

Oregon tennis remains perfect over weekend

The Oregon men and women maintain strong records with solid doubles and singles play

By Alex Tam
Freelance Reporter

Both of the Oregon tennis teams are continuing their terrific starts to the season by staying undefeated through Sunday.

The men, coming off a 5-2 victory over Brigham Young on Thursday, displayed strong doubles play once again and carried that momentum into their singles efforts to defeat Pacific, 6-1, at the Student Tennis Center on Sunday.

The Ducks (4-0 overall) have yet to lose a doubles match this season and improved their dual doubles match record to 12-0. Singles play has been led by juniors Sven Swinnen and Manuel Kost, who both have undefeated dual match singles records.

Pacific played without Arnar Sigurdsson, the Tigers' No. 1 player, due to his commitment to Iceland's Davis Cup team. Kost also did not compete Sunday due to a stomach injury.

Swinnen, who played at the No. 1 singles position and holds a 4-0 singles record, played well enough to beat the Tigers' Lennart Maack in straight sets, 6-4, 6-3.

"I think I played pretty good," Swinnen said. "I won on (Saturday), but I did not feel good. I felt much better (Sunday)." At the No. 2 position, sophomore Thomas Bieri dominated Vladimir Zdravkovic, winning five straight games in the first set to win 6-1, 6-3.

In the closest match of the day, freshman Eric Pickard overcame a 4-0 deficit in the third set tiebreaker to triumph to a 6-2, 4-6, 1-0 (11-9) victory.

On Saturday, Oregon handed Louisiana-Lafayette another loss with a 5-2 win.

"Overall, it was a good performance," assistant coach Ross Duncan said. "We started things off well in doubles and that carried over into singles."

Swinnen prevailed in three sets to Ragin' Cajuns sophomore Evghenii

Coruneau, 6-3, 4-6, 6-4.

Kost, who jumped up one spot in the lineup to No. 3, easily took care of second-year Robin Ley, 6-2, 6-1.

Straight set victories by sophomores Marcus Schiller and Arron Spencer rounded out the singles field.

In doubles, Swinnen and Spencer teamed up to beat a pair of South Africa natives, Ley and freshman Shaun Ellison, 8-5 at the No. 1 position.

Oregon will continue action on Saturday as they host Idaho at the Student Tennis Center.

Women improve to 3-0

The Oregon women mirrored their male counterparts by producing strong doubles play leading to tough singles play in a recurring theme for the year. The women defeated visiting Colorado, 7-0, on Saturday.

The Ducks (3-0) swept the doubles portion of the dual match by losing only five games in three matches to improve their doubles dual record to 9-0. Junior Daria Panova and senior Courtney Nagle led the way by defeating the Colorado's Kendra Strandemo and Morgan Sall, 8-1.

"It was great to see our doubles teams maintain a high level for the third straight time," Oregon assistant coach Kathy Sell said. "Everyone was ready to compete (Saturday) and it showed across the board."

Panova, ranked eighth in the country, led the way by easily handling Lynzee Keever, 6-0, 6-3. At the No. 2 position, freshman Dominika Dieskova was impressive in her defeat of Kendra Standemo, 6-3, 6-1.

Oregon lost only one set in the entire dual match, which occurred in the longest and most thrilling match of the night when sophomore Anna Leksinska beat Martina Sedivec in three sets, 4-6, 6-3, 10-8.

The Ducks will like to see their strong play continue and have no let-downs as the season progresses.

"It is important for us to play with a lot of discipline and to use each match to get better," Sell said. "So far the girls are doing a great job of this."

Oregon will next host a double-header against Portland and Boise State on Friday.

Alex Tam is a freelance reporter for the Emerald.

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time this season with 19 points, scoring 16 in the first half. Freshman Eleanor Haring tied her career-high with 14 points. Haring also added five offensive rebounds and four steals in the losing effort.

Sophomore Chelsea Wagner, playing on a torn lateral meniscus in her left knee, scored two points in 15 minutes of play. In the win against UCLA, she led the Ducks with 17 points, but Saturday she missed both her three-point attempts.

"She's going to have her moments where that knee is not going to respond as she would like it because it is an injured knee," Smith said. "She's very important for us, both offensively and defensively. I think Mike McNeill said it in the locker room, he was very impressed with Chelsea and her effort and her determination to help the team when she can."

Point guard Corrie Mizusawa entered the game at No. 10 all-time on the single-season assists leaders list with 132 in 20 games. The junior, in her first season playing for Oregon, added 8 assists to move up to No. 7 on the list, passing Shaquala Williams' freshman and junior seasons as well as passing Sheila Sattiewhite's 1987-88 season.

"We've got a lot of people dinged up and we're a little bit tired, but so is everyone else," Smith said. "We're going to take a couple days off as we head back to Eugene, get everybody rested and everybody feeling a little bit better about themselves physically, so that if mentally we ask ourselves to do something aggressive, we'll be ready."

The Ducks now have the week to prepare for the second Civil War of the season, Saturday at 7 p.m. in Corvallis.

Contact the senior sports reporter at mindirice@dailymerald.com.



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