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# Top-ranked Trojans prevail in three games over Ducks

The Oregon volleyball team gets swept by USC for its 11th consecutive loss in conference play

By Jon Roetman  
Sports Reporter

It hardly seemed fair when No. 1 USC took the floor before Friday's match with Oregon at McArthur Court.

The defending national champions featured a pair of All-Americans in 6-foot-6-inch middle blocker Emily Adams and outside hitter April

Ross, along with four other players taller than 6-foot-1-inch. The Ducks roster contains nine freshmen, and only two players are as vertically gifted as the six USC players.

For the first 50 points of the match, it was hard to tell which team was the nation's best. But after a Ross kill put the Trojans ahead 26-25 in game one, the Ducks were unable to recover and fell 3-0 (30-28, 30-22, 30-16) in front of 916 spectators at Mac Court.

Despite the loss, Oregon (3-17 overall, 0-11 Pacific-10 Conference) achieved a new season best with 12.5 blocks, just one night after banging out a season-high 85 digs

against No. 9 UCLA. Oregon's front liners held their own at the net despite the Trojans' height advantage.

"They certainly were in our rhythm," USC head coach Mick Haley said. "(Oregon head coach Carl Ferreira) had them prepared very well. A lot of times, with our system, people can get in our rhythm, but we just try to overpower you a little bit.

"But we weren't able to do that as well. I thought they were very good." Freshman Kristen Bitter led the way with eight block assists. Bitter said that the Ducks entered the match confident after winning their first conference game on Thursday against UCLA.

"A lot of our success was from (Thursday), but it's also been building in practice," Bitter said. "We've been grinding away. We know that we can be a good blocking team, it's just a matter of bringing it to the match, and that's what we did."

Jaclyn Jones finished with seven block assists, five kills and seven digs. The sophomore outside hitter said the Ducks were shocked early on at their ability to control the net against players like Adams and 6-foot-5-inch middle blocker Bibiana Candelas.

"At first, when we were blocking them, I couldn't believe it," Jones said. "They're USC. We were like, 'what?'"

Freshman Sarah Mason and junior Lauren Westendorf led Oregon

with nine kills each. Sophomore Jodi Bell dished out 25 assists and sophomore Kelly Russell contributed seven digs.

After two competitive games, USC (20-0, 11-0) was able to dominate Oregon in game three. Ross, Adams, Candelas and 6-foot-3-inch middle blocker Katie Olsovsky combined for 39 kills.

Ross was able to keep Oregon off-balance with her service game. The two-time American Volleyball Coaches Association All-American finished with three aces, and her crisp serves forced the Ducks into many split-second decisions.

"When April gets those serves going, the top 10 teams in the country have trouble with it," Haley said.

Haley added that the Ducks had improved under Ferreira since the Trojans defeated them, 3-0, on Sept. 27 in Los Angeles.

"As long as they pay attention to their coach, they'll keep getting better," Haley said. "(Ferreira) has a good system. In the past it seems like some of the kids weren't buying into it. But these kids seem like they're buying into it and I think you're seeing the results. They played hard all three games and they were in the first two."


Contact the sports reporter at [jonroetman@dailyemerald.com](mailto:jonroetman@dailyemerald.com).

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## DUCK VOLLEYBALL

# Panova outlasts Karnaukhova, reaches finals of ITA Regional

Junior Daria Panova plays in the final round of the tournament today in California, starting at 10 a.m.

By Alex Tam  
Sports Freelancer

The Oregon women's tennis team took its shot this weekend at the Omni Hotel ITA Northwest Regional Championships, a week after the men had their chance.

The annual tournament, held this year at Stanford in Palo Alto, Calif.,

pushes the winners of the singles and doubles draws to the ITA National Intercollegiate Indoor Championships at Michigan in November.

"We've had a few good weeks and we have a lot of girls playing well right now," head coach Nils Schyllander said. "We're excited to face some top competition and see what we can do. I think all the girls are real excited."

In the semifinals on Sunday, junior Daria Panova faced 12th seeded Margarita Karnaukhova of Sacramento State in an intense three-set match that ended with Panova winning in a tiebreaker — 6-2, 2-6, 7-6 (9-7) — to move into the finals today at 10 a.m.

"She stepped up real big today,"

Schyllander said. "It was one of the best matches that I've ever seen."

The Ducks featured seven players in the singles draw, led by Panova, who is ranked 7th in the nation and inherited the No. 3 seed in the tournament. Senior Courtney Nagle was the other seeded Duck in the tournament at No. 8 and is ranked 35th nationally.

The first day of action saw all seven Ducks advance to the second round. Four moved onto the round of 32, including Panova, Nagle and two freshmen, Dominika Dieskova and Monica Hoz de Vila.

"It was a great (first) day for (us)," Schyllander said. "Freshmen really stepped up with huge wins. I'm very pleased. Hopefully, we can build on this."

Dieskova impressed the whole field of competition and her team at her first regional championships.

The Slovakia native breezed through the first two rounds without losing a single game against St. Mary's Kate Harden and Erin Hoe of Washington. In the round of 32, Dieskova defeated No. 9 seed Anna Erikson of Sacramento State in three sets, 6-0, 3-6, 6-0.

The freshman had a chance to move into the quarterfinals but was stopped short by No. 5 seed Lauren Bamikow of Stanford despite winning the first set. The match ended at 3-6, 6-0, 6-2.

"Dominika really made a name for herself by beating a really good player and then losing in a close three-setter to one of the top players

in college tennis," Schyllander said. "She definitely put herself on the map this weekend."

Panova, the reigning Pac-10 women's player of the year, was the highest seeded player left in the quarterfinals after No. 1 seed Erin Burdette of Stanford withdrew in the third round due to injury and 2nd-seeded Chloe Carlotti of Fresno State lost in the round of 32.

The third-year Duck earned a bye in the first round and won her first two matches in straight sets against Erica Bames of Santa Clara and Idaho's Sunel Niewoudt. In the round of 16, Panova defeated Stanford's Theresa Logar in three sets, 6-3, 2-6, 6-1. The quarterfinals saw the junior defeat No. 7 seed Claire Carter of Washington in straight sets, 6-2, 6-2.

On the doubles side, none of the four Oregon teams lasted to the quarterfinals. Three advanced to the round of 16, including the No. 4 seeded duo of Panova and Nagle. However, they were defeated by Stanford's Emilia Anderson and Anne Yelsey, 8-5.


The shocker of the doubles draw almost came from Oregon duo junior Ester Bak and sophomore Jamie Marshall. The two Ducks lost a highly competitive match in the tiebreaker to the No. 2 seeded doubles team of Raquel Kops-Jones and Sasha Podkolzina of California, 9-8 (7-4).

Alex Tam is a freelance writer for the Emerald.

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