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Best Bet  
MLB: Seattle at Oakland  
7 p.m., FSN



Tuesday, April 16, 2002

## Oregon still winless despite improvement

■ The Oregon men's tennis team falls to 0-6 in the Pac-10 after losses to UCLA and USC

By Peter Martini  
for the Emerald

The effort was better, but the results were the same for the Oregon men's tennis team.

The Ducks lost 7-0 to No. 3 UCLA and 4-3 to No. 10 USC over the weekend to fall to 0-6 in the Pacific-10 Conference.



Against the Bruins on Saturday, Oregon fell behind early by losing the doubles point and all six first sets in singles. Junior Oded Teig and freshman Sven Swinnen then fought back to force tie-breakers in their second sets and freshman Johan Paalberg won his second set.

But all three came up short, and Oregon lost every singles match.

"We were right there in three of the singles matches, and if a few things had gone differently, we could have won those matches," Oregon head coach Chris Russell said. "We also should have won two of the doubles matches. We definitely had chances to pull off an upset today, but this UCLA team has been No. 1 in the country this year and is very tough."

The Trojans, coming off wins over No. 6 Stanford and No. 17 California, came into Eugene on Friday as the hottest team in the Pac-10, but the Ducks played without intimidation.

Oregon's top three players beat USC's top three, but the Ducks lost the doubles point to lose the match.

"I'm very pleased with how our top guys came through against very tough opponents," Russell said. "The Trojans are very hot right now, and we showed that we can play with them."

Freshman Manuel Kost beat No. 110 Ryan Moore 7-5, 6-4 for his second career victory against a Pac-10 opponent.

"I just battled him, and I was serving well out there," Kost said. "This win makes me feel more confident in my ability to play at this level."

After losing the first set 6-1, Swinnen won 7-5 and 6-4 in the next two to beat No. 54 Nick Rainey. At No. 1 singles, Teig beat No. 33 Andrew Park 6-2, 6-3.

"I played my best match of the year," Teig said. "I was able to break his serves early and win my serves. I was hitting many good shots down the baselines and hitting deep balls that kept him away from the net."

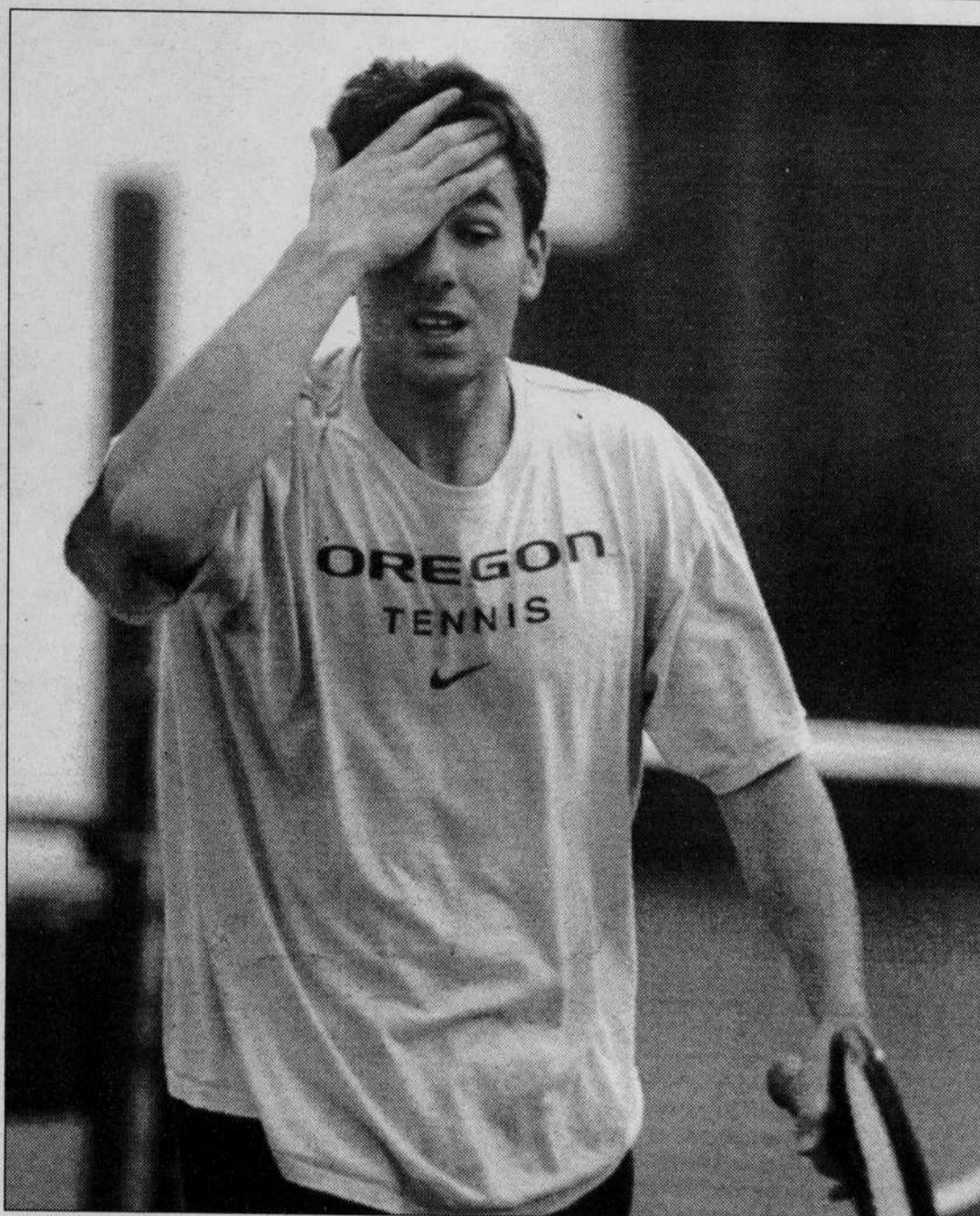
Junior Jason Menke lost his first set 6-3, but battled to a 6-0 win in the second set. But Damien Spizzo beat Menke 6-2 in the final set to give the Trojans the victory. Sophomore Chris King and Paalberg lost their matches in the fifth and sixth singles spots.

The Ducks, with no seniors, are 12-9 overall this season.

"For a young team like ours, learning is very important in every match that we play," Russell said. "This weekend, I think the guys saw that they cannot only play with the best teams in the country, but that if they do the little things and play hard, they can beat them. This team is past the point of moral victories. They play to win every match."

Sophomore Greg Dubourdieu left the team last week to go back to France and

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Thomas Patterson Emerald

Oregon sophomore Martin Pawlowski reacts after mishitting a shot in a doubles match against No. 3 UCLA on Sunday at the Student Tennis Center. The Ducks lost to USC and UCLA over the weekend to drop to 0-6 in the Pac-10 this season.

## Oregon softball determined to find way out of losing streak



Jonathan House Emerald

Andrea Vidlund (8) and the Oregon softball team have lost their last nine games, all to ranked opponents in the Pacific-10 Conference. Vidlund leads the team in batting average (.363), hits (37), total bases (62) and home runs (7).

■ Heading into a stretch of more tough conference games, Oregon remains confident in its ability to win

By Chris Cabot  
Oregon Daily Emerald

Looking at a record of 0-9 in the Pacific-10 Conference (18-18 overall), it's easy to see a struggling Oregon softball club. But a closer look at the score of the games and the quality of opponents reveals a team that may be on the verge of breaking through for its first conference wins.



The faces of the team may reveal frustration from their nine consecutive losses, but because only three of those losses were by more than two runs and four games were decided by one run, they do not show desperation.

"We're not panicking, but there is a sense of urgency that it is time to put it all together," first-year head coach Brent Rincon said. "I'm pretty happy with where we are, but I'm frustrated that we haven't broken into the win column in the conference. But the attitude of the players and their desire to be successful has been great."

Junior shortstop Lynsey Haij, who leads the team with 20 runs, and the

rest of the Ducks know that they are close to turning the outcome of close games in their favor.

"I think we are a little down being 0-9 in the Pac-10, but we have to look past that and look at the positive things that we've gotten out of the games," Haij said. "They are only beating us by a couple of runs, and we are only a key hit away."

If Oregon can put a game in the win column, Rincon expects other victories to ensue.

"It's time to pick up the pace a little bit and get some victories," he said. "Winning is contagious and losing is contagious, so if everything comes together and we can get a victory, I think we'll see more follow. It's just trying to get all three components — defense, offense and pitching — to all be there on the same day and then at that point, we are a pretty tough team to beat."

Despite the rough Pac-10 schedule, the mood in the Oregon clubhouse remains positive, and the ever-important team chemistry continues to be excellent. Unlike last year's squad, which was 1-20 in the Pac-10 and struggled with chemistry problems, attitudes of the players this year toward the season and each other have allowed the team to progress.

"Team chemistry is only going to

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