

Bruins, Trojans sweep Ducks in Golden State

Oregon can't overcome its errors in a weekend sweep to No. 13 UCLA and No. 1 USC

Volleyball

Hank Hager
Sports Reporter

For the Oregon volleyball team, the numbers just don't lie.

The numbers this weekend were No. 13 UCLA and No. 1 USC.

Despite a valiant effort Friday night against the Bruins, the Ducks suffered a sweep in Southern California, extending their Pacific-10 Conference losing streak to 28 matches.

After starting strong in games one and two, Oregon could not overcome the Bruins on Friday and were swept (30-28, 30-24, 30-20) after a sluggish third game.

The Ducks (10-11 overall, 0-7 Pac-10) stayed with UCLA in the first two sets despite failing to register a hitting percentage more than .167. In game 3, Oregon matched offensive kills and errors — six apiece — for a neutral percentage.

Oregon had a chance to take a 1-0 lead against the Bruins (12-6, 5-3). Oregon was up 23-21 late, after a kill by sophomore Lauren Westendorf, but a kill by UCLA's Brynn Murphy

tied the game at 23.

A see-saw battle between the two squads stayed even at 28 until two consecutive points by the Bruins — highlighted by Cira Wright's game-winning block — gave them the win.

Senior Lindsay Closs led the ineffective Oregon offense with 14 kills while freshman Dariam Acevedo continued her successful ways with eight kills of her own.

The Ducks managed only a .109 hitting percentage, while the Bruins responded with 50 kills and 43 assists. The Ducks had just 35 kills and 31 assists.

Still, head coach Carl Ferreira said he was happy with Oregon's effort.

"I'm very pleased with how we played in the first game," he said. "We came out and competed with the 13th-ranked team in the nation and we gave ourselves a chance to win. That's what we want."

The main concern to the Ducks was the team's inability to stay competitive to the end. While Oregon's kills increased from 13 in game 1 to 16 in game 2, its attack errors also rose from seven to nine.

"Toward the end of game 2 and in game 3 we got away from what was working for us," Ferreira said. "We need to sustain that level throughout."

Against the Trojans (14-0, 8-0), USC dominated for an easy sweep

(30-15, 30-14, 30-15).

With the win, USC stayed perfect and in first place in the Pac-10 while Oregon stays in the cellar, one win behind ninth-place Oregon State.

Freshman Jaclyn Jones led the Ducks with eight kills and a .462 hitting percentage, but as a team, Oregon managed just 24 kills and an .011 percentage. On the flip side, USC had 53 kills and hit .457 for the match.

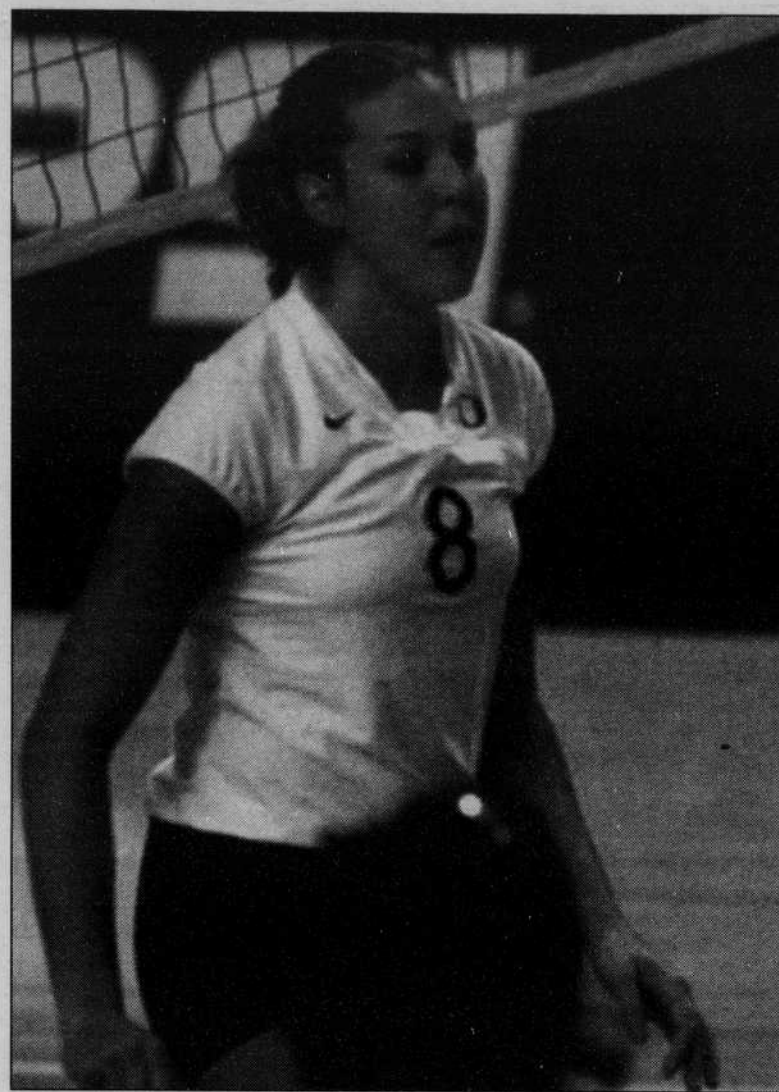
The Ducks failed to hit above .100 in any single set and were off-target in game 3. Whereas the Trojans had 14 kills with just four errors in 30 attempts in the final set, Oregon committed 11 errors in 32 attempts while notching just eight kills.

The Ducks made it hard for themselves from the service line, failing to earn an ace while committing eight errors, just one night after recording five aces and 13 errors against UCLA.

On the individual side, USC's April Ross and Keao Burdine both had 10 kills while Tracy Lindquist led the team with 26 assists.

After suffering a hard-luck loss to UCLA and being dominated by USC, the Ducks come back to McArthur Court on Thursday night for a game with Arizona starting at 7 p.m. Arizona State visits on Friday.

Contact the sports reporter at hankhager@dailyemerald.com.



Jeremy Forrest Emerald

Senior Lindsay Closs led the Ducks with 14 kills against UCLA on Friday.

Ducks to compete in talent-heavy tournament

The Oregon men's golf team travels to California with a new lineup to tee off with some of the nation's best squads

Golf

Jon Roetman
Freelance Sports Reporter

The Oregon men's golf team will face an uphill battle as it competes in the talent-laden Alister MacKenzie Invitational, starting today at the

Meadow Club in Fairfax, Calif.

The two-day tournament features seven teams ranked in the top 50 in the latest Golfweek/Sagarin poll. UCLA leads the way at No. 8, along with California-Irvine (No. 12), Northwestern (No. 13), Washington (No. 30), tournament host California (No. 36) and Oregon State (No. 40). The Ducks are ranked No. 53.

The tournament also features four of the nation's top individuals. Fresno State senior Nick Watney is the nation's No. 1-ranked golfer in the latest Golfweek/Sagarin poll. Other ranked players include Northwest-

ern junior Tom Johnson at No. 3, along with Washington senior Conner Robbins (No. 4) and Stanford senior Jim Seki (No. 7).

The Ducks will use their third different lineup in as many tournaments. Senior co-captains John Ellis and Chris Carnahan will once again hold the top spots for the Ducks. Junior Jimmy White, a graduate of South Eugene High School, will make his fall debut in the No. 3 spot. The No. 4 spot belongs to junior Mike Sica, while freshman Justin St. Clair will hold down the No. 5 spot.

"After the two seniors, we've got

six or seven guys competing for three spots," said Oregon head coach Steve Nosler. "Jimmy (White) had a good showing in qualifying, so now he'll get a chance to show what he can do in a tournament."

The tournament is being played on a course designed in 1927 by legendary designer Alister MacKenzie, who has over 100 course designs to his credit. Some of MacKenzie's most notable courses include Cypress Point in Pebble Beach, Calif., Royal Melbourne in Melbourne, Australia and Augusta National, home of the masters, in Augusta, Ga.

The Ducks have finished in the top 10 in eight consecutive regular-season tournaments dating back to last season. This season, the Ducks had a seventh place finish in the Windon Memorial Classic in Glenview, Ill., and a sixth-place finish in the Club Grove Intercollegiate in Somis, Calif.

The course is a par-71, measuring 6,585 yards. Teams will play 36 holes today and finish with 18 Tuesday.

Jon Roetman is a freelance writer for the Emerald.

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