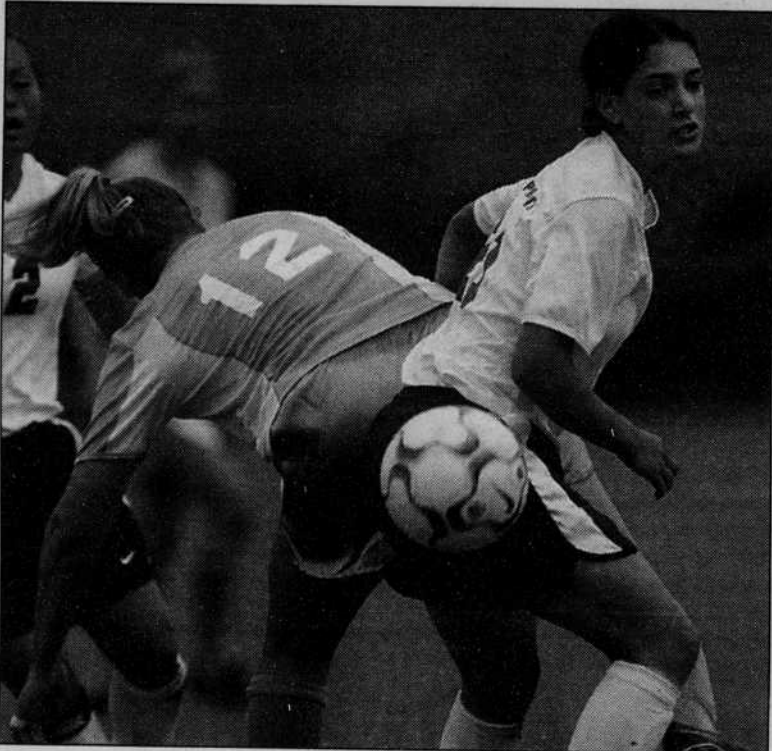


Canada throttles Oregon on Papé Field



Adam Amato Emerald

Freshman Jessica Fetzer and the Ducks fell to Canada 7-0 Tuesday night.

The Ducks scrimmage with the Canadian under-19 team and walk away without a goal

Soccer

Jesse Thomas
Sports Reporter

Papé Field played host to international competition Tuesday night.

The Oregon women's soccer team scrimmaged with the Canadian under-19 National Team as the Ducks fielded next year's squad in competition for the first time.

As the day faded into night, the bright lights of Papé Field shone on only one team; the Canadians easily won, 7-0.

The Canadian team dominated from the beginning and had nine corner-kicks on the night. But playing against an accomplished squad that has played in the under-19 World Cup, Oregon had quite a mountain to climb.

"It's the first time out for us, and again, this is against their national

team — very accomplished players," Oregon head coach Bill Steffen said. "It was a first run-through for us, and we are more focused on the development of the players rather than the result."

Team Canada had it all together from the start and took the lead off of the first goal by Kathleen Johnstone. Less than 10 minutes later, Kara Lang connected on a goal for Canada, shortly after Oregon junior Lindsey Werdell received a yellow card.

Then Canada's Caroline Vailancourt converted off a header, and Katie Thorlakson also scored for Team Canada before the first half ended. Oregon's defense got much more attention than the offense, but the Ducks did have two corner-kicks.

The second half proved no better for Oregon, as Lang scored again with a bullet to the back of the net to give Team Canada a 5-0 lead. Approaching the end, it was all Leigh Quinlan for the Canadians as she scored the team's final two goals.

Oregon did have the opportunity to give every player a chance to take the field, and sophomore Dominique Lainez also had her first opportunity as a goalkeeper since the 2001 season.

The Ducks clearly struggled in their first outing, even though they were a national-caliber team. And Steffen said that there were a few positives but work still needs to be done before the spring.

"We got better as the match went on," Steffen said. "The first time out the speed of play is always a concern. At times, our choices were a little bit panicky, and we made some choices that put us back under pressure — but that is part of doing this."

The Canadian team will be training in Eugene through the weekend and will play Washington on Thursday at 4 p.m. on Papé Field. Team Canada will also host Washington State on Saturday at 3 p.m.

Contact the sports reporter at jessethomas@dailyemerald.com.

Women's

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said. "It's about how hard we play and if we execute what we need to do."

Oregon's next two games against USC, which is tied with Oregon, and UCLA, which is two spots up the ladder, allow the Ducks to determine their own destiny entering the tournament.

The Ducks have proved they can play with any team over the course of the season and now can't wait for the games this time around. And if history does repeat itself, another Women's National Invitational Tournament title wouldn't be anything to complain about.

Defense wins basketball games

With the exception of the downfall against Washington, Oregon's defense has been evolving.

The Ducks recently held Arizona State, Cal and Washington State to just

52 points, which is the fewest amount of points an opponent has scored against Oregon this season. The Ducks held each opponent under 40 percent shooting, for the fifth, sixth and seventh times this season.

"We realized we have to stop people on the defensive end if we want to win games or even be in competition in the game," sophomore Andrea Bills said. "We know we can score on offense, but defense makes our games and defense gets offense going."

With Oregon stepping up its level of play and taking better care of the ball, the defense has followed in the recent success. Junior Cathrine Kraayeveld returned to the court recently, and her 29 blocked shots, which would rank fifth in the Pac-10 if she had played in enough games, has allowed for some of the newfound defensive success.

"Everybody just got together and said we need to play defense," Edwards said. "People are stepping up and taking pride in what they do on defense."

Recent endeavors

A few of Oregon's players have been making strides to improve their games. Not only are they making assaults on the record books, but it has allowed for Oregon to come closer to a winning season.

Sophomore Brandi Davis has drained 50 three-pointers this season, ranking her sixth on the school's career single-season list. Davis needs to drop only four more to pass senior Shaquala Williams for fourth.

Sophomore Kedzie Gunderson has done a 180-degree turn on her ball-handling skills since the start of the season. In the first 12 games, Gunderson had 12 assists and 31 turnovers, but in the last 13 games, she has accounted for 29 assists and 21 turnovers.

Freshman Carolyn Ganes needs to only maintain her 11.7 scoring average to make the highest mark for a freshman since Brianne Meharry in 1997-98.

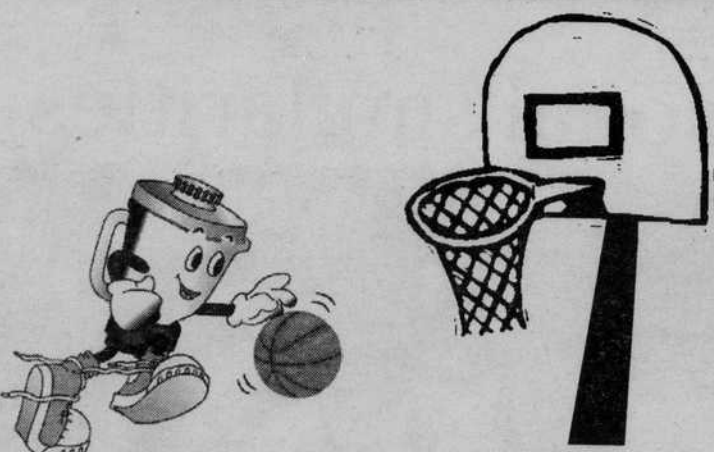
Contact the sports reporter at jessethomas@dailyemerald.com.



Jeremy Forrest Emerald

Andrea Bills and the Ducks are hoping to make it to the WNIT again.

PLAY HARD, EAT WELL!



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