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Men's, women's tennis split victories, losses

Men win over unranked Idaho State but fall to New Mexico; women lose against Colorado but post wins against Illinois

Tennis

Ryan Heath
Sports Freelance Reporter

They, whoever "they" are, always say, "better late than never." The University of Idaho men's tennis team must have never heard this.

The start of the No. 73 Oregon men's tennis match versus unranked Idaho was delayed three hours because the Vandals were late. The Ducks proceeded to pound them 7-0 without losing a single set.

"It was important to get this win right out of the gate," head coach Chris Russell said. "I think the guys got the nerves out today."

If the Ducks were nervous, no one could tell. The match began with the

doubles teams dominating in victories of 8-4, 8-2 and 8-1.

"It's big to get the doubles point at the beginning of the match," Russell said. "It gave us a lot of momentum."

That momentum carried the singles players to six victories in straight sets. Oded Teig won 6-4, 6-2 against Idaho's number one player, Brad Lum-Tucker, and Sven Swinnen beat their number two 6-1, 6-0. Chris King won 6-4, 6-0 and Jason Menke beat his opponent 6-0, 6-2. Freshmen Thomas Bieri and Arron Spencer, both playing in their first official matches, ousted their opponents 6-0, 6-1 and 6-4, 6-1 respectively.

"We're just trying to stay consistent and play like we practice," Russell said. "We are going to have to step it up as the season progresses."

The Ducks ended up splitting the weekend after a 5-2 loss to New Mexico on Sunday. Spencer and Bieri earned the sole points with victories in three sets.

The women were not as lucky this weekend. No. 34 Oregon fell to Colorado 4-3 on Friday. Along with the match, the Ducks lost junior Davina Mendiburu to a knee injury.

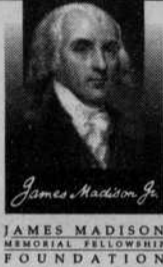
"It was a tough loss for us, especially the way we lost," head coach Nils Schyllander said.

The Ducks stepped up Saturday to take a 4-3 victory over No. 45 Illinois. The women won the doubles point and took the match with wins from No. 28 Daria Panova, Courtney Nagle and Monika Gieczys.

"It was a good match and these are the matches we need to win," Schyllander said. "I think they played like they had something to prove today."

Next weekend the men travel to Provo, Utah, to take on Brigham Young University and New Mexico State while the women are at home against Portland and Idaho.

Ryan Heath is a freelance writer for the Emerald.



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Jackson

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game to get out of the way, not having him with us, before we get out on the road," Kent said. "We were a little bit off our game (Saturday), and Washington State was right there with us. It gave us an opportunity to win a game a different way."

Oregon won without Jackson, with tough defense, and by hitting 19-of-19 free throws, including 11 from Ridnour.

With Joseph, normally the Ducks' spark off the bench, now in the starting lineup, the team's depth will be tested on the road — where the Ducks have struggled this year.

"We need everyone to step up," Joseph said. "No one man can do it."

"You don't replace a guy like Luke Jackson," Ridnour said. "I'm trying to help fill that spot, but it's a learning experience, and in the end, I think it might help us."

Contact the senior sports reporter at adamjude@dailyemerald.com.

Volleyball

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for most of the season and was able to play in just 10 games while Widmark was credited with 40 digs in 34 games.

While the Ducks will lose five players to a squad that finished last in the Pacific-10 Conference, Oregon will be returning six players, including Jodi Bell, who was named the Newcomer of the Year, and Lauren Westendorf, named

the Most Improved.

Head coach Carl Ferreira will also have three freshmen joining the program next season.

Contact the sports reporter at hankhager@dailyemerald.com.


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