Women travel, men stay home for Boise

The No. 51 Oregon women's tennis team is in Arizona for two matches and the No. 69 men will host Boise State

Tennis

Ryan Heath

Sports Freelancer

The Oregon women's tennis team begins its Pacific-10 Conference season this weekend with matches against No. 16 Arizona in Tucson on Friday and No. 8 Arizona State in Tempe on Saturday.

avenge a close 4-3 loss from a year ago when they host No. 75 Boise State on Saturday.

The Ducks took the Broncos down to the wire last year, but fell in the last set of the last match in Boise.

"It was a painful loss last year," head coach Chris Russell said. "We think things will be different now that we have the home court advantage.

The Ducks are coming off a big 7-0 victory over Portland that boosted them from No. 72 to No. 69 in the nation. Despite recent successes and a solid 4-1 start, the Ducks are

not looking past a Bronco team that boasts the No. 86 player in the nation in Guillaume Bouvier.

The Oregon doubles team of Oded Teig and Sven Swinnen will be looking to improve on its 4-1 record against No. 42 Bouvier and Marcus Berntson.

"Boise State is a well-coached team," Russell said. "We just need to keep doing what we've been practicing.

The No. 51 women will be taking on their toughest competition so far this year just a few a days after dropping two spots in the national rankings. The Ducks dropped despite winagainst ranked opponents.

Oregon sophomore and No. 28 Daria Panova will be facing Arizona's No. 31 Maja Mlakar and No.

"Boise State is a wellcoached team. We just need to keep doing what we've been practicing."

> Chris Russell men's tennis coach

21 Adria Engel of Arizona State as she attempts to remain undefeated in singles play.

Arizona also features two more players in the top 70 as well as the No. 25 doubles team in Mlakar and Debbie Larocque. Arizona State sends out No. 39 Dora Krstulovic and No. 109 Mhairi Brown with Engel and two doubles teams in the top 40.

Taking on ranked opponents on

distraction, but head coach Nils Schyllander thinks the Ducks are

up to the challenge. "We're not worried about what they're doing," Schyllander said. "We're just focusing on what we

need to do. The Ducks' focuses at the moment are extending their sevengame winning streak and earning their first Pac-10 victory of the young season.

"We feel confident," Schyllander said. "We are playing good tennis right now."

The women begin play at 1:30 p.m. on Friday in Tueson and noon on Saturday in Tempe.

"They have good teams," Schyllander said. "But we can play with the best."

Then men take on Boise State at noon on Saturday at the Student Tennis Center. For fans who worry about the start time conflicting with lunch, free pizza will be provided.

Ryan Heath is a freelance writer for the Emerald.

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Sports brief

Cheerleaders place at nationals

The Oregon cheerleading squad placed third overall in the Division I co-ed competition at the United Spirit Association Collegiate Cheer and Dance Nationals on Monday.

The Ducks placed behind Long Beach State and California-San Diego at the competition in Las Vegas. In the 17-team field, Oregon placed first among the five Pacific-10

Room 300, Erb Memorial Union, P.O. Box 3159, Eugene, OR 97403

Conference squads that competed, including 2002 champion Oregon State. Other Pac-10 teams included Stanford, UCLA and Arizona State

Oregon's mascots placed second in the mascot division of nationals.

The Ducks will hold a clinic for prospective members Sunday at the Moshofsky Center in anticipation of tryouts for next year's squad, which will be held in early April. More information can be found at www.oregoncheer.com.

-Peter Hockaday

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