

Tennis plays in last chance to end streaks

The Oregon men and women will play in their final regular-season games this weekend

Tennis

Ryan Heath
Freelance Sports Reporter

Both the men's and women's Oregon tennis teams are heading into their regular-season finales this weekend with losing streaks and hopes of joining the field of 64 for the

NCAA Tournament. "This is a must-win if we're going to have any shot at the tournament," men's head coach Chris Russell said. The Duck men are ranked 65th in the nation, but a win over No. 13 Washington at home this weekend could propel them into position to join the nation's elite.

Thirty of the 64 spots are clinched with conference championships and the Ducks' 0-6 record in Pacific-10 Conference play will make it difficult to squeeze into the tournament. Despite losing six in a row and 10 of

their last 11, the Ducks will be looking to close out the season strong against their biggest rival, Washington.

"I hope the guys are excited," Russell said. "We've played fairly well at times and had some close matches."

The last time the Ducks battled the Huskies was in Seattle on Feb. 28, and the Ducks fell, 6-1.

The Ducks are 1-10 against ranked opponents this year, but their objectives have been very clear.

"We need to be very disciplined," Russell said. "We need to do what we're supposed to do from start to finish."

The men play at the Student Tennis Center on Saturday at noon.

The No. 38 women close out their season on the road versus No. 25 San Diego State on Friday and No. 63 San Diego State on Saturday.

The Ducks have been devastated by injuries all year, but have managed a 10-13 overall record and are 3-7 in Pac-10 play.

"We're finally getting healthy," head coach Nils Schyllander said. "All six people need to show for us on the same day."

The women share in the men's

woes over the last week, as they have dropped 10 of their last 11 and need victories this weekend to keep their playoff hopes alive.

"This is our tourney," Schyllander said. "If we play well this weekend it should put us over the hump."

Sophomore Daria Panova, ranked 17th in the nation, has led the squad with a record of 14-8 and may compete in the individual portion of the NCAA Tournament no matter what happens in San Diego this weekend.

Ryan Heath is a freelance writer for the Emerald.

Sports brief

Golf set for Stanford

The Ducks look to assert themselves this week as they head to Stanford for the U.S. Intercollegiate tournament in their final competition of the season before heading to the Pacific-10 Conference Championships.

The Ducks will play 36 holes Saturday beginning with an 8 a.m. shotgun start and conclude the tournament with 18 holes on Sunday at the 6,786-yard, par-71 Stanford Golf Course.

The 16-team tournament field includes No. 8 Oklahoma State, No. 11 UCLA, UC Irvine, California, Long Beach State, San Diego State, Pacif-

ic, Texas A&M, Washington State, Portland, San Diego, Santa Clara, San Jose State, Fresno State and host Stanford. Individually, six players in the top 50 will play along with two currently ranked in GolfWeek Magazine's top five.

Oregon finished fourth in last year's U.S. Intercollegiate, led by then-sophomore Mike Sica, who at the time carded a career-low 67, tying Oregon teammate and then-junior Chris Carnahan in the final round. Carnahan finished the tournament 11th overall.

Oregon begins postseason play with the Pac-10 Championships April 28-30 in Glendale, Calif.

—Scott Archer

Harris

continued from page 9

Conference competition — are a sight. A 1.20 ERA stands at fourth best in a single season by a Duck freshman. If Harris finishes the season with an ERA lower than 1.79, she will have the lowest single-season earned-run average for a Duck pitcher in nine years.

"Coming in as a freshman I really didn't know what to expect," Harris said. "I knew that playing in our conference was going to be a big step — especially from high school ball — and I think our whole team has adjusted real well."

Harris — it seems — has adjusted. Her record sits at 10-9 after picking up two wins against Portland State on Wednesday.

With only the 26 appearances and 20 starts under her belt, Harris is also three strikeouts shy of breaking into Oregon's top-10 career strikeout list. Her total of 110, with at least 13 games left for the Ducks this season, is third all-time for single-season strikeouts by a freshman.

In addition to her low ERA and high strikeout total, the 19-year-old has six complete games and four saves.

Harris, of course, knows games depend on the entire team, not just the pitcher.

"We're really confident in our ability," she said. "I think we've done a really good job this year and proved

Amy Harris file

Born: Amy Harris on Dec. 7, 1983 in Eugene.

Before Oregon: Led North Eugene High School to three 4A Championship games — winning 1-0 in 2000. First-team All-American honoree in 2002.

Oregon: As a freshman, leads Duck pitchers with 1.20 ERA and 110 strikeouts.



Harris

a lot of people wrong. We're pretty confident going against the Beavers — we beat 'em pretty bad last time."

The 10-2 win against Oregon State in Corvallis matched Harris against Beaver pitcher Monica Hoffman.

Hoffman, a junior, and Harris pitched against each other in the 1999 and 2000 Oregon 4A Championship games. Hoffman's team — Portland's Central Catholic — won the 1999 game 1-0, while Harris and the Highlanders took a 1-0 win in 2000.

"It was fun to see later on in our careers how we matched up," Harris said of the March 15 game against Oregon State.

The two will undoubtedly face each other again today or Saturday as Oregon hosts the Beavers.

Harris and the Ducks will have plenty of crowd support in the games at Howe Field — or at least a certain loyal fan base.

"It's really cool (that my family is here), because every game I know they're going to be there," Harris said. "A lot of girls on our team don't really get that opportunity to have their family show up to every game."

Harris' mom, not her dad, is the athletic influence for Harris and her sister.

"My mom did track in high school," Harris said. "My dad never did any sports."

Harris' mom, Doris, also coached her in 12-and-under and 14-and-under leagues.

"I've had quite a few good pitching coaches," Harris said. "My mom knows a lot about pitching because she's been to every one of my pitching practices."

"I still ask her for help sometimes."

Contact the sports reporter at mindrice@dailymerald.com.

Hockaday

continued from page 9

new arena priority list, but speaking from a student's perspective, there are other priorities.

Priority 2: Wraparound student seating. Remember how cool wrap-around Oakley shades were in the '90's? Yeah, wraparound floor seating for students would be even cooler. And hey, if you want Cameron-like atmosphere, give students Cameron-like seating.

Priority 3: Build it at Williams Bakery. Not because of its proximity to campus, but because it will make

dorm life — the worst part of the Oregon experience — so much more enjoyable. Imagine stepping out of the Grab 'n Go, and a basketball arena is right there. Plus, that will solve the horrible bread-smell problem!

But above all, we need to remember to keep the naming of the new arena simple, concise and meaningful, so it sounds good on national television.

Next, we go to Eugene live for tipoff at The BLEC. Blech!

Contact the sports editor at peterhockaday@dailymerald.com. His views do not necessarily represent those of the Emerald.

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Managing Editor Wanted

The Oregon Daily Emerald seeks a motivated student interested in joining its staff as the managing editor. Qualified applicants will be currently enrolled University of Oregon students, and will have: experience working on a college newspaper, management experience, editing experience, and knowledge of Emerald and AP style. As a salaried position, hours will vary, but the applicant must be available to work up to 35 hours per week. Applications can be picked up at the Emerald office, EMU, Suite 300. Include a resume and examples of your work. Applications are due by 5 p.m., Friday, April 25. The Oregon Daily Emerald is an equal opportunity employer committed to a culturally diverse workplace.

Horoscope by Linda C. Black

TODAY'S BIRTHDAY (April 18). Making money this year could involve spending. Don't invest more than you can back in one lifetime, however. You'd be wise to work up a plan. Crunch the numbers before you start running up debt. To get the advantage, check the day's rating: 10 is the easiest day, 0 the most challenging.
Aries (March 21-April 19) _ Today is a 7 _ The direct approach won't work as well as a more subtle advance. So if at first you don't succeed, come around the back way.
TAURUS (April 20-May 20) _ Today is a 7 _ Share your vision for the future with a sensitive, supportive person. It may be too hard to accomplish alone, but with faith and a good friend, anything is possible.
GEMINI (May 21-June 21) _ Today is a 6 _ Push hard to get a tough job done. It might have been easier if you'd finished it sooner, but there's no use worrying about that now.
CANCER (June 22-July 22) _ Today is an 8 _ Money may be a little tight, but it's out there. You can use your own creativity to make more. Accept a loved one's encouragement and inspiration.
LEO (July 23-Aug. 22) _ Today is a 7 _ Finish whatever you need to do in order to strengthen your infrastructure. You'll be much more creative, and have much more time, after this basic stuff is done.
VIRGO (Aug. 23-Sept. 22) _ Today is a 6 _ You're one of the few who can get a

message across, when others aren't speaking. Help out a couple of people you know who can't see eye to eye.
LIBRA (Sept. 23-Oct. 22) _ Today is a 6 _ By putting more work into your own place, your investment goes up in value. It's another way to make money and build self-esteem.
SCORPIO (Oct. 23-Nov. 21) _ Today is a 7 _ You learn pretty well through books, but you learn best through hands-on experience. Maybe that's why you'll be able to do something that somebody else can't.
SAGITTARIUS (Nov. 22-Dec. 21) _ Today is a 7 _ People think you're lucky, and maybe you are. Luck isn't all you have going for you, however. It also helps to have good timing.
CAPRICORN (Dec. 22-Jan. 19) _ Today is a 7 _ A person who's a good strategist could help you with the perfect scheme. Find a way to do your work faster so that you have more time to play.
AQUARIUS (Jan. 20-Feb. 18) _ Today is a 6 _ Something that seems impossible at first really can be accomplished. Don't let yourself be intimidated. Stay cool and you'll win the prize.
PISCES (Feb. 19-March 20) _ Today is a 7 _ Compassion can travel great distances and touch hearts so far from your own. When one door slams shut, look for the one that opens.

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