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Sports brief

Tennis teams spend weekend at home

The No. 39 Oregon women's tennis team is at home against No. 20 Washington on Saturday and No. 44 Washington State on Sunday. Both matches will be held at noon at the Student Tennis Center.

The Ducks jumped from No. 51 in the nation after a 4-3 win over then-No. 16 Arizona last weekend.

The No. 66 men take on Pacific at 4 p.m. on Sunday and California-Santa Barbara at 3 p.m. on Sunday at home as well.

— Ryan Heath

Softball swings for Houston

No. 25 Oregon takes its 9-4 record into Texas for the three-day Houston Invitational, beginning today.

The Ducks face Texas-San Antonio and Texas Tech in back-to-back games beginning at 8 a.m. On Saturday, Oregon again faces Texas-San Antonio at noon, while matching up against Houston following the first game. The Ducks close the tournament on Sunday with a morning matchup against Texas Tech and a game against Kentucky immediately following.

Oregon faced Texas Tech and Houston in the first tournament of the season, earning wins against both teams.

The Ducks are ranked No. 25 in the

latest national poll after a win against then-No. 4 Michigan on Saturday. All eight Pacific-10 Conference teams are now ranked in the top 25.

— Mindi Rice

Track heads to champion weekend

The Oregon men's and women's track squads will head to the Mountain Pacific Conference Championships — the closest thing the Ducks have to a conference championship during the indoor season — this weekend.

A total of 23 men and women will make the trek to Nampa, Idaho, for the meet, which takes place today and Saturday.

— Peter Hockaday

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Women's

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looking past (Washington State). We played great defensively and did what we wanted to do."

The win, coupled with a USC loss to Stanford and an Oregon State victory over Washington, pushes the

Ducks into a tie for fifth place in the Pac-10. Oregon, along with the Trojans and Beavers, sports a 7-8 record in conference play.

With Washington — reeling after a 100-86 loss to Oregon State in Corvallis on Thursday — coming to Mac Court on Saturday, Oregon must move forward.

At least that was the consensus view.

"It's our next game, so it's the most important one," Smith said. "We know what they run, and that really doesn't count unless you apply and get out on the floor and do things you need to do."

Contact the sports reporter at hankhager@dailyemerald.com.

Post

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In the junior's 19 minutes tonight, Kraayeveld's abilities brought solid unity to this low post lineup.

"It gives us a chance to get in and

get what we need done," Bills said. "With four of us in the post it is much better and more intense. Our focus is to get it inside and work hard and that is a big key for us."

Oregon's post has established itself as one of the most dominant in the conference. The Ducks got it

done against the Cougars, and now will have to try and match center Andrea Lalum and 6-foot guard Loree Payne of the Huskies on Saturday night.

Contact the sports reporter at jessethomas@dailyemerald.com.

Men's

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12 points. Ian Crosswhite had eight points while Brian Helquist had only four points, but added a pair of steals in a second-straight solid effort.

But the biggest supplement to the team Thursday was, again, Andre

Joseph. The junior college transfer has been coming on of late, and chipped in 14 points to Thursday's effort.

"He just gives you a tremendous lift coming off the bench," Kent said of Joseph. "I can't say enough about him, especially the way he's been playing in the Pac-10."

The Ducks had a solid team effort for the second game in a row, and Kent said that's the most uplifting thing about Oregon's play right now. "They're starting to hold themselves accountable, and that's what forces them to grow," Kent said. "It's coming at the right time."

Oregon will now head west to Seat-

tle to face Washington, which lost to Oregon State 80-72 on Thursday. But Kent and the Ducks have had a feud with Washington recently that both sides take seriously.

"It's going to be a very tough game for us because they're fighting to get into the Pac-10 Tournament right now," Kent said of Washington. "They'll be even more fired up to play us."

The Ducks and Huskies will square off at 4 p.m. Saturday. The game will be broadcast on Fox Sports.

Contact the sports editor at peterhockaday@dailyemerald.com.

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