

Monday, October 13, 2003

Difficult weekend keeps UO searching

Aggressive competition from Washington and Washington State prove a challenge for the young Duck women

By Jon Roetman
Sports Reporter

The Oregon volleyball team had its weekend ruined by the Evergreen State.

The Ducks faltered in home matches against No. 13 Washington and Washington State, dropping their record to 3-13 overall and 0-7 in Pacific-10 Conference play.

Saturday's match against the Cougars (7-11, 3-5) featured the two youngest teams in the conference. With a combined 21 freshmen on both rosters, Washington State made fewer mistakes en route to a 3-0 (30-20, 30-26, 30-25) victory.

"We took rhythm and opportunity away from ourselves tonight," Oregon head coach Carl Ferreira said. "It would be very easy to use inexperience as an excuse, but we're not going to hide under that."

The Ducks built a 17-12 lead in game three on the strength of five consecutive points. The Cougars, however, returned the favor, scoring 10 of the next 11 points to put the game — and match — out of reach.

"I thought we had great team chemistry (Saturday)," freshman Stephanie Alleman said. "We just didn't have the energy."

Sarah Mason led the Ducks with 12.5 points, while Jaclyn Jones added 10 points. Jodi Bell finished with a match high 35 assists, and Katie O'Neil added 15 digs.

Alleman saw extended playing time against the Cougars, contributing a pair of digs as a defensive specialist.

"Stephanie has practiced and played significantly better than I thought she was going to play all around," Ferreira said. "For her to have the ability to play at this level with only high school experience is truly amazing."

Oregon faced a much more experienced opponent the night before, dropping the match to No. 13 Washington, 3-0 (30-20, 30-24, 30-19).

The Ducks built a 19-14 lead in game two when a Mason kill capped a 7-2 run. The Huskies (13-4, 4-4 Pac-10) battled back to take a 24-23 lead that they wouldn't relinquish.

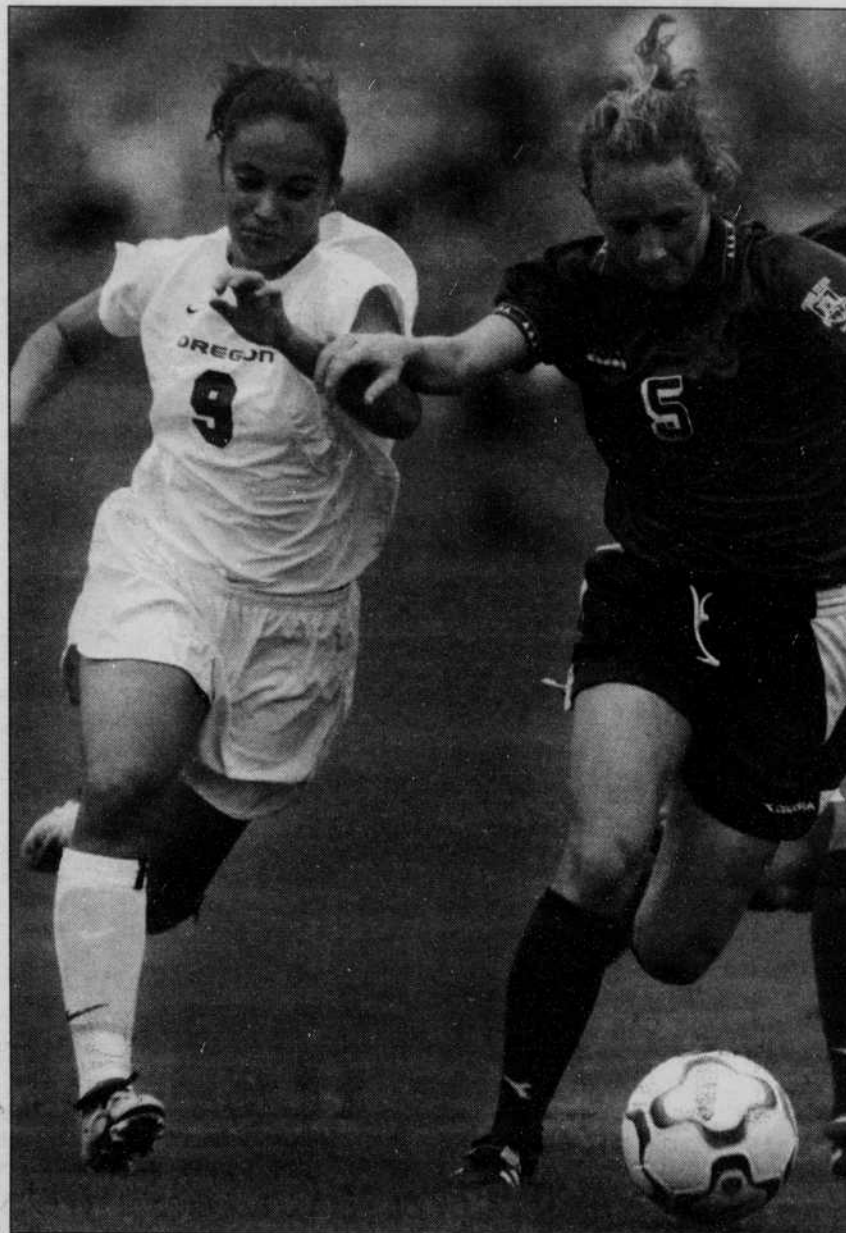
"We fought hard and we kind of let it slip away from us at the end," junior Lauren Westendorf said. "We let them get on runs and then we couldn't get it back. It's definitely a frustrating loss."

Mason led the Ducks with 14.5 points, while Westendorf added 12.5 points and a team-high 10 digs. Bell led Oregon in assists with 32.

Oregon out-attacked Washington 114-101 but was unable to take advantage of its opportunities. Ferreira said the loss was more about the Huskies making plays than the Ducks making mistakes.

"The (Huskies) are very methodical and very efficient," Ferreira said. "They somewhat out-execute you in the long haul."

Turn to **VOLLEYBALL**, page 6



Mark McCambridge Photographer

Forward Mele French (9) gave Oregon the game-winning goal in the Ducks' 4-3 overtime victory against Oregon State on Friday. It was Oregon's first Civil War win since 1999.

It takes extra, but Ducks win

Oregon defeats the Beavers in overtime Friday for its first Civil War win since 1999

By Jesse Thomas
Sports Reporter

It was exactly the start Oregon needed.

It was the Civil War. It was in Corvallis. It was nothing short of spectacular.

"It was a fairly amazing turn of events today," Oregon head coach Bill Steffen said in a release. "But the team came together and wouldn't go down."

DUCK SOCCER

In the Oregon women's soccer team's first conference game of the season, the Ducks won in dramatic fashion, 4-3, after coming back from a first half deficit of 3-1. It was Oregon's first Civil War win since 1999, and the victory increased the Ducks' series lead to 5-2-1.

With its seventh win of the season, Oregon (7-5, 1-0) has now tied its second-highest win total in the program's seven-year history. The Ducks finished 7-11-1 in 1999 and had their best season record of 8-8-2 in 2001.

The Beavers fell to 4-7-1

overall and 0-1-0 in Pacific-10 Conference play.

Oregon State was the dominant team early on and managed to jump out to a 2-0 lead in the first half. It was all done thanks to the scoring of forward Tessa Baker.

Baker scored off an assist by forward Stacey Mescher just 3 minutes and 18 seconds into the game and connected again unassisted at 25:21 off a rebound in front of the goal.

"Our intensity level wasn't where it needed to be early, and we gave them some goals we shouldn't have," Steffen said.

Oregon answered shortly thereafter, at 28:12, when red-shirt freshman Andrea Valadez was set up on a header off a header attempt from sophomore Charlie Ashcraft.

The Beavers increased their lead to 3-1 before the half, when midfielder Lindsey Beem sent one to the back of the net from the top of the box.

In what always appears to be a physical battle between the two rivals, Oregon State was called for 17 fouls in the second half after only six in the first half.

Oregon was able to capitalize on the Oregon State fouls. Senior Lindsey Werdell and red-shirt sophomore Nicole Garbin each scored on their second penalty kick goals of the season at 61:54 and 76:35, respectively.

Turn to **SOCCER**, page 6

Sun Devils dominate Ducks; Oregon loses third straight

The Ducks allow 38 points in the second half in Oregon's worst loss since a 63-0 loss in 1985

By Hank Hager
Sports Editor

After Oregon's game against Washington State, head coach Mike Bellotti and the Ducks said the game tapes were going to be ignored, tossed away like a bad movie.

After the Ducks lost to Utah, concern began growing that Oregon wasn't up to par with the rest of the Pacific-10 Conference.

After the Ducks visited Arizona State on Saturday, there's a whole new set of concerns.

Arizona State dominated Oregon in every category at Sun Devil Stadium in Tempe, defeating the Ducks 59-14.

"We didn't show up at all, and Arizona State took advantage of it and played a great game," Oregon quarterback Jason Fife said in a release. "You got to give them credit. They executed their coverages very well. We just didn't play at all."

Before the game, the Ducks talked about bringing intensity and a new attitude into Sun Devil Stadium.

Arizona State, meanwhile, also needed to come out strong after losing its previous three games.

The Sun Devils (3-3 overall, 1-2 Pac-10) brought it against Oregon. The Ducks left it in Eugene.

"We started off very poorly," Bellotti said. "I

think that gave them some momentum and some confidence. I felt like we were moving the football, but you can't spot an equal team 14 points at their place."

After throwing for 536 yards against the Ducks (4-3, 1-2) last season, Arizona State quarterback Andrew Walter had another impressive game Saturday. He didn't come close to his output from a year ago, but he did complete 18 passes in 28 attempts for 316 yards. He threw for three touchdown strikes before giving way to backup Sam Keller late in the fourth quarter.

"We did not get to him," Bellotti said. "I think we got him a couple times, but the biggest thing was that he had a lot of time to throw. It's very difficult to cover people for that long."

Derek Hagan was Walter's favorite target, catching seven passes and one score. Skyler Fulton and Matt Miller also caught touchdown receptions.

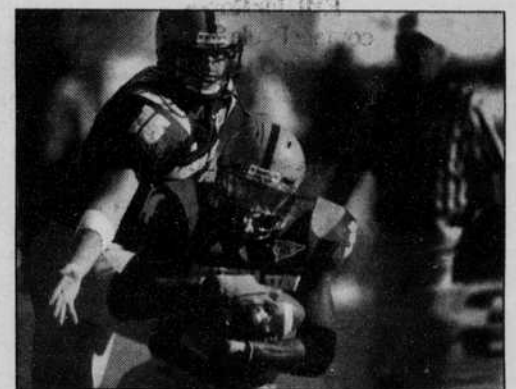
The 59 points the Ducks allowed is the second time this season Oregon has allowed more than 50 in a single game. Washington State hung 55 on the board at Autzen Stadium on Sept. 27.

"Anytime you get a win like this it breeds confidence," Walter said. "Now we just have to keep going and keep up the confidence. I think this win is the product of working hard in practice and going over film with the receivers."

Arizona State has now scored 45 points or more in three of its last four games against the Ducks. The Sun Devils defeated the Ducks 45-42 last season, and lost by just one at Sun Devil Stadium in 2000, 56-55.

The Sun Devils have scored 104 points and have passed for more than 1,000 yards in their last two games against the Ducks.

The 59 points is also the most Oregon has allowed in a single game since a 63-0 shutout at the



Laina McWhorter The State Press

Loren Wade (with ball) and Andrew Walter helped lead an Arizona State offense that gained 497 total yards against the Ducks on Saturday.

hands of Nebraska in 1985. That game marked the last time Oregon lost by at least 45 points, which was Arizona State's margin of victory Saturday.

Bellotti said before the game he did not plan to rotate quarterbacks Kellen Clemens and Fife as he had in the previous six games this season. That all changed, however, when Clemens couldn't get the offense going early.

His first two passes were picked off. The first was returned by Jamar Williams for a 50-yard touchdown return.

On a similar play, Clemens rolled right and lofted a pass into the hands of Arizona State's Chris McKenzie for the quarterback's second interception of the afternoon. The Sun Devils scored shortly after to go up, 14-0.

"Being up by 14 points so early was big," Williams said. "We had to be strong. We had two big defensive plays off the base and that was awesome."

Fife wasn't much better, throwing for 102 yards on seven of 18 passing. He did throw a touchdown to tight end Tim Day and scored on a

Turn to **FOOTBALL**, page 6