

Cross country

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was running on adrenaline and you don't really feel it."

Finishing second for the Ducks and 11th overall with a time of 25:00.4 was senior Adam Bergquist, who has seen limited action this season. Hartmann said Bergquist ran "exceptionally well."

Other finishers for Oregon were sophomores John Lucas (17th, 25:10.0) and Brett Holts (21st, 25:17.2), and redshirt freshmen Ryan Andrus (23rd, 25:23.8) and Eric Logsdon (30th, 25:50.1).

Freshman Seth Pilkington was

pulled out of the race by head coach Martin Smith for health reasons. Pilkington collapsed in the Ducks' last race due to dehydration and Smith said he did not want to risk a similar Pilkington collapse in a race with hot temperatures.

The top finishers in the race were Stanford's Grant Robison (24:04.0), Arizona State's Fasil Bizuneh (24:06.4) and Stanford's Donald Sage (24:11.4).

Hartmann and the rest of the harriers are optimistic about the rest of the season.

"We're steadily improving each time we go out there and hopefully we'll pull it all together at districts," Hartmann said.

Football

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"I was very pleased for 95 percent of the game," defensive coordinator Nick Aliotti said, referring to the last drive. "We were a little too cautious at the end, but I don't want to start there. Our kids really did a nice job today. I'm very proud of them."

Oregon defensive back Rashad Bauman said the key to the game was forcing Gesser out of his rhythm.

"We definitely needed to put pressure on Gesser," Bauman said. "We knew he was going to have some problems going out of the pocket, so once we got him out of the pocket and got him uncomfortable, it was a lot easier to defend."

Freshman placekicker Jared Siegel gave Oregon a 17-3 lead early in the fourth quarter. The real story of the second half, however, was Onterio Smith.

The cold and rainy conditions called for a strong ground game, and Oregon came with just that against the Cougar defense. On 19 carries in the final two quarters, Smith tallied 229 yards, including a 73-yard touchdown run with 5:39 left on the clock.

"I don't know, there were so many

of them," Harrington said when asked about his favorite Smith play. "That's just an easy day for me."

"It feels pretty good right now," Oregon center Ryan Schmid said. "I think we came together today as an entire offense. That's the good thing about our offense, we have so many weapons, that if the running game is struggling, we can go to the air and vice versa."

In a game that pitted the conference's top offense in the Cougars and the second-to-worst defense in the Ducks, it was a surprise to see a shutout on the board after 15 minutes. The first score of the game came after a trick play by the Cougs when receiver Collin Henderson took an end-around from backup quarterback Matt Kegel and threw back to Kegel for a 63-yard pass play, which set up a 34-yard field goal by Drew Dunning.

The Ducks' offense received a boost from the defense on that drive, as the Oregon "D" did well to hold the Cougars to the field goal.

"Coach Aliotti, it goes all to him," Bauman said. "He couldn't have called a better game."

And the Ducks couldn't have asked for a better win at a better time.

WSU, Washington sweep winless Ducks in series

Two three-game losses keep the Ducks winless in Pac-10 play

By Hank Hager
Oregon Daily Emerald

It was a tale of two Oregon volleyball teams this weekend in Washington. Unfortunately for the Ducks, neither tale resulted in a win.

A night after losing a quick match to Washington State (12-8, 7-6 Pacific-10 Conference) in Pullman, Wash., on Friday, the Ducks traveled to Seattle to take on conference rival Washington on Saturday.

What happened during the match has been unparalleled for the Oregon women this season.

Despite a three-game loss to the Huskies by scores of 30-28, 30-25 and 30-26, the Ducks made a statement with their strong play.

Tied at 15 in the first game, Oregon (8-14, 0-11) was looking for a run of points to put away the pesky Huskies (11-11, 4-9). Instead, Oregon saw Washington put away the Ducks.

A 7-3 run put Washington ahead at 22-18. But the Ducks' resiliency began to show, when kills by seniors Monique Tobbagi and Julie Gerlach, as well as junior Stephanie Martin, pulled Oregon to within one point, at 22-21.

Five points later, the Ducks tied the score at 24, and were looking for their first game-win in almost a week. But it wasn't Oregon's night, as a 6-3 Washington run gave them the first game and control of the match.

In the second game, Washington's

controlled offense kept the Ducks from getting close, and Oregon fell behind quickly at 24-16. Kills by Washington senior Allison Richardson and junior Paige Benjamin put the Ducks away for good, and put the Huskies ahead 2-0.

The third game would end with the same results, but not in the same fashion as the first two. Oregon led early, 11-8, and moved ahead to 18-17 before finally letting up and allowing the Huskies to take the lead. A service ace by junior Gretchen Maurer tied the score at 18. An 11-8 Washington run put the Ducks away for good, and allowed them to take the season series from their Eugene rivals for the fourth time in five years.

However, it was different game for the Oregon women against the Huskies. Tobbagi, coming back strong after an early-season slump, led the Ducks with 15 kills. Her 10 digs gave her a double-double in the match.

"I'm probably more impressed with her character," Oregon head coach Carl Ferreira said when asked about Tobbagi's resurgence. "It's like she hit her head on a cement floor and has been recovering ever since. But how she's dealt with it has been something I've been proud for in terms of the adversity she's been in."

Martin followed up Tobbagi's 15 kills with 15 of her own, while fellow junior transfer Lindsay Closs pitched in with nine kills and four blocks. Sophomore Lindsay Murphy led Oregon once again with 13 digs.

More importantly, the Ducks played stronger than usual as a team, hitting for a .262 percentage and totaling 51 kills, only four shy of the Huskies' 55.

Friday was an entirely different story, but one with which the Ducks are accustomed.

Friday's three-game loss (30-18, 30-23, 30-21) to the Cougars marked Oregon's 22nd straight loss to Washington State, with their last win coming in 1990 at McArthur Court. Bohler Gym in Pullman has not been a favorable place for the Ducks, who haven't won at Washington State since 1989.

Tobbagi's nine kills and 13 digs against the Cougars paced Ferreira's squad in the match, but as a team, the Ducks were entirely overmatched.

Washington State had nine service aces, while Oregon could muster only one against the Cougars' strong defense. Five service errors by both teams helped even the score, but Wazzu had 52 kills to the Ducks' 38. Washington State also held the advantage in digs, 48-38.

"The crowd was really into it tonight and it was a lot of fun," Cougar head coach Cindy Fredrick said about Washington State's dominance. "We didn't play the prettiest volleyball. It was fun to not be uptight and that doesn't happen very often in this conference."

One bright spot for the Ducks over the weekend came in the form of freshman Lauren Westendorf. Listed as a setter in the Oregon media guide, Westendorf has come of age recently. Her eight digs against the Washington schools have reinforced her defensive ability.

"Pac-10 (play) is so much faster and the girls hit the ball harder," she said. "Here, the competition is better and you're always playing against the top teams in the country, and you have to be ready every single point."



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