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Mendiola finishes Mac career in style

Washington senior Giuliana Mendiola scored 18 of the Huskies' final 23 points for a 67-56 win in Eugene

By **Mindi Rice**
Senior Sports Reporter

Giuliana Mendiola wanted to go out at .500 against the Ducks in Mac Court.

WOMEN'S BASKETBALL

The Husky senior was winless in Eugene her first two years at Washington. Last February, the

Huskies got their first win at Mac Court in nine years. Saturday, Mendiola made sure that she would graduate with another victory in Eugene.

After a slow start, Mendiola finished with 22 points and nine rebounds, leading the Huskies to a 67-56 victory. The win kept Washington's postseason hopes alive, improving their record to 14-10 overall and 7-8 in the Pacific-10 Conference.

"Everybody who has seen her here for four years knows, who else's hands do you want the ball in?" Washington coach June Daugherty said. "Everybody in this room knows the answer. She's the best. There's a reason why she was the MVP of the conference last year. And I believe this year too."

Mendiola really did finish the game. After opening the first half 2 for 8 from the field, Mendiola was 6 for 9 in the second half. Her weak shooting first half came from a stingy Oregon defense.

"Oregon plays at another level at home," Mendiola said. "They played me very, very physical. They played

great defense."

Oregon knew that Mendiola and her sister, Gioconda Mendiola, would scorch the Ducks given the opportunity. In January's 95-50 blowout, the Mendiola sisters combined for 30 points, making Oregon fully aware of their offensive presence.

"We just wanted to come out and play really aggressive and physical and make them work for their points," Oregon guard Chelsea Wagner said. "The Mendiola's are a big part of their scoring and we just wanted to make them work really hard."

For 29 minutes and 23 seconds, Oregon — primarily Wagner and point guard Corrie Mizusawa — played Giuliana Mendiola and her sister flawlessly. Combined, they had 13 points until the clock hit 10:37 remaining in the second half.

At that point, Giuliana Mendiola started her run with a three-point shot from the right wing, scoring 18 of Washington's final 23 points of the game.

"She rises up for those occasions and

plays the game for those occasions," Oregon head coach Bev Smith said. "It's a tribute to her and a tribute to women's basketball to see a player respond like that."

In front of what the Huskies called a great crowd, Washington needed someone to step up if they were going to put the Ducks away. Behind Brandi Davis and Andrea Bills, Oregon was slowly staying about four points behind the Huskies.

That got Mendiola moving along with her game. Washington was ahead 44-40 when she started her attack and she wasn't comfortable with that.

"I was worried just looking at the score," Mendiola said. "It was too close for comfort. My teammates rely on me to score, and I just knew I had to bring it. That's what I tried to do."

Mendiola brought it enough to end her Mac Court days with a second win in two years against the Ducks.

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

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Ducks sluggish on final day, take 16th place in Hawaii

Sophomore Gregg LaVoie was Oregon's high placer in Hawaii; he finished 47th

By **Brian Smith**
Freelance Reporter

The Oregon men's golf team finished the final round in Hawaii on Friday with a team score of 293, giving the Ducks a 16th place finish at the TaylorMade/Waikoloa Intercollegiate. The Ducks finished with a team total 876 on the par-72, 7,074-yard Waikoloa King's Course in Waikoloa, Hawaii.

The Ducks stayed within striking distance of the top 10 for most of the tournament. However, the team — composed of two freshmen and

three sophomores — never seemed to be able to gain any momentum, squandering any chance for their first top-10 finish since the Husky Invitational in September.

For the second consecutive year, sophomore Gregg LaVoie was the Ducks' top finisher in Hawaii. LaVoie carded two rounds of even par and finished with a three-round total of 2-over 218, good enough for a tie for 47th place. Sophomore Justin St. Clair was the next highest finisher, posting a 73-73-74-220, dropping him from 48th in the second-round to a tie for 55th.

After a final round 76, sophomore Kyle Johnson dropped from 40th to 63rd and ended with a combined total of 73-72-76-221. Freshman Matt Ma carded a

final-round 74 after posting the best individual round of the tournament for the Ducks, a 1-under 71 in the second round and fell into a tie for 72nd with fellow freshman Dustin Pewarchuk. Pewarchuk shot a 76-73-73-222 after finishing last week's PING-Arizona Intercollegiate in the top 20.

Fifth-ranked Georgia Tech took home the team title after finishing with a final-round team score of 278. The victory gives the Yellow Jackets their fourth victory in seven years at the event. Fourth-ranked UCLA finished three strokes back with a team total 20-under 844. Arkansas finished third with a 845 and No. 8 Arizona State and


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BIG
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and fifth-ranked Washington on Saturday.

Men look to start new streak

The Oregon men (6-1 overall) lost their first match of the season against No. 33 Boise State, 5-2, on Friday. However, they got back into their winning ways when they squeaked by with a 4-3 victory over Denver on Saturday.

The doubles team of junior Sven Swinnen and sophomore Arron Spencer stayed undefeated (6-0) when they defeated Denver's Niko Popovic and Hans Peter Gaber, 8-6.

The singles portion included many emotional matches as five of the six contests went to three-setters.

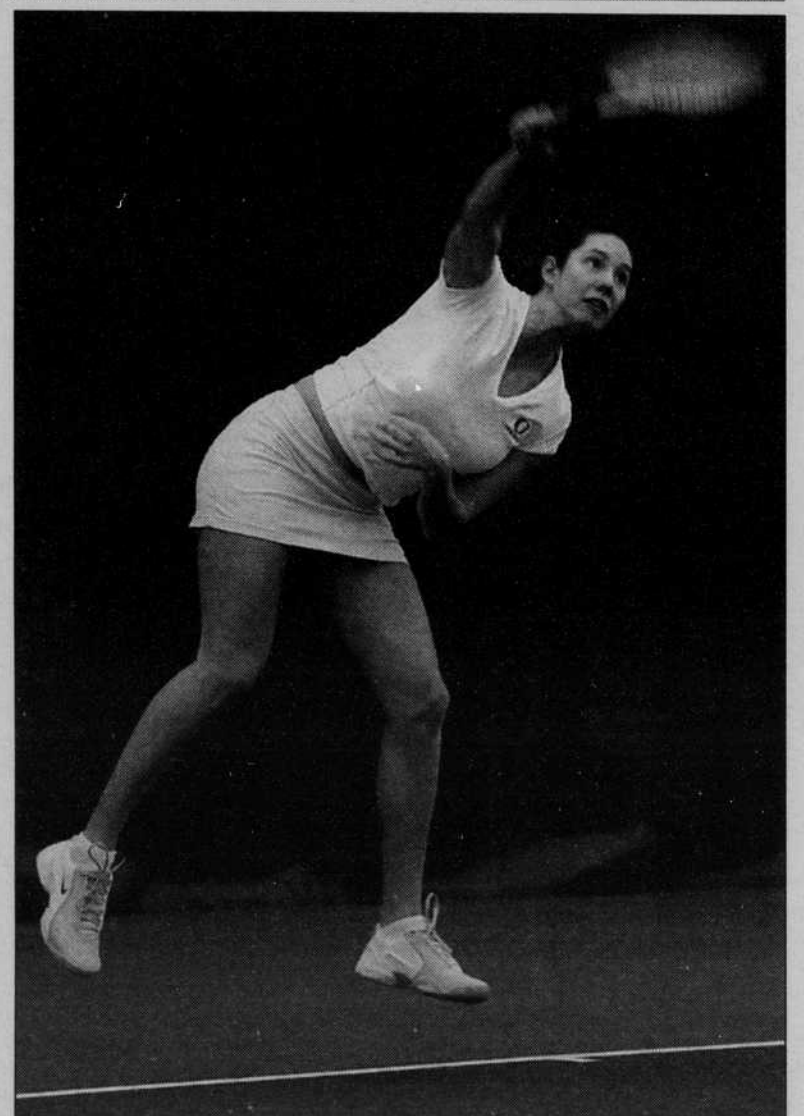
"In my nine years of coaching, this was the most spirited and competitive match I have ever been a part of," Oregon head coach Chris Russell said.

Junior Manuel Kost led the way when he moved up to the No. 2 position and overcame Gaber, 4-6, 6-4, 6-2. Kost protected his perfect dual singles record, which now stands at 6-0.

At the No. 1 spot, Denver's Nejc Smole handed Swinnen his first singles loss for the year, despite Swinnen winning the first set, in a tight matchup that went 6-7, 7-6, 7-6.

The men stay on the road when they face UC-Santa Barbara on Friday and 22nd-ranked Oklahoma State on Saturday in Santa Clara, Calif.

Alex Tam is a freelance reporter for the Emerald.



Erik Bishoff Photographer
Dominika Dieskova was a key piece in Oregon's puzzle against Arizona and ASU.