



Adam Amato Photo Editor

Sophomore setter Jodi Bell finished with 32 assists and five digs in Oregon's loss to Oregon State on Thursday.

## VOLLEYBALL

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Oregon State fans were doing as much as they could to help the Beavers win, including verbal taunts and creating a tunnel for the team to run through when it returned to the locker room. The furious start to game three was the only time the Ducks were able to quiet the crowd.

The fans' enthusiasm appeared to work as the youthful Ducks appeared flustered at times.

"They were letting our kids have it," Ferreira said. "When you silence the crowd you've got to keep them there. When you're on the road you can't play even with your opponent, you have to play better and you've got

to do the things you need to do to silence the crowd.

"I thought they handled playing in a difficult atmosphere well. For a lot of kids, it was their first Civil War."

The Beavers never trailed in game one, but were unable to pull away. After trailing 23-17, the Ducks pulled to within 28-26 before giving up the game's final two points.

Game two was a similar situation, but the Ducks at one point led 21-19 before giving way to the Beaver attack.

"We just couldn't sustain (or) finish," Ferreira said. "It's definitely frustrating for these kids. My job, probably more than anything else, is to truly take care of their emotions because they're doing everything that they need to do to get to where they need to get to."

"Just because you don't get the results you want today doesn't

mean you're not doing the things you need to do. It's far from a panic situation. Anytime you have 12 freshmen and sophomores, your system is still in its evolution."

Sophomore Jodi Bell led the Ducks with 32 assists. Freshman Kristen Bitter finished with 11.5 points, including three service aces. Junior libero Katie O'Neil added 14 digs.

After Mason put the Ducks ahead 19-17 with a kill in the second game, she was issued a yellow card for screaming and gesturing towards the Oregon State side of the court. O'Neil said this type of enthusiasm is an encouraging sight.

"We're still optimistic because we're young and we're fresh," O'Neil said. "We have great attitudes and great chemistry and it's a lot of fun this year."

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## ROETMAN

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ball remains a game with integrity where players are taught that winning overshadows personal accolades. Try getting Randy Moss to block during a run in the fourth quarter if he hasn't caught a pass; that probably wouldn't succeed.

Even though the talent level is lower, high schoolers can still put a quality product on the field. I attended a state semi-final game in Maryland two years ago, and it was the greatest football game I've ever seen. Urbana — a school full of big farm boys — defeated national power Seneca Valley 29-23 in triple overtime. The game featured everything from a sophomore kicker drilling a 51-yard field goal to a drive-saving conversion on fourth-and-37 with less than two minutes remaining.

The city of Eugene was home to its own brand of entertaining prep football last year. Sheldon High School had one of the most explosive offenses in the country. Led by quarterback Alex Brink — now a freshman at Washington State — the Fighting Irish won the Oregon Class 4A State Championship and were ranked in

the top 25 nationally.

Entering Friday, the Irish are once again one of the state's elite as they hold the No. 3 ranking in the Associated Press poll. Willamette High School, another Eugene power, is sixth.

The Wolverines have been dominant, outscoring opponents 212-28 on their way to a 5-0 record.

I'm not saying pro and college football should be put on the back burner and the focus should switch to high school. Think of high school football as a "soul cleansing" experience if hearing about scandals and holdouts grows old. If nothing else, high school football presents the chance to see that there are still athletes who play the game the way it's supposed to be played.

So if the Ducks jump out to a huge lead Friday, there's no cable TV in the house or a change of pace is needed, check out a local high school football game.

At least there won't be any commercials.

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[Siegel, M, M.D., MPH Smoking in Bars, a guide for policy makers. 1998]  
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