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Women's tennis upset hopes fall short at UW

The No. 35 Oregon women's tennis team loses to No. 21 Washington, 4-3, in Seattle

Tennis

Ryan Heath
Freelance Sports Reporter

Winning the doubles point and taking singles matches at the top and bottom spots weren't enough for the No. 35 Oregon women's tennis team to upset No. 21 Washington this weekend.

The Ducks fell to the Huskies, 4-3, on Saturday despite sweeping the doubles matches.

"It was definitely the best doubles we have played all year," head coach Nils Schyllander said. "That was really good to see."

Leading the way for the Ducks was the No. 28 duo of Courtney Nagle/Daria Panova and their upset of No. 9 Claire Carter/Darija Klaić. Se-

nior captain Monika Gieczys and freshman Jamie Marshall also teamed up to take their match, 8-4, and clinch the doubles point.

Ducks Ester Bak and Anna Leksins-

the fourth point as Marshall was forced to retire due to injury and No. 40 Nagle and Gieczys fell to the 87 and 95 ranked players in the nation.

Marshall's injury comes as a big blow to the already injury-plagued Ducks. Freshman Julie Merle has not played competitively in almost a month and junior Davina Mendiburu is out for the season with a torn anterior cruciate ligament.

The Ducks dropped to 9-8 on the season as they continued a five-game skid in Pacific-10 Conference play, while the Huskies improved to 10-1.

"We played a very good match today," Schyllander said on Saturday. "We were right there, and hopefully we'll come out on top tomorrow."

The Ducks faced Washington State in Pullman on Sunday. Results were not available at press time.

Ryan Heath is a freelance writer for the Emerald.

"We played a very good match today. We were right there, and hopefully we'll come out on top tomorrow."

Nils Schyllander
tennis head coach

ska completed the sweep with an 8-6 victory from the No. 3 spot.

No. 18 Panova rebounded from two losses last weekend to take No. 36 Carter in three sets and freshman Leksinska won her match from the No. 6 singles spot by taking a 10-8 tie-breaker in the last set.

The Ducks were unable to win

Golfers ready for busy break, including UO-hosted tourney

The Oregon women head to UCLA, while the men host their own Duck Invitational

Golf

Scott Archer
Freelance Sports Reporter

The Oregon women's golf team swings back into action early next week as it looks to continue its impressive start to the spring portion of its 2002-03 season.

Oregon is coming off its most impressive single round of golf in last week's Duck Invitational, where the team shot a season best 299. The Ducks claimed seventh overall at the tournament, which was played in Junction City. Next up for the Ducks is the UCLA Bruin Classic, which will be played at Santa Clarita, Calif. The three-day tournament will be played March 24-26.

The Ducks will be led by freshmen Therese Wenslow, who is coming off the third top-10 finish of her young career. The Bruin classic is one of only two tournaments left for the Ducks before the Pacific-10 Conference Championships begin April 24. The Ducks finished eighth overall in last year's Bruin Classic, led by current sophomore Jess Carlyon, who shot a career-low final round 71 to finish the tournament fifth overall. Pepperdine was last year's tournament champion, while UCLA finished second in the 16-team field.

Men host Duck Invitational

The Duck men's golf team will host its annual Oregon Duck Invitational, March 24-26, at the Eugene Country Club. Oregon hasn't played since early March when it traveled to Westlake Village, Calif., and fin-

ished tied for 13th overall at the Cleveland Golf Classic. Senior John Ellis shot a final-round 67 to tie for eighth overall, his fifth top-10 finish in seven tournaments this year.

Oregon won last year's tournament with a one-stroke victory over Washington State. Senior Chris Carnahan finished the tournament in fifth place and was followed by Ellis, who finished tied for 11th overall.

Oregon has received strong play from freshmen Gregg LaVoie this season, but LaVoie struggled in his last outing, finishing tied for 54th in the Cleveland Golf Classic. Oregon has three more tournament appearances before it heads to the Pacific-10 Conference Championships April 28-30. Oregon will head to the Western Intercollegiate less than one week after competing in the Duck Invitational.

Scott Archer is a freelance writer for the Emerald.

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going to trial because he's Kirby Puckett, because he has money.

I hope that's the case.

But Kirby's nowhere to be found — he hasn't said a word. Pessimistically, I think the allegations are true and that he's always been a facade, a hoax. A game.

I wish I could rationalize Kirby's problems. Maybe I should feel sor-

ry for the guy who grew up the youngest of nine children in the "hell's gate" neighborhood of urban Chicago.

Maybe I should feel sorry for him after that day in 1996, when his career, unfortunately, ended prematurely after he was diagnosed with glaucoma, leaving him nearly blind in his right eye. That would've left anyone bitter.

The kid in me wants to believe in Kirby. I want to believe his intentions, as a ballplayer, were genuine. Even now, after a divorce with his wife of 17 years, I want to believe he will get his life in order.

As hard as I try, I'm not a kid anymore. I've grown a little older, a

little wiser from my experiences, and they will surely guide me down the road. The hope of something better outweighs the disappointments of the past.

Not that I regret ever worshipping the guy. My memories of Kirby — his 11th-inning home run and his amazing catch in the sixth game of the 1991 World Series — are great, but they've faded along with my youth.

Now, it's time to move on.

Farewell, Kirby. I hope you find something better for your life.

I hope I do, too.

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

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