

# After six practices, Ducks ready to scrimmage

■ The Oregon football squad, while a bit rusty this spring, is looking forward to its first scrimmage Saturday

By Adam Jude  
Oregon Daily Emerald

"Gaaal-eee!" Andy Ludwig shouts. "How did that happen?"

"Back in the huddle!" Sorry, coach, rookie mistake. One more try.

"There you go. Much better. Nice job. Nice job!" says Ludwig, Oregon's new offensive coordinator and quarterbacks coach.

Just six practices in to its spring drills, the Oregon football team has seen better days, better execution, better throws, better weather. Then

again it is only the sixth practice of the spring and the real season doesn't start for, what, 142 days. There's bound to be mistakes, right?

"We have a long way to go," Ducks head coach Mike Bellotti said at Thursday's practice. "But I like our work ethic and I like our attitude."

But come Saturday — when the Ducks will hold their first full-padded scrimmage — Bellotti expects to see fewer mistakes.

"I do think there will be added intensity Saturday," Bellotti said. "Right now, it's like powder puff or intramural practice. I'm sure we'll see where people's courage and toughness is (during the scrimmage)."

"I'm looking forward to see people flying around."

Nearly halfway through spring

drills, the Ducks still have several unanswered questions they hope to answer before the annual Spring Game on April 27. Namely, Bellotti said he wants to solidify the quarterback, cornerback, tight end, fullback and linebacker positions.

Ludwig, himself trying to adjust to a new life in Oregon after transferring from Fresno State, has been working closely with the three quarterbacks — junior Jason Fife, sophomore Scott Vossmeier and redshirt freshman Kellen Clemens.

"Everyone is working hard and getting reacquainted with the system," Ludwig said.

Although it's not uncommon for players to be a bit rusty during the spring, Ludwig said the quarterbacks' execution must get better.

Perhaps the biggest news from the first two weeks of practices is Clemens' adjustment into the rotation. The Burns, Ore., native has moved ahead of Vossmeier to No. 2 in the depth chart — and he may not be done.

"Clemens has been pushing Fife, and they will split time with the (starters)," Bellotti said.

Bellotti said he is still waiting for another defensive back to go with junior Steven Moore, but he is comfortable with his depth on the defensive line, especially sophomore Igor Olshansky and Robbie Valenzuela.

"The two guys that we lost (on the line) are replaceable," Bellotti said. "Igor and Robbie are better physical athletes. They're bigger, faster and stronger and their experience will help

take some pressure off the corners." The tight end and fullback spots are essentially hand-in-hand. Junior George Wrihster, the backup tight end last year, has been working out at fullback — a spot he may become very familiar with by fall.

With junior linebacker Kevin Mitchell, a starter last season, sitting out spring drills with an injury, two linebacker spots will be open for competition.

"This is a chance for others to prove themselves," Bellotti said.

"Everyone has something to prove." Oregon's first scrimmage will start after its 2 p.m. practice Saturday at the practice fields outside of the Casanova Center.

E-mail sports editor Adam Jude at adamjude@dailymerald.com.

## UO tennis looks for first Pac-10 win

■ Looking for its first Pac-10 win in two years, the Oregon men's tennis team hosts No. 10 USC and No. 3 UCLA

By Peter Martini  
for the Emerald

The Oregon men's tennis team's quest to win its first Pacific-10 Conference match in two years continues at home this weekend.

The Ducks (0-4 Pac-10) will play No. 10 USC today and No. 3 UCLA on Saturday.

No. 33 Andrew Park, a senior, leads a Trojans team that features four ranked players. USC has a 16-4 overall record (7-3 Pac-10).

The Trojans have won four straight matches over No. 17 California, No. 6 Stanford, No. 59 Arizona and No. 38 Arizona State.

"USC has beaten many of the top teams in the country this season," Oregon head coach Chris Russell said. "We'll need to play at their intensity level."

UCLA has had to battle injuries this season and is coming off two upset losses to Stanford and California. No. 10 sophomore Tobias

Clemens, UCLA's No. 1 singles player, upset No. 4 K.J. Hippensteel in the loss to Stanford last week.

"California and Stanford were able to upset UCLA at UCLA last week, which proves that anything can happen in the Pac-10," Russell said. "The teams we're playing against are beatable, and our depth gives us a chance... We want to be in a situation where if we win three singles matches, then we pull off the upset."

The doubles game was a problem for the Ducks in their two losses last weekend against the Arizona schools. They lost five of six doubles matches and would have beaten Arizona had they won the doubles point.

The action begins today at 1 p.m. in the Student Tennis Center; if weather permits, on the outdoor courts.

### Women head back south

The women's team will try to continue its success this weekend in Louisiana.

The No. 54 Ducks, fresh off a 3-0 trip to Florida, will play No. 44 Louisiana State on Saturday and No. 56 Tulane on Sunday.

Newcomer Daria Panova will lead the Ducks at the No. 1 singles

spot. The freshman went 2-1 in her first three matches with Oregon. Junior Monika Gieczys is healthy and playing well and gives the Ducks a solid No. 2 player.

"Right now with Daria and a healthy Monika, it's like adding two new players to our team and putting them at the top of the order," said Oregon assistant coach Nils Schyllander. "We are a totally different team right now, and I think we showed that in Florida. We beat the 22nd-ranked team in the country and they were coming off a win against Tennessee, which at the time was the ninth-ranked team."

Tulane is 10-9 overall this season, but has lost five of its last six matches. The lone victory coming against No. 40 Oklahoma State.

Louisiana State is 10-10 overall this season and is coming off a loss to No. 35 Mississippi. The Tigers have played 13 ranked teams including losses to No. 1 Georgia, No. 2 Florida and No. 6 Vanderbilt. They have three wins against ranked teams this season including a 4-3 win over No. 17 Kentucky.

Peter Martini is a freelance reporter for the Emerald.

## Oregon men's golf team set to tee off at ASU Invite

Four of the top 10 teams in the country — No. 6 Oklahoma State, No. 7 Texas, No. 8 Texas Christian and No. 9 USC — will join Oregon for the ASU Thunderbird/SAVANE Invitational. Teams will play 32 holes Friday and 18 Saturday on the 7,037-yard, par 72 Karsten Golf Course in Tempe, Ariz.

"Every year, this tournament has one of the strongest fields in the country, and this year is no exception," Oregon head coach Steve Nosler said. "It will give us an indication of how we stack up against some of the better teams in the West."

Other top 25 opponents include No. 11 Washington, No. 17 Oklahoma, No. 22 New Mexico, No. 24 Pepperdine and No. 25 Arizona. Host Arizona State, which has won 10 of the last 13 Thunderbird Invitationals, Brigham Young, Houston, Oregon, Stanford and UCLA round out the 15-team field. Oregon is No. 33 in this week's Golfweek/Sagarin rankings.

The Ducks will send the same five golfers who have produced three straight top six finishes, including a first at the Oregon Duck Invitational March 25-26 and a second at the Cleveland Southwest Invitational March 4-5.

Senior Aaron Byers will be at the No. 1 spot with a 72.3 strokes per round average. He will be joined by juniors Chris Carnahan (73.7 spr) and John Ellis (72.8 spr), senior Brandon Harnden (74.0 spr) and sophomore Mike Sica (75.3 spr). Senior Chris Heniff (77.1 spr) will compete as an individual.

"We took a step back in our last tournament," said Nosler about his team's final round fall from second to sixth Tuesday at the Western Intercollegiate. "But I think we'll come back. I'm not sure what the problem was, but overall, we've been playing pretty solid golf. Hopefully, we'll be able to make a few minor adjustments and get back on track."

— from staff and wire reports

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