

Duck tennis fares well at ITA regionals

The Oregon men's and women's tennis teams come back from California feeling confident and having gained experience

Ryan Heath
Freelance Sports Reporter

Productive weekends are becoming commonplace for Oregon tennis.

The Ducks men's team finished its third tournament this month while the women completed their first action of the season as both competed in the Omni Hotels ITA Northwest Regional Tournament.

"We made a lot of progress," men's head coach Chris Russell said. "We realized our strengths and exposed some of our weaknesses."

Very few of those weaknesses were exposed in the early rounds of the tourney. Ducks Chris King, Jason Menke, Thomas

"I am very happy with the way we played ... There were a lot of bright spots."

Nils Schyllander
head coach

Bieri, and Junaid Hossain all won in straight sets in the opening round at Moraga.

After receiving first-round byes, No. 7-seeded Manuel Kost took care of Sacramento State's Jacob Silva 6-2, 6-2, while No. 9 Oded Teig defeated Dustin Ilic of Fresno State and Sven Swinnen, seeded 17th, took St. Mary's Rafael Lopez in straight sets as well.

The first day of competition also saw three of the five doubles teams advance to the second round.

"We played well on certain days," Russell said. "And didn't back it up well the next day."

On day two, Teig and Kost advanced to the fourth round in straight sets and all three doubles teams continued their dominance through to the round of 16. Kost finished his day by beating Cal's Robert Kowalczyk 7-5, 6-2 while Teig fell to No. 11-ranked David Martin of Stanford.

Monday, Kost was unable to top Washington's Alex Vlaski, the No. 15-ranked player in the nation, despite beating him twice last year. The doubles teams also fell in hard-fought matches.

"At this point in the season, it is about playing a lot of matches," Russell said. "Our toughness on the court needs to improve. It comes from the heart."

The Oregon women also gained the experience they were looking for at the ITA.

"I am very happy with the way we

played," head coach Nils Schyllander said. "There were a lot of bright spots."

Two of those bright spots were the play of Daria Panova and Courtney Nagle. Panova reached the quarterfinals and Nagle bested Washington's number one player, Claire Carter, in straight sets.

"They were very hungry to compete," Schyllander said of his young team's play in Palo Alto. "We showed we are playing smart tennis."

In doubles, the Panova/Davina Mendiburo and Nagle/Julie Merle teams were able to advance to the round of 16 before being ousted by two teams from California.

This weekend the women head to San Diego for the USD Tennis Classic and the men host the Duck Classic in Eugene.

Ryan Heath is a freelance writer for the Emerald.

Pac-10

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After playing WSU, No. 16 Arizona State hosts California, then heads to No. 11 USC before finishing the season at Arizona.

USC's three remaining Pac-10 games are at Stanford on Nov. 9, at home against ASU and at UCLA on Nov. 23. The Trojans also host Notre Dame on Nov. 30.

Running rampant

The state of Oregon boasts two of the nation's best tailbacks.

Oregon's Onterio Smith (1,015 yards) and Oregon State's Steven Jackson (1,004) are neck-and-neck in the race for the Pac-10 rushing title.

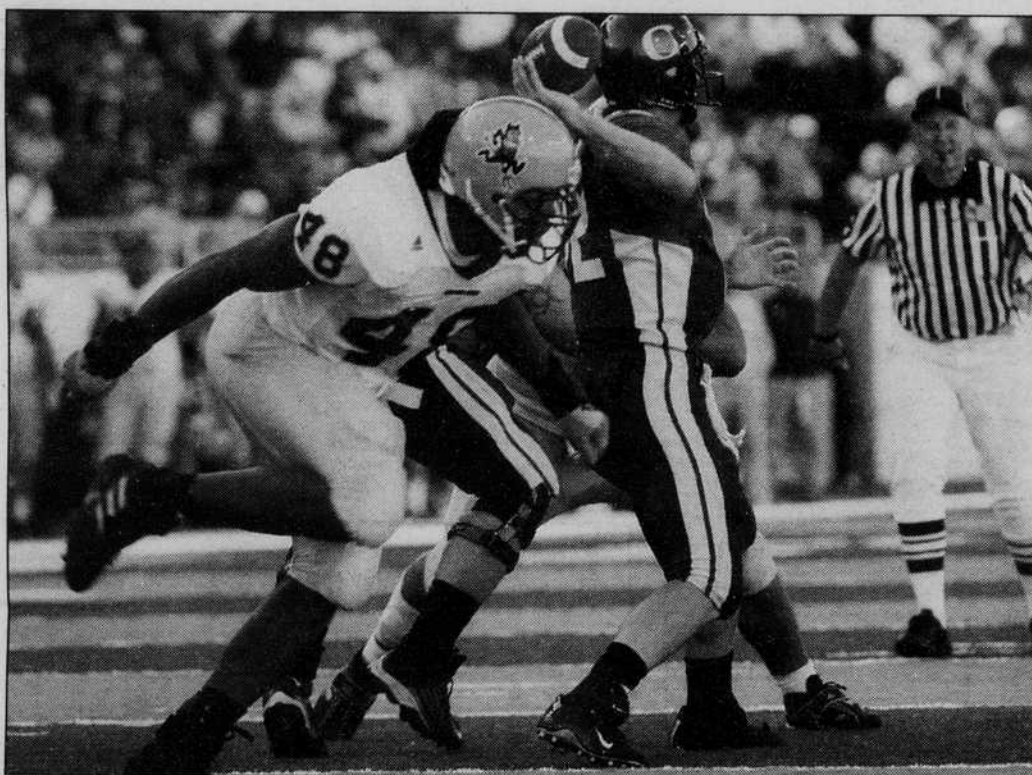
At 126.9 yards per game, Smith is eight in the nation, with Jackson right behind at 125.5 rushing yards per game.

Suggs sacks record

With 4.5 sacks in a 27-16 win over Washington on Saturday, Arizona State defensive end Terrell Suggs tied the NCAA single-season record of 17.5 quarterback sacks.

Suggs, the nation's sack leader who has said he shaves his entire body before each game, has four Pac-10 games and, presumably, a bowl game to break the record set by Syracuse's Dwight Freeney last year.

"I've never really had more



Jeremy Forrest Emerald

Terrell Suggs (48) broke the single-season NCAA sack record on Saturday.

than two (sacks) in a Pac-10 game before," Suggs told. "The Pac-10 is a great conference. I just challenge myself to turn it up another level because of what the Pac-10 is and that's what I did (Saturday)."

Ironically, Suggs does not hold the ASU single-season sack record. Al Harris set that mark in 1978 with 19 sacks. The NCAA did not start keeping sacks as an official record until 2000.

UW sacked, again

Washington's Cody Pickett was sacked eight times by the Sun Devils as the Huskies (4-4, 1-3) lost their third conference game in four tries.

Pickett finished the game with 210 passing yards, ending his streak of seven-straight games with at least 300 yards passing.

"I don't know how many times (Pickett) got hit," Husky offensive lineman Elliot Zajac told UW's The Daily. "There

were a lot of times I turned around and he was already on the ground."

Until the fourth quarter in Tempe, Ariz., Washington's high-powered offense had only managed a field goal, and trailed 21-3.

"Our team has got to suck it up," UW head coach Rick Neuheisel said after the game. "That's the bottom line — there's no sugar-coating it."

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Surfing

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when and where to surf. Most importantly, we consider wind direction and speed, swell direction and height and tidal fluctuations. So, depending on conditions, we might go to beaches anywhere from Newport to Coos Bay, or beyond."

Besides not freezing to death, Griffes hopes to establish an Oregon surfing tradition.

"I want to create a surfing community for University students," Griffes said. "We know that there are plenty of students coming to Oregon who have had experience surfing, or would like to get started, but who aren't aware that there are other surfers in the area. So we're organizing the club with an aim toward bringing surfers together."

Anyone who has ever stepped on an Oregon beach knows the scene can be downright miserable.

"Oregon has world-class waves, on par with anything that you might find in California or Hawaii; the waves are just colder," Griffes said. "Wet suit technology has improved plenty over the years, so that you can now enjoy high-quality waves in Oregon without getting hypothermia in the process."

Griffes plans on shaking up the surfing community, or lack thereof, starting with educating surf club members about ocean conditions.

"One of the things that I plan to do this year, as the surf club coach, is to hold training on forecasting," Griffes said. "I've got a few sources, mostly on the web, that I use to select times and places for surfing."

With ample surfers lurking on campus, bringing the contingency together is the only obstacle.

"We have 15 to 20 people signed up as of now," Griffes said. "We just need to get people together, try to get people to get in touch with each other."

So for real surfers, weather isn't an issue. For real surfers such as Griffes, nothing will stand between them and the ocean they grew up riding on, not even hypothermia.

Scott Archer is a freelance writer for the Emerald.

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