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Best bet  
College football:  
Maryland at Georgia Tech  
4:30 p.m., ESPN

Thursday, October 23, 2003

## Setting for the future

Heather Madison deals with a reduced roll at the collegiate level in her first season with UO

By Jon Roetman  
Sports Reporter

When Heather Madison wrapped up her prep volleyball career at Gresham High School last year, she was on top of the world.

After leading the Gophers to their second consecutive state title, the senior setter received first-team All-American and Oregon player of the year honors.

Now a freshman at Oregon, circumstances beyond her control have introduced Madison to a different world. A world feared by athletes with her court credentials. A world so cold and lonely that once one arrives, they fear they may never get back.

Athletes generally refer to this world as the bench.

With sophomore Jodi Bell firmly entrenched as the setter in the Oregon offense, Madison must watch patiently until head coach Carl Ferreira can incorporate her talents into the Ducks' system.

"It's really frustrating not being able to contribute," Madison said. "Sometimes I feel insignificant."

With a hallowed prep career, Madison drew attention from the likes of USC, Ohio State and Notre Dame. But a chance to be part of a team that could turn the Oregon volleyball program around was too much to pass.

"I wanted to be part of history and a part of the team that brings Oregon through," Madison said. "That would be rewarding, even if I'm not recognized at all. Maybe in the future, if Oregon stays on top, I'll know that I was part of that."

Madison's decision to come to Oregon wasn't just volleyball related. She developed a relationship with Ferreira and assistant coach Keith Rubio, which made her

believe the coaches had her best interests at heart off the court as well.

"It was both Keith and Carl that really attracted me," Madison said. "What was different about it was they cared about me more as a person. They knew that I was a good volleyball player, but I just knew that if I were to choose coming (to Oregon), they'd be concerned with my growth as a person."

One issue that concerned Madison was how she would fit into the Ducks' offense. She knew how talented Bell was. The two had faced each other during high school and club volleyball seasons.

Madison didn't want to sit on the bench or play a different position for three years while she waited for Bell to graduate.

"It's great to play (defensive specialist), but I want to set," Madison said. "I'm not trying to be selfish, but I've been training to do that my whole life. That's my identity, and I want to play my position."

The Ducks currently run a 5-1 offense, which features five attackers and one setter. Ferreira had hoped to switch to a 6-2 offense, which features six attackers while rotating setters, but said Oregon doesn't possess the depth at the attacking positions necessary to run the 6-2 scheme.

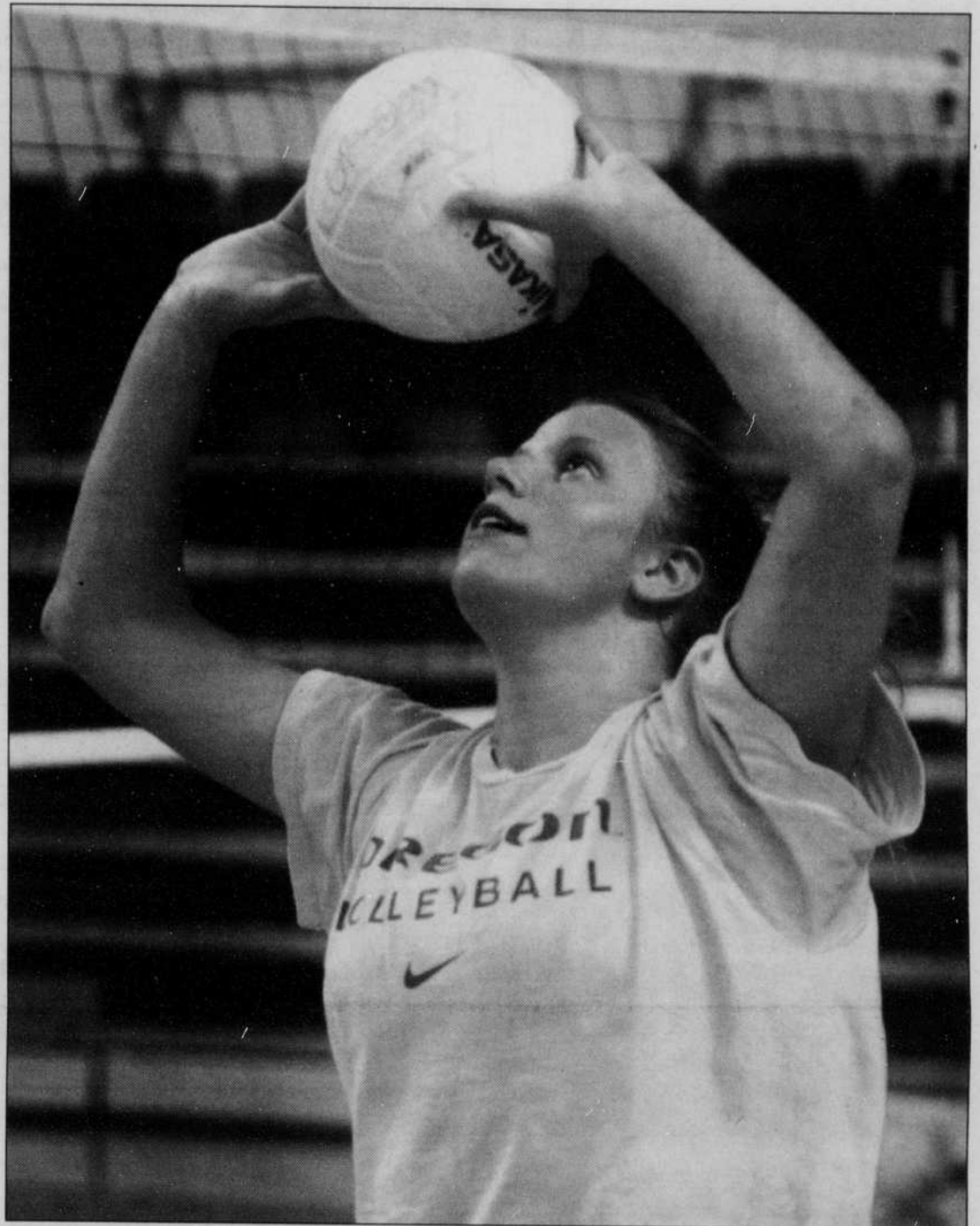
Ferreira added that Madison isn't happy about her reduced roll but has handled the situation well.

"You do some soul searching when you're so used to having an active role in the success of your program," Ferreira said of Madison. "But there's a lot of collegiate athletes in the (Pacific-10 Conference) that are where they come from, (but go through) a first-year adjustment phase."

The majority of Madison's playing time this season has been as a defensive specialist, but during practice, Bell and Madison give each other tips on setting.

"We've both learned so much from each other," Bell said. "I've learned so much from her work ethic. I've had a year under my belt so I try to help her with her decision making."

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Adam Amato Photo Editor

Heather Madison has had to transition from All-American setter to playing a reserve role.

## Werdell forced to sit out game after ruling forces her ejection



Mark McCambridge Photographer

Senior defender Lindsey Werdell (right) likes to get physical in her games. The team captain received a red card last weekend.

In a controversial call that Oregon disagreed with, Werdell received her first-ever red card this weekend

By Jesse Thomas  
Sports Reporter

In soccer, a red card is the worst penalty a player can receive.

It is given to a player by the official for flagrant misconduct, which results in ejection from the game and a suspension from the next scheduled game.

Senior defender Lindsey Werdell was given a red card in Friday's game against Washington State, and she's not happy about it.

"Totally uncalled for, I'm still upset about it," Werdell said. "It was the worst call I think I've ever seen a ref make."

Washington State's Shelby Brownfield was on a break away toward the goal in Friday's game, according to an Oregon release. Brownfield was

slightly ahead of the Oregon defense but Werdell was close and to her side. Werdell said she slid with the intention to go for the ball but not to take Brownfield down.

"They call it a professional foul," Werdell said. "Somebody's on a break away and you don't, like, take them out, but you make sure they're not going to score."

It was Werdell's first career card. Referees can also give yellow cards but they only carry the penalty of a caution for a dangerous play, and the player is not ejected.

"I was totally surprised they gave me a red," Werdell said. "I expected a foul outside the box, maybe a yellow card at most. He just ran straight up to me and gave me a red card, and then he called a free kick outside the box."

The free kick was awarded to Washington State. Senior Rachel Rodrick converted on the opportunity to score the final goal of the game. The Cougars won 2-0.

Werdell had to sit out of the Washington game on Sunday because of the penalty. She has yet to review the tape to see if the call was legitimate. Werdell may decide to appeal the call,

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## Hectic summer helps UO women prepare for year

The women's basketball team had a busy summer, including five surgeries and one player in the Pan-Am Games

By Mindi Rice  
Senior Sports Reporter

Most of the Oregon women's basketball team spent the summer bonding.

A few of the players had summer activities that took them out of Eugene, but most of them stayed together and trained with each other.

"I think it helped that a lot of us were here over the summer to work on that team chemistry and do that team building and all that stuff," point guard Corrie Mizusawa said. "That really helps with getting the freshmen in and helping them learn the program."

Three freshmen — Ashley Allen, Cicely Oaks and Jessica Shetters — moved to Eugene at the beginning of the summer to take classes and train with their teammates.

"It was the best experience," Allen said. "I recommend it to anyone — to everyone — to all the athletes. It gives you a chance to know your teammates, your coaches, the style of play. Also, you're not so overwhelmed with the school work, you know what to expect. Once the year gets here, you know where you're going and you know where your classes are."

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