

Ducks extend losing streak with Bay Area heartbreaks

Oregon plays tough against California, but can't pull off a victory in a five-game match

Volleyball

Hank Hager
Sports Reporter

California has proved to be a thorn in the side of the Oregon volleyball team this season.

The Golden Bears — who narrowly defeated the Ducks in five games earlier this year — were up to their old tricks. This time, under an even more dire situation Saturday night at Haas Pavilion, California showed why it is the most improved team in the Pacific-10 Conference this season.

Oregon, despite a 2-0 set lead, lost in five games (28-30, 24-30, 30-23, 30-26, 15-10) to California, and extended its Pac-10 losing streak to 32 one night after losing to No. 6 Stanford in Palo Alto, Calif.

Senior Lindsay Closs led the Ducks (10-15 overall, 0-11 Pac-10) with 22 kills while freshman Dariam Acevedo had 20. Freshman Kelly Russell also pitched in with 15 kills as the Ducks hit for a .239 percentage — Oregon's highest this season in a Pac-10 match.

Despite jumping out to a commanding early lead, the Ducks allowed California (15-6, 5-6) to jump

back into the contest.

The Golden Bears, who were without star offensive sophomore Mia Jerkov because of an ankle injury she suffered against Oregon State on Friday night, received 22 kills each by senior Leah Young and freshman Jenna Brown.

"The bottom line is that we put ourselves in a position to win and didn't put them away," Oregon head coach Carl Ferreira said. "We kind of got away from our system and what we were doing in the first two games and that allowed them to start gaining confidence."

Overall, the Ducks out-killed California, 80-75, and had seven service aces to the Golden Bears' three. In the long run, it was Oregon's offense — which hit for a .348 percentage in game 1 and .375 in game 2 — that could not continue its dominance. The Ducks hit .188 in game 4 and negative .034 in the final stanza, helping propel California to the victory.

Junior Lindsay Murphy also had 15 digs to lead the Ducks in the loss.

Against the Cardinal (19-3, 9-2), Acevedo had 10 kills and Russell had eight, but the Ducks were swept (30-21, 31-29, 30-21) Friday at Maples Pavilion.

Closs also had eight kills, but Stanford was too much to handle, as sophomore Ogonna Nnamani led the Cardinal with 17 kills.

Oregon had a 29-28 lead late in game 2, but couldn't pull off the victory after a Stanford block on a Ducks' service error. Stanford junior Sara McGee gave the Cardinal the victory after two straight kills.

"They were really focusing on Dariam on the outside and Lindsay Closs and Kelly Russell did a really good job for us in the mid-

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Carl Ferreira
Oregon head coach

dle," Ferreira said. "We handled and served the ball very well and were in this match, which is something I don't think we did last time we played them."

The Cardinal out-killed Oregon, 49-40, but the Ducks held the advantage in digs, 47-44. Both teams had four service aces on the night, with the Ducks led by Closs' two.

Oregon will visit Oregon State on Friday in the second installment of this season's Civil War.

Contact the sports reporter at hankhager@dailyemerald.com.

Soccer

continued from page 8A

initial momentum they needed, sophomore Arlene Tuttle would take care of the rest by scoring her first two career goals. Tuttle's first score came on a header in the 73rd minute from eight yards out, and she scored less than eight minutes off an assist from Denner to give Oregon the 3-2 victory.

"Arlene gives us a strong physical player out front who hustles after everything, and she showed it on

"Arlene gives us a strong physical player out front who hustles after everything, and she showed it on both of her goals."

Bill Steffen
Oregon head coach

both of her goals," Steffen said.

"I was surprised to get two — I would have been happy with one,"

Tuttle said. "Friday's game we came out from the beginning fired up but (Sunday) we were kind of lackadaisical, acting like we had all the time in the world to score."

The Ducks didn't have all the time in the world Sunday as Oregon found itself scrambling for one last goal in the final minutes.

Oregon (2-11-2, 1-4-1 Pac-10) came away with a split with the desert schools as they head into their final two weeks of conference play.

Contact the sports reporter at jessethomas@dailyemerald.com.

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