "It was kind of an airing out session. When you've got a group that wounded, you don't step on them. It's not them feeling bad about themselves and you going in there and lashing out at them. That doesn't accomplish anything."

One month later and with eight more matches under their belt, the Ducks are still essentially a wounded squad. Stephanie Martin, Lindsay Closs, and Monique Tobbagi are the heart and soul of this team. So far, only freshman Lauren Westendorf and sopho-

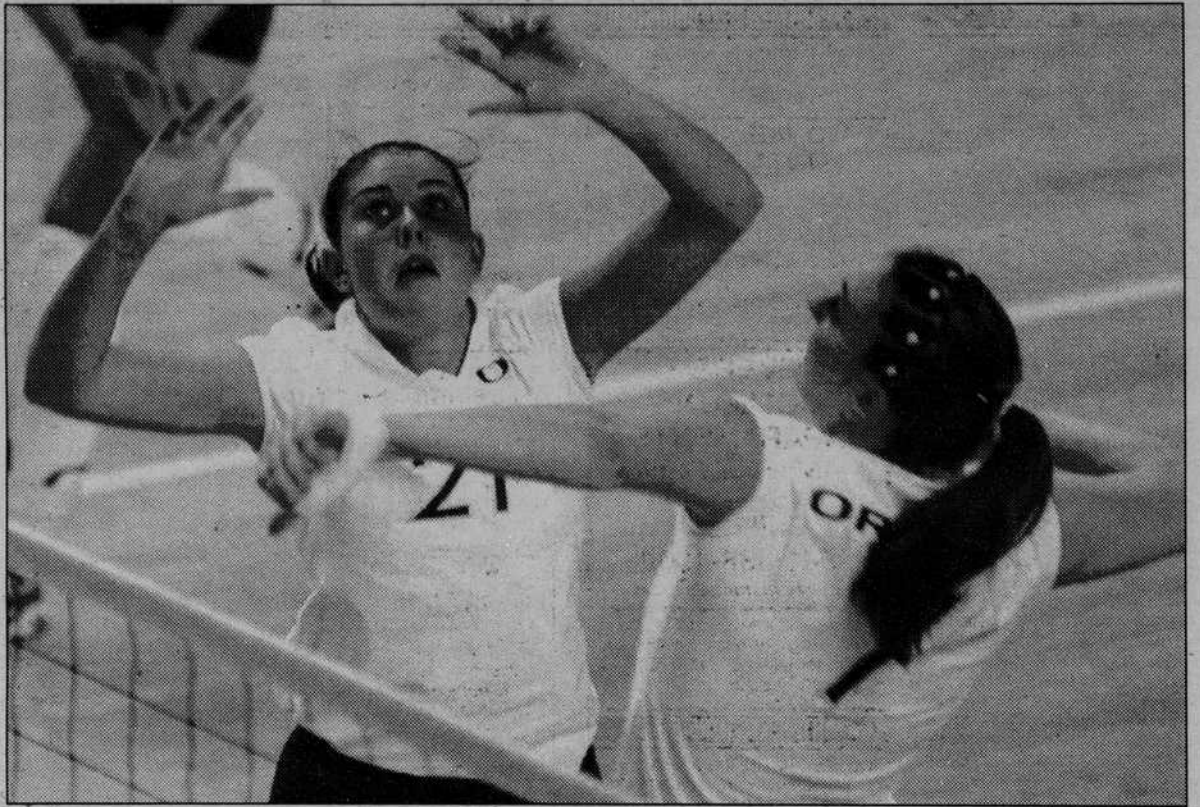
more Lindsay Murphy have stepped up to support the big three, but there is still more that needs to be done.

Against Washington, the Ducks will have to be at the top of their game. Junior outside hitter Paige Benjamin is second in the Pac-10 with a .402 hitting percentage, and senior outside hitter Allison Richardson is good for 4.06 kills per game. Despite being 3-8 in conference, Washington is capable of running the table on any team.

For that simple reason alone, Oregon needs to be successful. They need to prove to the rest of the conference that they are not simply walkovers and can compete in the second-half.

"One of the things I tell them is that it takes nine-and-a-half months from January 'til now to prepare for what we do," Ferreira said. "And if all of us went up a mountain for nine months and kept looking at the snow peak, well you're not going to have a bad day once you get there."

The Ducks have had enough bad days. Maybe this weekend will provide a good day.



Adam Amato Emerald

Sydney Chute (21) and Stephanie Martin (7) travel to Washington this week hoping to avenge early season losses.

Soccer

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10 play was to UCLA. But USC has looked beatable this season, especially in a 1-0 loss to San Diego, a team that Oregon defeated 3-0 earlier this season at Papé Field.

Baysa said the Ducks will look to beat USC the same way they beat San Diego: with a consistent effort from opening whistle to final horn.

"We've got to come out ready to play," Baysa said. "We've got to be consistent."

If there is emotion on the field

this weekend, it will be all on the Ducks' side. A large group of Oregon seniors will play the final home games of their careers against USC and UCLA.

"It's pretty emotional," Baysa said. "It's our last chance to play on this field together."

The graduating class includes five regular starters in Baysa, Murphy, midfielder Beth Bowler, midfielder and defender Starr Johnson and defender Angela Romero, and forward Crystal David could start if she wasn't consistently injured.

Murphy, however, tore the

medial collateral ligament in her right knee after scoring the game-winning goal against Arizona State last weekend and will not play this weekend.

Oregon head coach Bill Steffen said he will honor the graduating seniors with a ceremony and will focus on the six players all weekend.

"It's important for (the young players) to reward the seniors with positive results," Steffen said.

The Ducks will search for those positive results against UCLA at 3 p.m. Friday and against USC at noon Sunday.

Cross country

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"Our goal is to be sixth and be as close to (the five ranked teams) as possible," he said. "We expect every-one back next year so this is another step in our development."

Junior Carrie Zografos, who has led the Ducks in every race in which she has run this season, and Harmon should be the top finishers for Oregon. Heinonen said that he is looking for the two to run their best races of the season.

The championships will be differ-

ent from other races that the Ducks have competed in this season because of the limited number of participants. Sixty three athletes from nine schools will run in the women's race and only eight schools will send runners for the men's race (Southern California has no men's team and Oregon State has no cross country program).

"It's a much more personal race and a good challenge at this time of the season," Heinonen said.

The men's 8,000 meter race will be held on the Pavilion Lakes Golf Club at 10 a.m., and the women's 6,000 m. will follow at 11 a.m.

Sports briefs

BCS rankings amuse many

If you've been following the Bowl Championship Series rankings that were announced on Monday, it's time to get acquainted with quarterback Curt Anes.

All Anes did Saturday was com-

plete 17 of 20 passes for 315 yards and six touchdowns in his team's 59-3 victory over Mercyhurst.

Mercyhurst?

If you aren't familiar with Mercyhurst, you probably don't know that Anes competes for Grand Valley State, a Division II football powerhouse these days. At 7-0, the Allendale, Mich., team is plowing

toward another Great Lakes Intercollegiate Athletic Conference title.

Grand Valley State is the 18th-best football team in the country, and not just in Division II.

If you sift through the BCS rankings, which contains enough formulas and numbers to nauseate a mathematician, you will see that David Rothman has Grand Valley

State ranked No. 18 in his computer formula. Rothman goes above and beyond the call of duty, ranking 703 college football teams, mixing all the divisions together.

Certainly, college football fans are getting a chuckle out of Rothman's rankings.

But on a serious note, how can the Bowl Championship Series

people allow Rothman's formula to have some bearing on a team's ability to earn millions of dollars in a New Year's Day bowl? Obviously, his formula is flawed.

- By Jay Heater

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