

'Optimistic' Ducks fall hard to UCLA, USC on the road

The Ducks can't stay afloat in Southern California and fall to 0-4 in the Pac-10

By Jon Roetman
Sports Reporter

The Oregon volleyball team received a lesson during the weekend on what it takes to compete with the nation's elite.

The Ducks traveled to Southern California where they fell to No. 8 UCLA and No. 1 USC, dropping their record to 3-10 overall and 0-4 in the Pacific-10 Conference.

The Ducks were overmatched in their 3-0 loss (30-14, 30-20, 30-16) to the Trojans on Saturday. USC controlled the match, holding the advantage in kills (54-26), digs (47-30) and blocks (5-1). The Trojans (12-0, 3-0) extended their winning streak to 24 matches.

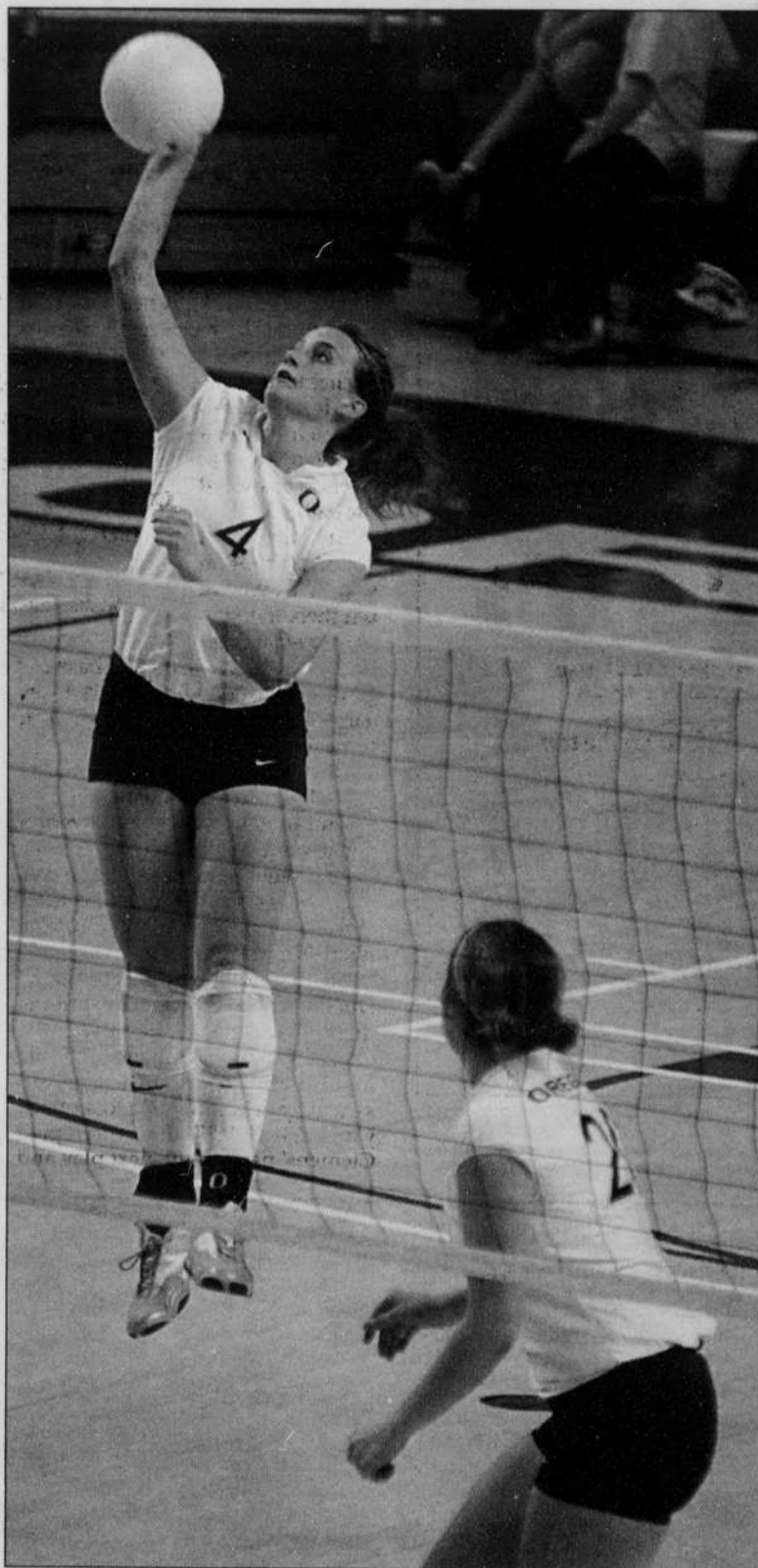
"USC deserves a lot of credit," Oregon head coach Carl Ferreira said. "We had good attacks and they transitioned well, played great defense and did a lot of things right. It's not a situation where we did something wrong necessarily as much as it is that USC is a great program."

USC was led by junior middle blocker Emily Adams, who finished with 16 kills and a .714 hitting percentage. The Women of Troy used a .434 hitting clip to overwhelm an inexperienced Duck squad, which features nine freshmen.

Sophomore outside hitter Jaclyn Jones led the Ducks in points for the third consecutive match with 10.5, including a team-high 10 kills and a block assist. Sophomore setter Jodi Bell added a team high 19 assists and eight digs. Junior outside hitter Lauren Westendorf also contributed with six kills.

Oregon also dropped Friday's match to the Bruins, 3-0 (30-20, 30-21, 36-34). The Ducks had a legitimate shot to win game three, but were unable to convert on one of six game points. After freshman middle blocker Sarah Mason gave the Ducks their sixth and final game point with the score, 34-33, Bruin outside hitter Heather Cullen and middle blocker

Turn to **VOLLEYBALL**, page 17



Junior libero Katie O'Neil finished the UCLA match with 16 digs.

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