

Tennis anticipates 2004

Both Duck teams are optimistic about their chances for next year's season, despite a disappointing finish to this one

Tennis

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Many of the goals for the 2003 Oregon tennis season were not met. Neither the men nor the women made it to the NCAA Tournament as a team, and both suffered through injuries and two of the toughest schedules in the nation.

The men's and women's tennis teams have one more thing in common. They both have good reason to be optimistic about next year.

The women finished the year with a record of 10 victories and 15 losses and went 2-6 in Pacific-10 Conference play.

"We started out really hot," head coach Nils Schyllander said. "Unfortunately, we had some injuries and couldn't finish how we began the season."

The most notable of those injuries was the loss of junior Davina Mendiburu for the entire season to an anterior cruciate ligament tear.

Mendiburu has been rehabili-

tating her injury and looks to solidify a more experienced squad next season.

The Ducks lose senior captain Monika Geiczys as the only casualty to graduation from a team that boasted three freshmen and two sophomores that received significant playing time.

One of those sophomores is Pac-10 Player of the Year Daria Panova. Panova set the Duck record for singles victories in a season, won both the Pac-10 Indoor and Outdoor Championships and teamed up with junior Courtney Nagle to earn All-American honors in doubles.

"We've proved we're very good," Schyllander said. "The sky is the limit for next year's team."

On the men's side, Duck hopes for next year are running high, despite the departure of two senior leaders.

Oded Teig, the Oregon career singles victories leader, leaves the Ducks with 69 wins and a much improved program from when he first stepped foot in Eugene.

"Oded's individual success shows how far this program has come," head coach Chris Russell said. "He did what he did at the top against the toughest four-year schedule this program has had."

The Ducks also lose the experience of Jason Menke. Menke finishes his Oregon career with 47 singles victories and a degree in sports marketing.

The men finished with a record of 8-12 and were unable to muster a Pac-10 victory for the second year in a row.

"There was some disappointment this year," Russell said. "But there was also a lot to be gained."

The Ducks welcome back Manuel Kost next year for his third year of collegiate tennis. Kost finished the year ranked 51st in the nation and appeared in the first round of the NCAA Championship Tournament.

"We have a tremendous nucleus returning next year," Russell said.

The Ducks will look to Sven Swinnen and new senior leader Chris King to step up, as well as promising second-year players Thomas Bieri and Arron Spencer. Spencer began his Oregon career with a seven-match winning streak while Bieri showed marked improvement from the No. 4 spot all season.

The Ducks also welcome new recruit Vladimir Pino. Pino is ranked in the top 10 in the 18-and-under division of his native Sweden.

Ryan Heath is a freelance writer for the Emerald.

Golf

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worse out of the first 18. However, per NCAA rules, the Ducks were able to drop the highest score of the day, which was Ellis' — a 20-over par 292.

As a team, Oregon shot a combined 35-over 323, which placed the team at the very bottom of the leaderboard along with San Diego State.

The lone bright spot for the Ducks was junior Mike Sica, who most recently gained celebrity for his hole-in-one during the NCAA Regionals. Sica shot a 1-over 73 including an eagle on 18, placing him tied for 13th after the opening stanza of golf.

"This is by far the hardest course that I've ever played and, as a team, we had some problems out there," Sica said.

The Ducks also received strong play from senior Chris Carnahan, who barely trails Sica after an opening round 4-over 76, tying him for 44th overall.

True freshman Gregg LaVoie shot a 14-over 86, and redshirt freshman Kyle Johnson rounded out the Duck scoring with a 16-over 88.

Oregon is playing on its toughest course of the season, and it showed Tuesday. Three Oregon

golfers shot four-over par on the par-three No. 7 hole, digging the team into a hole it couldn't escape from for the rest of the day. Oddly enough, it was true freshman LaVoie who, along with Sica, parred No. 7 for the Ducks. Hole No. 7 is a 200-yard par-3, and, according to the course Web site, is only the sixth-most challenging hole on the course.

"I'm very disappointed, and I know the guys are very disappointed," Oregon coach Steve Nosler said. "It is a very difficult course, but I think we are capable of a more reasonable score in relation to par."

Leading the 30-team field of the best in college golf is host Oklahoma State, North Carolina State, Clemson and Auburn, who are all tied with an 11-over 299. Individually, Lee Williams of Auburn holds a one-stroke lead over Chris Stroud of Lamar University and Oliver Wilson of Augusta State, at 3-under 69.

The Ducks hit the course again today for the second-round of the four-round NCAA Championships.

"We can't go home and cry in our pillows," Nosler said. "I think we can learn from what happened today, and we'll just have to suck it up and improve over the next three days."

Scott Archer is a freelance writer for the Emerald.

Hockaday

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But until recently, there was a void in the basketball-game market. Sure, games like "NBA 2K3" and "NBA Live" are as realistic as a Jason Kidd crossover, but as a lukewarm NBA

fan, I don't want realism in my basketball games. I don't want to have to run screens and set picks and all that nonsense.

I missed "NBA Jam." I wanted to make full-court three-pointers. I wanted windmill dunks and my two best guys against your two best, straight up.

It's not quite "NBA Jam," but "NBA Street" comes damn close. It's like EA Sports read my mind and said, "Basketball strategy sucks; let's take it to the streets." This game is fantastic. You can play 'Sheed, Pip and Damon against Dirk, Stevie Nash and Fin-laaaay on the streets of NYC or Oak-town. You play real

street-ball courts like Rucker Park in Harlem or Greenlake in Seattle. As far as I'm concerned, the blend between AND-1 Mixtape Tour action (kick passes and off-the-opponents'-head dribbles) and NBA players makes me want to ditch NBA Jam for higher pleasures.

So I'm content for now. What does

the future hold for sports video games? I don't know, but I'm in for the ride. As long as I can make Wayne Gretzky's head bleed.

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

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