

TENNIS

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good serving."

The Ducks carried the momentum into the singles competition by winning four of the six matches, including the top two position matches.

Swinnen again set the tone by overcoming Nyman, who is currently ranked No. 80 in the nation, in a hard-fought straight set win 6-4, 7-5. Swinnen, who is the third Swiss

native on the Oregon squad, said he focused on playing hard to beat his opponent.

"(Nyman) came back to fight," Swinnen said. "I just stayed aggressive."

At the No. 2 singles position, the 6-foot-6 Bieri frustrated Brigham Young senior Richard Dasek with his size and power to easily win 6-1, 6-1.

Other singles victories included yet another emotional matchup with senior Chris King beating his opponent 6-4, 7-6 (7-5).

Kost, who is battling a wrist injury after playing in a tournament in Switzerland during winter break, also won his match at the No. 4 position after defeating Roshan 6-3, 6-4. Kost said he hopes to recover and be back at 100 percent soon.

"It was hard to get through (the match)," Kost said. "I made the important points at the important moments (and) I returned well."

Russell said those four players are showing what he expects from his team during the rest of the year.

"(They) did a very good job with their game styles," he said. "That's what we're emphasizing each week and every match."

Sophomore transfer Marcus Schiller, however, struggled in his singles match against Christian Hand, losing 7-6, 4-6 and 6-3. Schiller continually attempted to motivate himself throughout his match, including throwing his racket to the ground and yelling at himself.

He looked to turn things around after a pep talk with Russell during the

second set. But emotions again got in the way and it negatively impacted his play in the third set.

"(Emotions) can take us out of our game plans," Russell said.

Oregon will continue action this weekend when they host the Louisiana-Lafayette Ragin' Cajuns (0-1) Saturday at 11 a.m. and 72nd-ranked Pacific (0-0) Sunday at 11 a.m.

Alex Tam is a freelance writer for the Emerald.

WOMEN

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said. "We challenged them today that this was about them. Their challenge was to stay in front of people, not do anything heroic, not do anything in terms of gambling, but just play solid defense."

Oregon got off to an unusually strong first-half start, jumping out to an early 9-2 lead. A Wagner three-pointer with five minutes remaining gave the Ducks their biggest lead of the half at 26-13.

The first half was played at a steady pace with few stops in the action. Oregon wasn't whistled for a foul until seven minutes remained in the half.

"This is a great way for us to start the second half of the Pac-10

season," Smith said. "We just have to build on this."

Bills scored 13 points and grabbed 11 rebounds for the Ducks, while Eleanor Haring added 11 points.

If history repeats itself, Oregon should continue to improve on its 2-7 first-half conference record. The Ducks have not had a losing second half of a conference season in 10 years and only once in the last 13 years has Oregon's second half record been worse than the first half.

Oregon will remain in Southern California to take on USC Saturday at 4 p.m. The Ducks fell to the Trojans 69-55 on Jan. 2 at McArthur Court in the season's first meeting.

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