

POWER

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The next year, Arendsen received a phone call one day from Vaqueras head coach Craig Nicholson. Nicholson called to let his friend Arendsen know he had a pitcher she needed to look at.

"When he gave me the name and said she's from Canada, I'm going 'oh my god, I know who she is,'" Arendsen said. "I was like, 'All right, we're interested. We want her. What can we do?'"

In speeding up their schedule to recruit Nyhus by an entire year, the trio found a pitcher who is working her way up the Oregon top-10 lists and record books, and at the same time, lending a hand in rewriting the conference's — and nation's — perception of what was a struggling Oregon program as recently as two years ago.

This weekend, the scene for Oregon softball — or at least this season — may very well rest in Nyhus' glove and on the dirt of Howe Field.

Friday, the No. 12 Ducks (32-11 overall, 6-3 Pac-10) host Arizona State (30-21, 0-7) at 2 p.m. The weekend games come at 2 p.m. Saturday and 1 p.m. Sunday when No. 1 Arizona (43-1, 7-0) rolls into Howe Field.

Like the rest of her team, Nyhus knows not to overlook Arizona State, even though the No. 1 ranked Wildcats are at the front of everyone's mind. Both teams are on Nyhus' radar because they were the first schools that interested her after her stay at Central Arizona.

"I wanted to go to Arizona or Arizona State to stay in Arizona because I liked it a lot there," Nyhus said. "But with (Arizona's) Alicia Hollowell coming in my sophomore year as a freshman there, I knew, after seeing what she had posted, that I wouldn't get any pitching time. Their head coach kind of said the same thing to me — that he would take me but he had no use for me right then."

Swinnen falls but Panova wins in California

Daria Panova impressed in winning her first two matches at the Pacific-10 Championships in Ojai, Calif.

By Clayton Jones
Freelance Reporter

The highest ranking in Oregon men's tennis history didn't help junior Sven Swinnen.

Swinnen was ousted in the first round of the Pacific-10 men's Individual Tennis Championships on Thursday in Ojai, Calif.

Swinnen, ranked 17th in the nation, didn't have his serve broken once throughout the three-set thriller, but couldn't break through Arizona's Colin O'Grady's and lost, 7-6, 6-7, 7-6.

"I think if you look at it the right way, this could be a blessing," Oregon head coach Chris Russell said. "Swinnen just doesn't get disappointed after a loss; he analyzes what he needs to improve and goes out and gets better."

Russell said the loss will give Swinnen the time to isolate some aspects of his game he needs to improve before the NCAA singles tournament.

Oregon's lone singles player still alive is junior Manuel Kost. The Swiss-born Kost powered his way over Arizona's Whi Kim, 6-4, 6-3, and avenged an earlier loss this season to UCLA's Luben Pampoulov, defeating the Bruin in three sets, 6-2, 3-6, 7-5.

"I wanted to go to a program that was going to be successful," she added.

Being careful with her pitching has a new meaning for Nyhus. The White Rock, British Columbia native was used to just blowing pitches by every batter she faced.

"You're going to face the best in the nation every game," Nyhus said about the Pac-10. "UCLA was really my first look at that — I had to focus and be smart all the way through the order. Their No. 7 hitter hit a home run off me (Sunday). I mean, there are no weak spots in that lineup. Our team is



Erik R. Bishoff Photographer

Daria Panova, seen here earlier this season, won her first two matches of the Pacific-10 Conference Championships in Ojai, Calif., to advance to Friday.

"He out-played Kim and his serve was just too big," Russell said. "Against Pampoulov, he had him play extra tennis by volleying. He stepped up and earned this win." Kost will play No. 31 Adriano Biasellia of Southern California today at noon in the quarterfinals.

In Oregon's other two matches, Markus Schiller lost to No. 11 Sam Warburg of Stanford, 6-2, 7-5, and

Thomas Bieri lost to USC's Jasmil Al-Agba, 7-6, 6-0.

"Both of them played their asses off in spots and if they can step up and do that throughout the whole match, it will help the team out tremendously," Russell said.

Panova breezes to quarterfinals

Oregon's Daria Panova continued

her quest for a second-straight Pac-10 individual outdoor title by defeating Arizona State's Joslynn Burkett, 4-6, 6-2, 6-2, and 39th-ranked Theresa Logar of Stanford, 6-2, 6-2, to move her way into today's quarterfinals.

Panova said her first-set struggles were due to the shadows on the court.

"It took me a set to get used to the courts, but after I adjusted I did what I needed to do to win the match," she said.

"Daria just had some first-round jitters and once she got that out of her system, she didn't make any mistakes," Oregon head coach Nils Schyllander said.

Oregon's Dominika Dieskova overpowered her first opponent, but a battle with dehydration in her second match slowed the freshman from Slovakia. She was defeated, 5-7, 6-1, 6-1, by 12th-ranked Alice Barnes of Stanford.

"Dominika was playing very well and it's a shame this happened to her," Schyllander said.

Courtney Nagle finished her singles career at Oregon, losing in the first round to Dea Sumantri of Washington, 4-6, 6-3, 6-4.

"I was most impressed with Courtney and how she played her match today," Schyllander said. "She played a great match and should be proud."

Clayton Jones is a freelance reporter for the Emerald.

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