

Peanut

continued from page 13

"She is someone who plays with an awful lot of heart," head coach Bill Steffen said. "She gives us a lot of direction and organization."

Steffen also described her as being the shepherd for the flock of sheep.

"She leads by example, for sure," Thayer said. "She takes every single person under her wing. She is kind of like our mom."

Peterson played in only two games as a Duck freshman in 1999. But that didn't faze her, as she kept her eye on her goal to become captain and lead her Ducks.

Peterson said she has had many great moments and memories while at Oregon, but her most vivid memory is from Friday night, Nov. 9, 2001.

The Ducks had traveled to play No. 13-ranked Washington and Peterson's family and friends had the opportunity to come and watch.

Oregon almost pulled off one of the biggest upsets in school history but ended the game in a 1-1 tie, with the Huskies scoring a goal with less than two minutes left.

Regardless of the tie, the experience was unforgettable for Peterson.

In 2001, she started all 18 games for the Ducks, notching seven shots while providing solid defense to help Oregon to its best record since the sport began.

"Lindsey likes to play hard," Steffen said. "If she is going to do something she wants to do it well. That is a tremendous asset."

Soccer is not the only aspect of Peterson's life. She excels in the classroom and will graduate with a degree in business administration.

"I like people who are successful," Steffen said. "Whatever Lindsey does, she tends to be good at it."

Peterson's teammates will always remember her sly sense of humor and excellent leadership. Or, they'll remember just plain Peanut.

Lindsey Peterson file

Senior defender, Oregon soccer team. Home town: Port Orchard, Wash.

Born: Lindsey Marie Peterson on Feb. 10, 1981, in Tacoma, Wash.

High School: Three-year member of the Washington ODP and a three-year participant in the regional camp...Masonic Outstanding Junior of the Year nominee in 1998...won the State Snickers Cup Fair Play Award her senior year at South Kitsap High in Port Orchard.

Oregon: Three letters as a Duck...notched seven shots while starting all 18 games in 2001...played 17 games as a sophomore and two games as a freshman...has started every game this season and recorded one shot on goal...spearheaded an Oregon defense that held No. 1 North Carolina to three goals Sunday.

There are instances where some of her teammates don't know about Peterson's life, things that just define who she is.

In her junior year of high school, in a match against a cross-town rival, Peterson fell and broke her arm. Nothing could stop her from playing, not even the pain. She got back up, played the rest of the game and didn't tell anyone, because she knew they would make her sit out.

"We did these profiles, and on mine it said, 'If you could be another Oregon athlete, who would it be?'" Thayer said. "I said Lindsey Peterson."

Contact the sports reporter at jessethomas@dailyemerald.com.

These aren't your usual Ducks

Behind the Dish If a team fails to win a Pacific-10 Conference match for two straight seasons, can the latter squad be better than the first?

Bets are that the Oregon volleyball team will win at least one conference match this season, but it's already evident, records be forgotten, that the Ducks are a vastly improved team than the one that graced the McArthur Court floor last season.

Just forget the Stanford match.

With 10 players left from last season's team that lost every Pac-10 match — a first for the program — common belief would be that the current group wouldn't change its attitude much. But maybe, just maybe, it's who the Ducks lost that has propelled them to newfound confidence and cohesiveness.

Oregon lost three main players from last season — Monique Tobbagi, Julie Gerlach and Stephanie Martin — to either graduation or for academic reasons. Tobbagi and Martin provided much of the spark from last season's team, at least offensively, and grabbed most of the headlines from each match.

The Ducks returned just one

offensive stalwart from last season — senior Lindsay Closs. Closs essentially remained in the background last season as a quiet but productive middle blocker.

This season, she has already assumed the top leadership role, and coupled with a pair of youngsters, freshman Kelly Russell and sophomore Lauren Westendorf, Closs has keyed the Oregon offense to a height that was unequaled last season.

But the key word in that sentence was "coupled." The offense last season never seemed to click as a group, but now the three have grouped together to form a trio that has talent, and is using it on the court.

Now, to say that Tobbagi and Martin were at the heart of the problem would be a gross misstatement. Tobbagi has returned as an assistant coach, so out goes the possibility that her influence is the problem.

Instead, the absence of Tobbagi and Martin has allowed the younger players a better opportunity to show what they have on the court. Westendorf, for one, showed some signs of serious talent last season but never really had a consistent chance to prove herself. Now, handed the role as a starter, she has blossomed.

The same goes for the Oregon freshmen, specifically Russell and setter Jodi Bell. Russell has been the wild-card that the Ducks have desperately looked for in the past. Not only is she a dominating presence

on the offensive side of the ball, but her defense — specifically blocking — has been a surprising part of her game. That's for a player who, entering the season, didn't even figure to have a big role.

Now, Kelly, don't let that go to your head. You're still a freshman. Imagine where you can go from here in the three seasons after this one.

Then there's Bell. Seemingly everyone in the volleyball world knew what she was capable of coming into the season. She was a Volleyball Magazine Feb-50 selection entering this season.

But just because you've heard what somebody is capable of doesn't mean you can actually believe something before you see it. Aside from the Stanford match where every Oregon player was off, Bell has been on target with her sets. Better yet, she's second on the team in service aces. It doesn't get much better than that.

Same goes for you, Jodi. You've got time. Keep it consistent.

Finally, the word is still not out on fellow freshman Dariam Acevedo, the young one from Puerto Rico. She's only played in six matches after playing for her National Team, but she could be good.

Better yet, they could all be good. Time will tell.

Contact sports reporter Hank Hager at hankhager@dailyemerald.com. His views do not necessarily represent those of the Emerald.



Hank Hager
Behind the dish

Volleyball

continued from page 13

a convincing win over Portland, the Ducks have an opponent that could be at the mercy of their talent. Oregon and Oregon State match up well, and like Ferreira knows, the team that wins will be

the one that plays to its own strength.

"We've truly got to dictate the tempo of the match by winning the serving and passing game," he said. "That's the key. We've got to play defense to create point scoring opportunities. We've got to side-out to score points and minimize our un-

forced errors. If we do that, we'll win the match.

"Emotionally, it's pretty simple to get up for this match."

The battle of the winless begins at 7 p.m.

Contact the sports reporter at hankhager@dailyemerald.com.

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Horoscope by Linda C. Black

TODAY'S BIRTHDAY (Oct. 3) The secret to your success this year is in the details. Take as much time as you need to make sure you've thought of everything before proceeding. This will inhibit your spontaneity somewhat, but you'll gain sophistication, and that's a good thing.

To get the advantage, check the day's rating: 10 is the easiest day, 0 the most challenging.

ARIES (March 21-April 19) Today is a 7. New difficulties will soon arise, so don't assume you know it all. Good planning will help, of course, but more study is required.

TAURUS (April 20-May 20) Today is a 7. Reaching an agreement leads to a closer bond, and that makes everything else seem easier. There are still complications and shortages, but together you'll find a way.

GEMINI (May 21-June 21) Today is a 6. You know those things you've been thinking that might be better left unsaid? The really critical stuff? Unless you want the same back atcha, better stifle.

CANCER (June 22-July 22) Today is a 7. Your natural talents are needed today to keep everybody on track. Without you, chaos might reign, so if they're not listening, shout.

LEO (July 23-Aug. 22) Today is a 6. As you go over your lists, you may note several little things that need immediate attention. A responsible review of those lists could save you money.

VIRGO (Aug. 23-Sept. 22) Today is a 7. You may have to call a halt to the proceedings. If somebody makes an erroneous assumption, don't let it stand. Object, or else you'll wish you had.

LIBRA (Sept. 23-Oct. 22) Today is a 7. Something you thought you had figured out could come unraveled. If it's not going to work, it's better to know sooner rather than later.

SCORPIO (Oct. 23-Nov. 21) Today is a 7. Not all of the news is good, but it's better to know the truth. You're learning why it's best to play by the rules, especially where money is involved.

SAGITTARIUS (Nov. 22-Dec. 21) Today is a 6. Another dead end? Don't despair. This is valuable information. Besides, your curiosity is being tweaked, and your resolve deepened.

CAPRICORN (Dec. 22-Jan. 19) Today is a 6. A person who owes you a favor can give you the information you've been seeking. Discuss the situation and find out what you need to know.

AQUARIUS (Jan. 20-Feb. 18) Today is a 7. Postpone your big date until the weekend, and plan to travel then. Meanwhile, watch your money. Spend carefully and don't take risks.

PISCES (Feb. 19-March 20) Today is a 7. A surprising revelation causes you to reassess the priorities you've just set. Don't be dismayed, and don't hesitate. The more you do it, the easier it gets.

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