

Tennis ends season with tough losses

Both teams drop close matches as Oregon says farewell to career victories leader Oded Teig and others

Tennis

Ryan Heath
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The final weekend of the Oregon tennis regular season came to a close with the same results as many of the matches this year — solid play by the Ducks, who just barely

fell short of victory.

The No. 65 men lost to No. 13 Washington, 4-3, on Saturday at home despite big victories in both doubles and singles play.

The Ducks managed only one victory in the three doubles matches on Senior Day, but the win came from the junior/senior duo of Sven Swinnen and Oded Teig against the No. 33-ranked team in the nation.

In singles, Duck sophomore Manuel Kost, ranked 63rd in the nation, toppled No. 10 Alex Vlaski in straight sets, making a case for a bid

to the individual portion of the NCAA Tournament.

In his last home match as a Duck, Oregon career victories leader Oded Teig was unable to tally one more win despite taking the first set. Teig fell to No. 26 Matt Hanlin and ends his Oregon career with 69 singles victories, five more than second-place holder Lee Kirner.

Senior Jason Menke's Oregon regular-season career also came to an end this weekend. Menke finished with 46 Duck wins.

The No. 38 women dropped two matches in San Diego, both by a

score of 4-3.

On Friday, No. 25 San Diego State jumped out to a 1-0 lead after winning two of three doubles matches.

The Ducks bounced back by dominating the lower spots, taking straight-set victories with freshman Jamie Marshall at No. 4, freshman Julie Merle at No. 5 and sophomore Ester Bak at No. 6.

The Ducks were unable to get a single point from their top three singles players.

"It was a really tough loss for us," head coach Nils Schyllander said. "We had our chances out there, but

the double probably cost us. We felt like we played well enough to win."

On Saturday, the Ducks lost their final regular-season match to No. 63 San Diego by a score of 4-3.

Senior captain Monika Geiczys came away with a straight-set victory in her final match, beating Tara Livesay, 7-5, 6-3.

Both the men and women will compete in the Pac-10 Championships this week beginning Thursday in Ojai, Calif.

Ryan Heath is a freelance writer for the Emerald.

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continued his success in the hammer, finishing third among NCAA athletes at Mt. SAC during his reign as Pacific-10 Conference Field Athlete of the Week.

In earlier action this weekend, Jason Hartmann notched an NCAA automatic mark in the 10,000 and missed his personal best by only six seconds by finishing second in 28:52.03. The mark was significant for the redshirt junior because it was one of only a handful of 10,000 races he'll run before the NCAAs.

Back on the women's side, Jenny Brogdon jumped to a season best

and finished second at the Mt. SAC high jump on Saturday. Amanda Brown, normally a long jumper, hit a good distance and took second in the triple jump.

"Amanda continues to show us that she's a consistent 40-foot triple-jumper," Heinonen said.

In earlier action on the women's side, junior transfer Abby Andrus continued her assault on Oregon's record book in only her first year as a Duck. She finished first in the Long Beach Invitational 400 hurdles on Friday, putting her sixth in Oregon history in the event. Also in that event, sophomore Kyla Mellott finished second and earned her first-ever NCAA mark

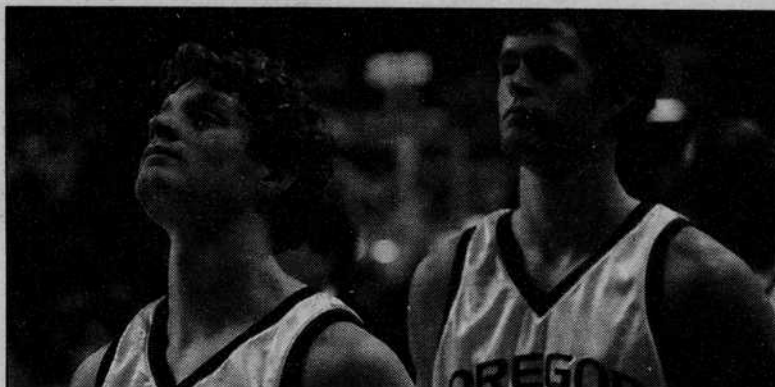
as she qualified for the NCAA West Regionals.

Both Oregon squads will return home this weekend for the first of two consecutive home meets. This weekend's meet is the Oregon Invitational.

"As a team, we're eager to get home," Heinonen said.

The Oregon Invitational will kick off on Thursday with the first events of the decathlon and heptathlon, which will both conclude on Friday. The bulk of the athletes will compete Saturday starting at 10 a.m. The Ducks will stay in Eugene for the Oregon Twilight on May 3.

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Adam Amato Emerald

Luke Ridnour (left) will try out for various NBA teams next month while Luke Jackson (right) will spend the offseason preparing to lead next year's Oregon squad.

Softball

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of our game was real strong.

"My guess is the game yesterday is going to be very much like what

these Oregon-Oregon State games will be — these 2-1 and 5-4 games — where you see a lot of emotion and just great competition."

The Ducks host Nevada in a non-conference doubleheader on Tuesday. Oregon needs to win one of the

two games to guarantee a .500 record for the season and a chance for a bid to postseason play. The first game begins at 2 p.m.

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Football

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tackling a little bit, especially on wrapping up and bringing them down."

Oregon hits the field on Monday, Tuesday and Thursday this week before the team's third scrimmage

of the spring on Friday. The Ducks will look to further the progress they've made in the past week.

"I think we made quantum leaps (last) week," Bellotti said. "The last three practices, in my mind, we've come to grips with what the effort was necessary to be good. We're

practicing to become the Pac-10 champions. In the past couple of years, I've talked about defending the Pac-10 championship. It's a different mindset. It's a different idea."

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Lukes

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better sense of how he truly stacks up to the rest of the draftees.

Jackson, meanwhile, technically has until May 12 to reverse his decision not to enter the draft early, but the forward said he's made up his mind.

"I felt like the NBA would be an option for me, but something that's important to me and my parents is a good education," Jackson said. "I decided it's best for me to stick around and graduate."

Jackson said he will likely finish up his remaining credits and graduate by the end of next basketball season, allowing him to fully concentrate on pre-draft preparations next spring.

Although Ridnour insisted he is leaving his options open, Jackson spoke as if Ridnour had already jumped ship.

"It's going to be tough to play without him," Jackson said of Ridnour. "We're going to miss him on and off

the court. It's kind of sad to have him leave, I wish him the best."

But Ridnour said he still hasn't made a final decision.

"The option of coming back is still not out of it," Ridnour said.

Ridnour said he doesn't yet have a target pick in mind to aid his choice. But he said he might come up with a number at some point; if he's projected higher he'll enter the draft, or, if lower, he'll pull out.

Oregon head coach Ernie Kent said draft projections can often be misleading, especially with the amount of foreign players entering the draft.

"You can kind of throw the numbers out the window when it comes to the draft," Kent said. "My job is to kind of be their agent right now."

Kent said he's, in a way, excited about the hype surrounding Ridnour's possible departure to the NBA. He said it's a sign of an improving program, comparing Oregon's situation to the situations faced by many "elite" teams every year.

The rest of the Oregon players, as well, said they're excited for Ridnour.

"It's a time to rejoice, to be happy for these guys," point guard James Davis said. "They represent everything that's gone right with our program in the past few years."

Contact the sports editor at peterhockaday@dailyemerald.com.



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