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Ducks end 15-match losing streak in Portland

With a 3-1 over the Pilots in Portland, the Oregon volleyball team wins its first match in two months

By Hank Hager
Oregon Daily Emerald

And the streak is over.

With a 3-1 win (31-33, 30-27, 30-24, 30-26) over the Portland Pilots (6-16 overall, 2-9 West Coast Conference), the Oregon volleyball team finally got out of the rut that led them into a 15-match losing streak. With their first win since Sept. 8, when they defeated Boise State, the Ducks improve to 9-16 overall.

"We flat out dominated the net with blocking and that was huge," head coach Carl Ferreira said. "We

scored a lot of points and minimized our errors and showed growth and maturity. We're coaching to play our best volleyball in November, so I'm happy about this win."

The win means nothing in Pacific-10 Conference play, though, as the Ducks remain 0-13.

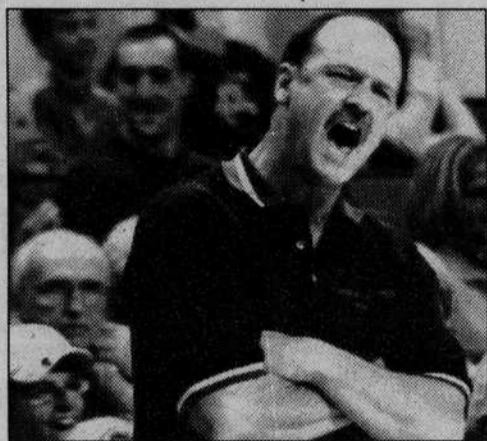
But this is a monumental step for the Oregon women. After suffering through a two-month-long drought, the season was looking bleak and disastrous. Although they are still

winless in conference play, the win brings a new vigor to the team.

"We were pretty confident we were going to walk away with a win," senior Monique Tobbagi said. "Toward the end of game one we picked up our level and by game four everything was just clicking."

Junior Lindsay Closs had a career-high 10 blocks Tuesday to pace Oregon, while Tobbagi also came in strong for the Ducks, stopping the Pilots with six blocks.

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Oregon center Brian Helquist (below) battles for a rebound in the Ducks' 97-45 victory Tuesday over the Basketball Travelers from Brisbane, Australia. The Brisbane head coach (right) wasn't too pleased about his team's performance.

Oregon buries Brisbane early, never looks back in opening rout

The Oregon men's basketball team took care of business with a 52-point exhibition win Tuesday night

By Peter Hockaday
Oregon Daily Emerald

"Aaaaaah."

That was the reaction of the Brisbane Capitals' head coach after one of his players bobbled a pass midway through the first half of Tuesday night's game against Oregon at McArthur Court.

The Ducks were screaming — with happiness — as they toppled the Capitals 97-45 in the season's first exhibition game. Oregon did almost everything right in the opener, and Ducks head coach Ernie Kent was pleased with his team's performance.

"Overall, I was comfortable and confident in our performance," Kent said. "It should have been a lopsided score. I would have been worried if it wasn't."

Oregon broke open the game early, with a 20-2 run that began at the 13-minute mark of the first half. The Capitals didn't get their 20th point until the 18th minute of the game. By then, the Ducks had 49 points.

Oregon unveiled a new lineup Tuesday night, including one new starter who made a big impact. Robert Johnson, a junior transfer from Santa Rosa Junior College in California, proved to be the Ducks' most effective rebounder. Johnson ended the contest with eight points and 10 boards, a game high.

"Robert will be a factor on our team," Kent said. "You saw him rebound. You saw him score. But what you didn't see is that he does so many more little things that help this team a great deal."

The Ducks' high scorer of the night was senior guard Freddie Jones, who finished with 27 points on 11-of-13 shooting. Jones did everything Oregon fans are accustomed to seeing: he made acrobatic dunks, played tight defense and dished out assists on fast breaks.

Sophomore point guard Luke Ridnour, last year's Pacific-10 Conference Freshman of the Year, proved that he might be even better than last season. Ridnour ended with the game's only double-double: 17 points and 10 assists.

Ridnour accumulated most of his statistics on fast breaks, as the Ducks ran on the Travelers all night.

"That's the way the game was meant to be played," Ridnour said. "Hopefully we're in better

shape this year, and we can just keep runnin' and runnin'."

Despite the offensive effort, all eyes were on Oregon's defense Tuesday night. The Ducks said they showed a grit on defense that was missing last season, as they allowed Brisbane to convert only 32.8 percent of their shots. The Capitals were 2-16 from three-point land in the contest.

"We've changed our whole defensive style, and that's making us more focused and intense out there," Jones said. "Our goal on defense is to make the other offense do things they're not accustomed to doing."

Oregon forced 25 turnovers Tuesday, including 12 steals. But Kent said that the Ducks' one weak point was the 23 turnovers that Oregon committed themselves.

"We're going to turn it over some," Kent said. "We can tone that down some."

Tuesday night's game was summed up in the frustration vented by Brisbane's coach after that early turnover. It was also the first taunt of the season for Oregon's loud "Pit Crew," who heckled the Australian team for much of the 40-minute contest.

Aaaaaah.

Peter Hockaday is a sports reporter for the Oregon Daily Emerald. He can be reached at peterhockaday@dailymerald.com.



Thomas Patterson Emerald

Harrington-led offense is No. 1 in Pac-10, but still not 'perfect'

A plus-12 turnover margin and an effective red zone offense have been the keys to Oregon's success

By Adam Jude
Oregon Daily Emerald

Oregon head coach Mike Bellotti said that when his seventh-ranked Ducks take on the 16th-ranked UCLA Bruins at 12:30 p.m. Saturday in a regionally televised game on ABC, the keys will be special teams, penalties and turnovers.

If the Ducks' success so far this season in the latter category is any indication of what will happen Saturday, Bellotti will emerge victorious from the Rose Bowl for the first time since 1995.

At plus-12 turnovers on the season, the Ducks are second in the conference

in turnover margin (averaging 1.33 take-aways per game). After forcing five UCLA turnovers last week, Washington State is the best in the Pac-10 — and third in the nation — at a plus-13 turnover margin.

"We have been very good at not turning over the football this year," Bellotti said.

Red hot in the zone

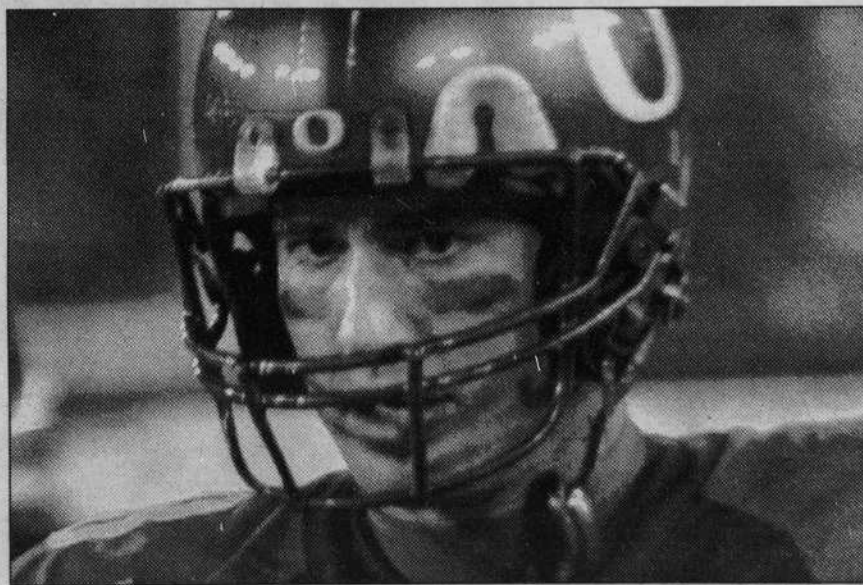
The Joey Harrington-led offense had had little trouble scoring lately.

Behind a balanced rushing and passing attack, the Ducks are the top-rated offense in the Pac-10, averaging 463 total yards per game.

At 37.3 points per game, the Ducks are third in the conference in scoring.

Most notably, though, may be the fact that Oregon has converted 33-of-35 trips to the red zone into scores, 30 of

Turn to Football, page 6



Senior quarterback Joey Harrington and Oregon's offense have scored on 33 of 35 trips to the red zone, the best mark in the Pac-10.

Thomas Patterson Emerald