

# Double Duck: UO pair readies for NCAAs

Daria Panova is Oregon's star, but she'll lean on doubles partner Courtney Nagle in Gainesville, Fla., this week

## Women's tennis

**Ryan Heath**  
Freelance Sports Reporter

One girl has blonde hair and the other is a redhead. One learned tennis overseas and the other honed her skills in California. One girl is a top recruit who wanted to play tennis and get an education in America. The other is a walk-on who later scrapped her way to a scholarship spot.

So what could Ducks Daria Panova and Courtney Nagle possibly have in common? Plenty.

For one, they have the same travel plans this week. Nagle and Panova head to Gainesville, Fla., today to take on the best doubles teams in the nation at the NCAA Championships.

Ranked No. 33 nationally, Nagle and Panova hope to improve on a season that has already earned them accolades in doubles play as well as some individual honors.

"It really is up to them," head coach Nils Schyllander said. "When

they play the way they want, no one is better."

The Duck tandem has already beaten three top-15 opponents this year as well as set records for singles victories. Panova, or "Dasza" to friends and teammates, has taken both the Pacific-10 Conference Indoor and Outdoor Championships as well as being named the Pac-10 Player of the Year. All this while setting the Oregon record for the most singles wins in a season at 30, nine more than the previous high.

"Practicing with someone that good brings up my level," Nagle said of Panova. "Playing with Dasza has really helped me."

Nagle posted a 17-15 record in singles play this year, including a 5-5 record against ranked opponents.

Unfortunately, it can't just be breaking records and giving compliments all the time with two competitive women's tennis players.

"We're really similar," Nagle said. "And when two people are alike, they tend to clash."

In a match against UCLA earlier in the year, both women were battling injuries and were visibly frustrated with their play. They got past

the early lapse and went on to take the match 8-4.

"We have moments where we don't see eye to eye," Nagle said. "But I wouldn't want to play with anyone else."

It wasn't always that way. Despite their similarities, Nagle and Panova weren't always good friends.

"I'm kind of shy," Nagle said. "It took a while for us to open up. After about three months we got used each other."

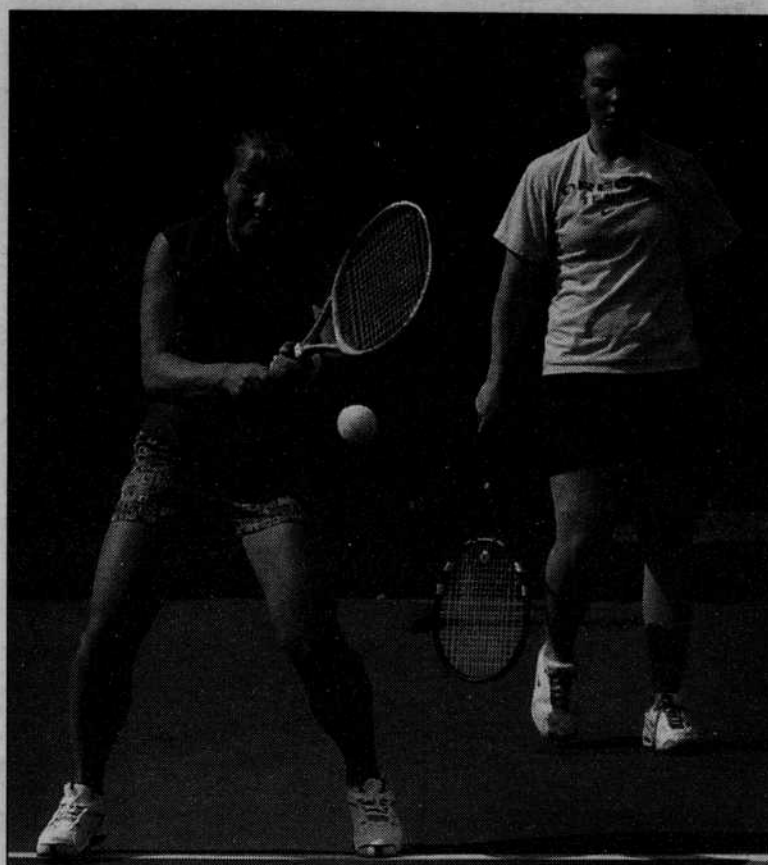
Schyllander knew the girls would be perfect doubles partners almost from the beginning, but he based his decision on their differences more than their similarities.

"Their styles match well," Schyllander said. "Courtney was more of a raw talent out of high school and Dasza had a lot of experience."

Both Nagle and Panova begin singles play on Monday before teaming up for the doubles portion on Tuesday. The tandem gives the Ducks one of the best chances at a national championship in tennis in recent memory.

Not bad teamwork for two girls that should be so different.

Ryan Heath is a freelance writer for the Emerald.



Adam Amato Emerald

Daria Panova (left) and Courtney Nagle will challenge the NCAA's best this week.

## Men's

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13.73. That time was .02 seconds faster than his preliminary time, which moved him into second all-time at Oregon behind Micah Harris' 13.67.

"I ran my race, and I felt pretty good," Mitchum said.

In other sprints action Sunday, Samie Parker finished third in the 100, Jordan Kent placed in both the 100 (sixth) and 200 (fifth), and Terry Ellis finished fifth in the 110 hurdles.

The Ducks will next head to the NCAA Regional meet May 30 in Palo Alto, Calif.

Contact the sports editor at peterhockaday@dailyemerald.com.

## Softball

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answered with three runs in the bottom of the inning. The two teams scored back and forth through the end of the seventh inning, when the game was tied at six.

Four hours and 15 minutes — and 12 innings — after it started, Vidlund hit a single to drive in Hutchison for the 7-6 win. Vidlund, who came in to close the game in the fifth, pitched 7

1/3 innings to earn the decision.

Championship Sunday featured the one-loss Ducks and no-loss Ragin' Cajuns. Oregon dominated Louisiana-Lafayette in the first game, 9-2, to send the championship into a second game in the double-elimination tournament. Vidlund led the Ducks with two home runs in the 9-2 rout.

The Ragin' Cajuns took advantage of Harris in the first inning of the second game as she gave up two runs and left two runners on base with

one out. Vidlund relieved Harris and gave up a home run. The Ducks answered with two runs in the second and made a late run with a Haij home run in the seventh, but couldn't come back for the 6-4 loss.

"Our seniors gave us a tremendous experience and I couldn't be more proud of this ballclub," Arendsen said. "We really had a great year."

Contact the sports reporter at mindirice@dailyemerald.com.

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