

# New coaches, solid players pace Club rugby

Oregon's Club rugby team couldn't come away with a win last weekend against Humboldt State

By Kirsten McEwen  
Freelance Reporter

For more than 40 years Oregon's rugby team has been a competitive force, and this year will be no different. Rugby began its season Sunday, challenging Humboldt State at Oregon's Southbank Field.

Oregon lead almost the entire match, but Humboldt State managed to score in the final minute to win by a single point, 16-15.

"Even though we didn't win, I think the game showed we have a really good group of athletes," Oregon's Danny McCormick said. "With new coaches and a solid group, I think we will do very well in our league."

Oregon's rugby team will play 15 games in the coming months, facing schools such as Washington, Western Washington, Central Washington and Oregon State.

Oregon will have this weekend to rest and get ready for two long road trips. The Ducks face Chico State on Nov. 8 and then travel to Logan, Utah, to play Utah State on Nov. 15.

A civil war is in store for Oregon's next home game, which will be played at Southbank on Nov. 22.

Oregon's rugby players plan on winning their games, especially the league title.

"I think winning league is definitely

attainable," McCormick said.

## Second-half struggle

The women's Club soccer team traveled to Portland this past Saturday to play its first game of the season against Lewis and Clark College.

Oregon led the Pioneers, a Division-III team, by a score of 2-1 at halftime. Annie Loney scored both goals in the first half, but was held scoreless in the second half as Oregon failed to find the back of the net in the final 45 minutes.

Lewis and Clark capitalized on its opportunities in the second half of play, scoring two goals to build the team's first lead of the game. The Pioneers' offense proved to be too strong for the Ducks in the second half, and Lewis and Clark came away with a 3-2 win.

Despite the loss, Angel Anguiano, the women's Club soccer coordinator, was encouraged by the team's

overall play.

"I was really impressed how we played in our first game," Anguiano said. "I thought the level of play was pretty high compared to previous years."

Oregon's team this year consists of 22 players, including 11 newcomers.

"Tryouts were really competitive and from the original group, I think we chose some really solid players," Anguiano said.

Oregon will compete in its first tournament Nov. 8, battling Oregon State as well as California.

## A tournament team

It's been a long time since Oregon's tae kwon do club has competed in a tournament.

This weekend, the Club will take its largest group ever to Portland to participate in the 2003 Northwest Open Mar-

tial Arts Championships.

The team will enter 13 men and women in the tournament and will compete in the Olympic Sparring division.

"Some of us are black belts and some of us are yellow belts, and then we have everything in between," coordinator Lizzi Esterberg said. "We are all at different levels, which makes it a whole lot of fun and a great learning experience."

The club usually practices twice a week at the Student Recreation Center, but due to the upcoming tournament the club has increased practices to prepare for its first tournament of the year.

"This is my first tournament ever too, and I have heard it is really exciting and very intense, so we want to make sure we are ready," Esterberg said.

Kirsten McEwen is a freelance reporter for the Emerald.

## FOOTBALL

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### Players of the week

Oregon defensive back Aaron Gipson on Monday was named the Pac-10 Special Teams Player of the Week.

The sophomore recorded four tackles on Oregon's kickoff coverage team. The Cardinal entered the game with an average of 25.2 yards per return — good for 12th in the nation — but the Ducks held Stanford to 15.3 yards per return in the

shutout win.

Oregon's offensive player of the week was running back Terrence Whitehead, who set a career high with 172 yards rushing.

Linebacker Kevin Mitchell and safety Marley Tucker both earned defensive honors.

Brian Paysinger (offense), Jonathan Levin and Parris Moore (defense) and Caleb Rexius and Tommy Smith (special teams) were Oregon's scout team players of the week.

Contact the sports editor at [hankhager@dailyemerald.com](mailto:hankhager@dailyemerald.com).

## VOLLEYBALL

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istry builds from spending hours in the gym together.

"(Team) chemistry is a lot better," Russell said. "We know each other better and can feel each other on the court. Since you're so close with six people on a little court you really have to know your teammates."

### Diggin' Feola

Freshman defensive specialist Kandice Feola saw extended playing time last week for the first time during conference play. The Creswell native contributed seven digs against the Southern California schools and was a key communicator among Oregon defenders.

"I think I practiced very well the week before, so I was prepared," Feola said. "I got some time on our starting side so I had good chemistry with the girls."

Ferreira said Feola has continued to work hard despite seeing action in only nine games this season.

"There are a lot of athletes who could take a page out of the book from what Kandice did for about a month and a half," Ferreira said. "She had a great attitude in practice and that's not the easiest thing when you're not getting a lot of playing time, because playing time is one of the ultimate reinforcers to your progress."

"To get your chance in front of the No. 1- and No. 9-ranked teams in the country is pretty impressive."

### Fantastic freshmen

Outside hitter Sarah Mason and middle blocker Kristen Bitter are among the Pac-10's best during conference matches. Mason is 10th in the Pac-10 with 3.59 kills per game and second among freshmen. Bitter is fifth in the

conference with 1.21 blocks per game, which is tops for freshmen.

### Team leaders

Russell leads Oregon with 217 kills and 3.19 kills per game. She also leads the Ducks with 260 points, which include kills, service aces, blocks and block assists. Sophomore setter Jodi Bell has dished out a team-high 635 assists, while junior libero Katie O'Neil leads Oregon with 205 digs. Bitter is tops on the team with 11 solo blocks and 63 block assists.

### Civil War

The Ducks will host Oregon State on Thursday at 7 p.m.

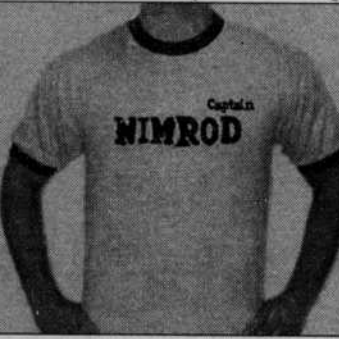
The Beavers (12-11, 2-9) have lost five consecutive matches, but dropped the Ducks, 3-0 (30-26, 30-27, 30-28) Oct. 2 in Corvallis.

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

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## BASKETBALL

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down the floor and we would probably have 90 percent less turnovers," Kent said. "But we play so fast, we're going to have turnovers. It's just a matter of finding that comfort zone that we can live with those turnovers."

Oregon's big men took care of their business. Senior Jay Anderson and sophomore Ian Crosswhite combined for 17 points, while redshirt freshman Adam Zahn had 12 points and seven rebounds.

Kent said the team will be planning another scrimmage within the next two weeks. He said it would be announced and that the public will be able to attend.

### Rookie time

Freshman Aaron Brooks had plenty of flashes of brilliance in Monday's scrimmage. Between his extensive speed in beating the defense to rising up and swishing a three-pointer, Brooks played with the Ducks as if he had done it more than 100 times before.

The 6-foot freshman scored 10 points and had two steals during the scrimmage. He also had two three-pointers in four attempts. Brooks did turn the ball over three times, though.

Freshmen Mitch Platt and Ray Schafer also made themselves known. Platt had 12 points and seven rebounds while Schafer had four points and three rebounds, respectively.

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