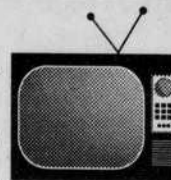


SPORTS

Sports Editor:
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Best Bet
NBA playoffs:
San Antonio at Los Angeles
7:30 p.m., TBS



Tuesday, May 14, 2002

UO women's tennis falls to No. 11 USC in NCAA

■ After upsetting No. 18 UNLV in the first round, the Ducks' season ends Sunday at the hands to their Pacific-10 foe

By Peter Martini
for the Emerald

From the football team to the men's basketball team, Oregon has had incredible post-season success this year, and it continued over the

weekend with the women's tennis team.



11 USC in the second round. Against the Rebels, Oregon won the doubles point and three singles

matches for a 4-2 victory.

No. 88 freshman Daria Panova beat UNLV's No. 102 Paulina Janus, 6-4, 6-1, at the No. 1 spot. Sophomores Davina Mendiburu and Courtney Nagle won at the bottom two spots in the lineup to give the Ducks the victory.

Senior Janice Nyland's match was suspended because the Ducks accumulated the four points before her match ended. Junior Monika Gieczys lost in straight sets, and

senior Vickie Gunnarsson lost 6-4, 3-6, 6-4.

"It was the best match we've ever played, and it was really perfect timing," head coach Jack Griffin said. "It was a lot of fun and they fought through a lot of adversity. It was a great atmosphere. They just want to make this year even more and more special and they're doing a good job of it."

The win was Oregon's first NCAA Tournament victory since

1999, when the Ducks beat South Florida in the first round.

Against USC, the Ducks struggled early in doubles and were not able to upset the Trojans' top two doubles teams. Nagle and Mendiburu lost, 8-5, to No. 6 Tiffany Brymer and Jewel Peterson. Nyland and Panova lost, 8-4, to No. 31 Anita Loyola and Luana Mag-nani.

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If it LOOKS like a DUCK and WALKS like a DUCK...

■ The future 'looks good' with the selection of three male students to wear the Duck suit

By Adam Jude
Oregon Daily Emerald

In an ideal world, Oregon cheerleading coach Laraine Raish would have Daisy and Donald Duck roaming the sidelines at Oregon sporting events next year.

Instead, Raish selected three male students — joining two male veterans — to wear the Donald Duck suit, Oregon's traditional Disney mascot, to continue entertaining crowds at Autzen Stadium and McArthur Court.

"I have not had a girl Duck for so long, and I'd like to have one," Raish said after Thursday's mascot auditions at Mac Court. "But when (she's) out there, it's obvious that she's a girl."

And being a girl often doesn't fly in the Duck suit — especially with the physical differences (height in particular) that distinguish the students who wear the mascot suit.

"The guys just have the Duck walk," Raish said. "What I'm looking for are people who can eventually conform to what the other Ducks look like because we prefer that they all look similar."

Four students, including one female, auditioned for the role of being the Duck next year, a position that requires four students plus one alternate. After short personal interviews with four panelists, including Raish, the contestants performed a musical skit with the Duck suit on and then participated in an improv routine with various props.

"The hard thing is I like them all," Raish said.

Although she doesn't like to choose who will be the Duck based on physical characteristics, Raish said, "It would be nice if they were about the same height." The physical similarities are needed at games or events that require two people to share the Duck duties, such as football and basketball games, where each person wears the suit for one half.

Raish and the three other judges discussed their evaluations of the candidates



Thomas Patterson Emerald

One of four students auditioning to be the Duck pleads his case with the judges Thursday at Mac Court. Five students will share the mascot responsibilities next year.

Thursday evening, where the three male students were rated the best in the five categories, which included the personality and time commitment. Raish announced the winners Friday morning.

"I was really surprised," said one of the winners, a sophomore pre-education major. "I really didn't know what to expect."

The judges, however, expect a great future from the new mascots.

"The future is good for the Duck and for the University of Oregon," said Karl Lude-man, a former Oregon cheerleader who served on the panel of judges. "It always seems like we have good seasons when the crowd gets into it; the crowd gets into with the Duck. So when you have a good Duck, the crowd gets into it."

"It looks like it will be a good year for the Ducks."

Despite having just four applicants, the panelists said this year's group was the best to ever try out to be the Duck.

"This is the best audition I've ever seen," said one of the veteran Ducks, who helped facilitate the tryout. "The overall turnout was great in terms of talent."

Ironically, despite standing in front of

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Oregon men's golf team takes new attitude into NCAA Regional

■ With two weeks to prepare, the Ducks say they are ready to advance to the NCAA Tournament

By Jesse Thomas
for the Emerald

After a two-week break from competition, the Oregon men's golf team is making the final touches to their game and preparing for the NCAA West Regional, which begins Thursday.

After finishing fifth in the Pacific-

10 Conference Championships April 27, the Ducks received a bid to regionals as the No. 11 seed to compete in Albuquerque, N.M., later this week.

Last year, Oregon walked away from the NCAA Regionals in 18th out of 24 teams. But the Ducks said the course last year did not fit their

style of play.

"We made our doubles and triples than any other team," junior John Ellis said of last year's performance. "You can't make twos and threes and expect to do good."

Ellis finished first for Oregon last year in regionals, but is expecting a lot more from himself and of the team. His main focus has been on perfecting his short game and he said the key to doing well is to not make any mental errors.

Junior Chris Carnahan came in fourth for Oregon at Pac-10s in a tie for 35th and said being consistent and maintaining focus are two keys to Oregon's shot for qualifying for nationals.

"We need to stay focused through the whole round and grind it all the way out," Carnahan said.

The Ducks will be paired with Nevada and Ohio State for the tournament's first two rounds. Oregon knows they are both good teams but is still happy with the pairing and

their chances.

"We have a good chance of winning," Ellis said.

Regionals will be played on the South Champions Course in Albuquerque, N.M., as opposed to the Trysting Tree Golf Course in Corvallis last year. The Ducks like their chances this time around much better.

With the course playing long and assuming it will be windy, Oregon

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