



Recycled!

Basketball

continued from page 9

The 77 points Oregon allowed to KSC Szekszard, a traveling all-star team from Hungary, was not a huge surprise to Smith, but she said she wasn't pleased with it, either.

"The defense has suffered, and I take responsibility for that," the first-year coach said. "But we'll get after it."

And what about Western Oregon, the Division II school from Monmouth?

"Our coaches want us to respect them like anyone else," Williams said.

In fact, this week the Ducks

watched game tape of the Wolves, a team that finished 15-12 overall last season.

With a quick, guard-heavy lineup, Oregon wants to force its opponents to make mistakes with the ball

"Our coach's whole goal is to impose yourself more on your opponent," Williams said. "We want to get more in the mode of pressuring them, taking away passing lanes and really making it difficult for them to run their offense."

With six freshmen on the team, the Ducks are having to quickly adjust to each other, in addition to a new system and a new coach.

"Everyone is excited about the

change, and I think we all gel really good," freshman Amy Parrish said.

Parrish was one of Oregon's biggest surprises in the first exhibition game, scoring 11 points and grabbing six rebounds in 15 minutes of action.

"It wasn't bad, but there are still a lot of things I could have done better," the Hanford, Calif., native said of her Oregon debut. "Mainly, just keeping our space on offense, and setting good screens. On defense, we need to make sure we talk and play more aggressive.

"That's one of the things we stress is to play 100 percent defense as a team, and defense will create offense for us "she said

fense for us," she said.

Tipoff is set for 7 p.m. at
McArthur Court.

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Volleyball

continued from page 10

The same goes for Ferreira, who said it was vital for the Ducks to impress in front of the home crowd.

"It was an opportunity to show some different fans that, 'hey, volleyball can be an exciting sport,'" he said. "But there was also the responsibility for our players to kee fans interested by being electric in what they do."

Doing it all

Two weeks remain in conference play, and the Ducks still have two of the three triple-doubles earned in the Pac-10 this season. Senior Julie Gerlach and junior Sydney Chute have accomplished the feat this season, with the only other member from the conference registering enough assists, digs and kills being Arizona's Dana Burkholder.

Chute garnered the feat against Texas-Arlington on Aug. 31, posting 10 kills, 44 assists, and 11 digs. Her third career triple-double paced Oregon to a four-game win over the Mavericks.

Nine days later, Gerlach would add herself to the record books as well. In a 3-1 win over the Boise State Broncos, she posted 10 kills, 49 assists, and 12 digs, helping lead the Ducks to a 3-1 overall record in the Oregon Classic.

So far this season, Chute has started a majority of the matches, backing up Oregon's "big three" of Tobbagi, Martin and Closs with 62 kills and 613 assists. Gerlach has filled in admirably in place of Chute in selected matches this season, hitting for 46 kills and 293 assists of her own.

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Wrestling

continued from page 9

team is on par with or above Oregon State and Boise State. The top five teams in the country are Minnesota, Oklahoma State, Oklahoma, Michigan and Iowa.

Realistically, Kearney knows that those teams are competing at a level above where the Ducks presently are, but he is optimistic about the prospects of the season with the returners and the new freshmen.

"I think we can compete with (the top national teams), but it is just a matter of how the young guys develop," he said.

The Ducks begin their season this Saturday with a meet against Stanford at 2 p.m. and California-Davis at 7 p.m.

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