

Volleyball

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sixth. Following up the two California schools are No. 14 Arizona, No. 17 Washington State, 18th ranked UCLA and No. 19 Arizona State.

Also receiving votes were Washington — which received 86 votes — and California, which garnered 52.

The Golden Bears, currently 5-6 in conference play, are tied for fifth in the Pac-10 with UCLA, Washington, and Washington State. From there on up, Arizona State and Arizona are tied for third at 6-4, while Stanford (9-2) is second and USC is the last team undefeated in conference play at 11-0.

A look ahead

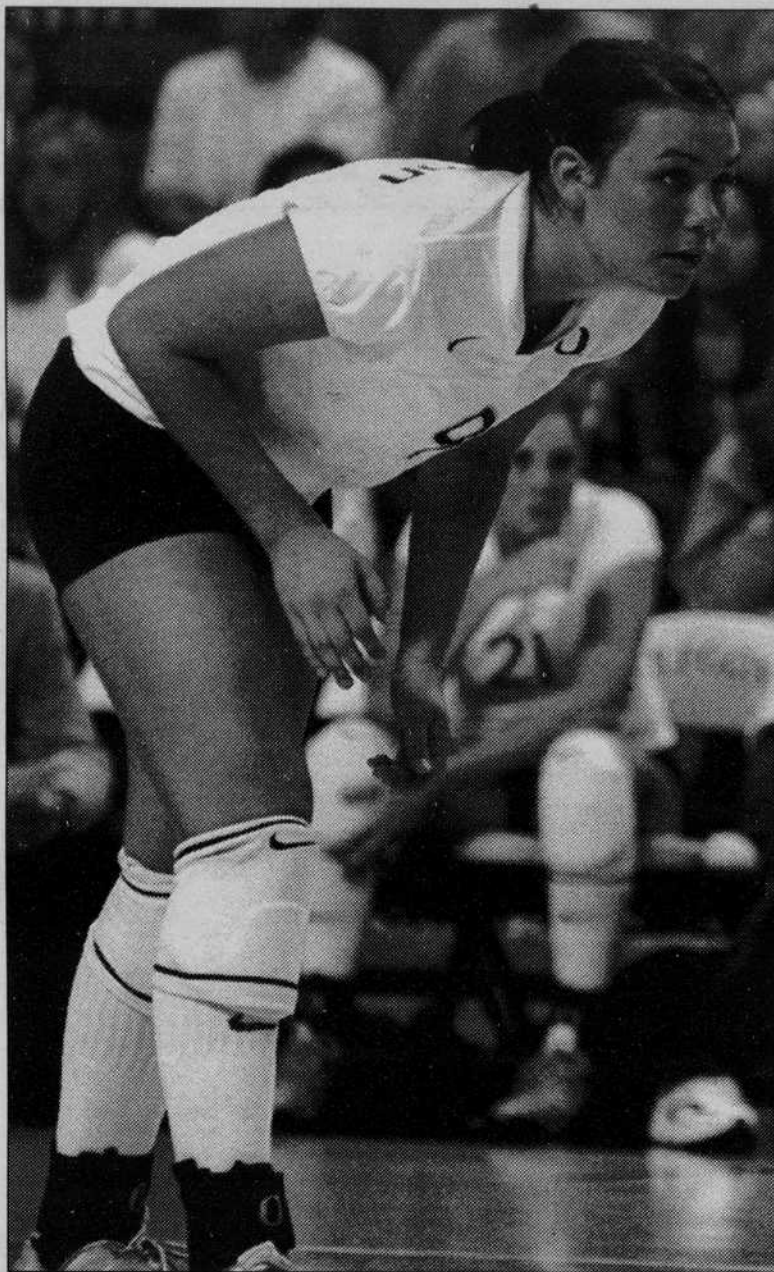
The Ducks get a chance to earn their first Pac-10 victory of the season when they take on rival Oregon State on Friday at Gill Coliseum in Corvallis.

The match represents the second and final time the teams will play this season, with the Beavers already having swept Oregon at McArthur Court earlier this month.

Oregon State represents Oregon's first opponent in its last six matches that will be unranked heading into the contest. The Beavers are 7-13 overall this season and 2-9 in Pac-10 play. Their last victory came Friday in a sweep of California in Corvallis.

The match is set to begin at 7 p.m. and will be replayed by Fox Sports Net on Saturday.

Contact the sports reporter at hankhager@dailyemerald.com.



Jeremy Forrest Emerald

Freshman Jodi Bell has taken over the starting setter role this season. Bell said senior Sydney Chute "has helped out so much."

Yao not so wow in Rocket debut

Sekou Smith

Indianapolis Star (KRT)

INDIANAPOLIS — The NBA education of Yao Ming began long before Wednesday night's opener between the Indiana Pacers and Houston Rockets.

It began years ago on the other side of the world. Now, the workload accelerates.

The games are for real, the competition increases tenfold, the arenas are fancier and last but certainly not least, the media throng gets larger.

Yao, the 22-year-old skyscraper the Rockets made the No. 1 overall pick in June's NBA Draft, acknowledged being both nervous and excited before Wednesday's loss to the Pacers.

His performance — no points and two rebounds in 10 minutes off the bench — indicated as much. But what rookie wouldn't have butterflies on opening night? The 7-foot-5-inch Yao is certainly no ordinary rookie, not with potentially 287 million households in China alone watching his debut.

"It's pretty crazy right now," Rockets coach Rudy Tomjanovich said of Wednesday's activity that included interviews with media from China, Japan, and daily and weekly publications from across the United States.

Someone had the audacity to ask Tomjanovich if he knew what all the hype was about. "Look at him," Tomjanovich deadpanned. "He's 7-5 and an athlete. Plus, I think he's pretty handsome, too."

"Look, I've had high-profile guys on my team before with Dream (Ha-

keem Olajuwon), Clyde (Drexler) and Charles (Barkley). But I don't think it's ever been this magnitude."

"I know we went to a press conference over in China and there were two cameras and about five reporters and it was big news. But no one can imagine what this guy is going through. We can't measure it against anything because it's never happened before."

For his part, Yao seems to be handling it all rather well. There's no fidgeting during the seemingly endless parade of questions he's already heard.

When the lights come on in the interview room, he handles things with an easy smile and usually one-sentence answers.

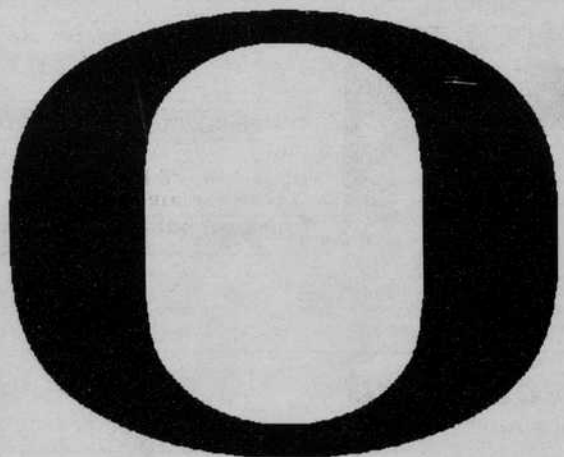
The Pacers went at him as soon as he hit the floor Wednesday, stealing the ball from him, testing him near the basket, making sure the "big fella gets the proper initiation," as Ron Artest said before the game.

Yao's true initiation will come later this season, of course, when he bumps into the man some think he's destined to replace someday as the league's dominant center.

When asked what he thought of Los Angeles Lakers star Shaquille O'Neal, Yao smartly remarked that he was just trying to make it through the season-opener.

When asked if he thought O'Neal was thinking about him, he was just as quick with his reply. "I don't think he's thought about me yet," he said.

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2002-03 Oregon Men's Basketball



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Student Ticket Release Dates

Students enrolled for Fall 2002 classes can pick up one ticket for each game at the ticket offices located in the EMU or at the Len Casanova Center. Student tickets are funded by the ADFC through student incidental fees. In most cases, tickets are distributed two games at a time. **For men's basketball, a total of 2,039 tickets per game are available for UO students. Students must have a current UO student photo ID card to pick up tickets.**

Opponents (Game Dates)*

Exh. - Basketball Travelers/EA Sports All Stars (Nov. 6/14)

John Thompson Classic (Nov. 24-25)

Pacific/Portland (Nov. 30/Dec. 4)

Oregon State (Jan. 18)

Florida A&M/Minnesota (Dec. 20/22)

UC-Riverside, **Arizona/Arizona State (Dec. 28, Jan. 2/4)**

Washington/Washington State (Jan. 23/25)

Stanford/California (Feb. 6/8)

USC/UCLA (Feb. 27/Mar. 1)

*Pac-10 Conference games and dates in **BOLD**.

Release Dates

Monday, November 4

Tuesday, November 12

Monday, November 18

Friday, December 6

Monday, December 9

Monday, December 16

Monday, January 13

Monday, January 27

Monday, February 17

For more information, contact the Duck Ticket Office at (541) 346-4461 or the ASUO at (541) 346-3724.