

Hadzic's victory keeps UO tennis from advancing

Davina Mendiburu can't come away with Oregon's fourth point as Washington takes the match in Seattle

By Hank Hager
Sports Editor

The Oregon women's tennis team had a moderate weekend of success in Seattle, narrowly losing to No. 10 Washington a day after winning its first-round match against No. 31 New Mexico.

The Ducks, ranked 32nd in the nation, had Washington on the ropes but Dinka Hadzic took a three-set match from Oregon's Davina Mendiburu, 6-4, 1-6, 7-6, to advance the Huskies into the third round and end the Ducks' season.

Mendiburu was up 6-5 at one point in the final set, but could not pull away for the victory.

Strong singles play from the Ducks set up the rubber match between Mendiburu and Hadzic.

No. 12 Daria Panova lost to 33rd-ranked Claire Carter, 7-5, 6-1,

but Courtney Nagle and Anna Leksinska overtook their opponents in straight sets.

Nagle, unranked this season, took down No. 64 Erin Hoe, 6-1, 6-4, while Leksinska took care of Saskia Nauenberg, 6-1, 7-5. Panova won her doubles match with Nagle, 8-4, over Carter and Dea Sumantri.

The Washington duo, however, bounced back. Carter evened up the score with Panova in singles and Sumantri, ranked No. 17, did the same, defeating No. 71 Dominika Dieskova, 6-2, 6-2.

Mendiburu and Ester Bak earned Oregon's first point of the afternoon, closing out their doubles match, 8-6, over Mugette Ahn and Nauenberg. That gave the Ducks two wins in three attempts in doubles play.

The second round match came after the Ducks defeated New Mexico, 4-3, on Saturday. Oregon again earned the first point by taking two of three doubles matches, then wins by Panova, Nagle and Mendiburu propelled the Ducks into the next round.

"It was a great match," Oregon head coach Nils Schyllander said.

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time came in mid-April at the Mt. SAC Relays (13.53).

"It really helped having the Bruins around me at the start," Mitchum said. "I knew what was expected from me, and it kept me focused on the race itself and not the pressure. I got out a little slow but then had a good middle part of the race and just finished it off from there."

Skipper continued his brilliant freshman campaign Friday by setting a new outdoor season best (first, 18 feet 3 1/4 inches) in the pole vault. The Sandy native was tested by UCLA's Yoo Kim early, but pulled away with first-attempt clearances at 17-11 1/4 and 18-3 1/4 to win by 8 inches.

"I wasn't my best early in the pole vault, but once I got in the flow, things started feeling a lot better," Skipper said. "Having Andy (Young) and Trevor (Woods) out there doing well and cheering you on was also really special, and the crowd added an extra energy."

Woods, a two-time All-American, finished fifth (16-11 1/2). Young missed his personal best by an inch

route to a 12th-place finish (16-5 1/2).

Oregon senior Adam Jenkins just missed successfully defending his Pac-10 javelin title, finishing second to Arizona's Matt Wagner (233-4). Jenkins' top throw of 227-4 was good for third on the Oregon all-time list.

"I had a bad first two attempts, so Lance (Deal, Oregon throws coach) and I agreed to use a half approach to make it simpler, and that worked really well," Jenkins said. "That got my spirits back up and back in the competitive mental framework. From there, as I got closer to Wagner, that made it easier to give me confidence and I started thinking I actually had a chance to get him."

The Oregon 4x400 relay team of Travis Anderson, Brandon Holliday, Kedar Inico and Matt Scherer finished second (3:03.49) to Arizona State while setting a 2.51 second school record.

Holliday, who entered with the Pac-10's top time in the 400 hurdles (51.08), finished fourth (50.52) despite running the fastest time of his career. UCLA's Brandon Johnson won the event with a time of 48.85.

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the Oregon Twilight two weeks ago.

Junior Sarah Malone did not meet her goal in the javelin throw, which she expected to win. Malone placed second, earning her best mark, 171-5, on her first throw. The Newberg native lost to her rival and 2001 NCAA Javelin Champion Inga Stasiulionyte from Southern California, who threw 181-11.

Malone hopes to improve on her marks during the NCAA West Regionals in two weeks.

"I was hoping to win it, but you have to give credit to Inga because she's a great competitor, and you have to have your best day to beat her," Malone said. "She also throws really well when there's no wind, while I love headwinds. I'll go back to the drawing board and be ready to give it another go at regionals."

In the sprints, junior Sofie Abildtrup battled a hamstring injury to take fifth in the 400 meters with the second fastest-time in her career

at 53.22 seconds.

Abildtrup said the adrenaline from competing at the Pac-10 Championships kicked in and her injury ended up not being too much of a factor.

"I felt great (Friday), but (Saturday) my hamstring tightened up and I was a little worried," Abildtrup said. "Once I got to the track, I got excited. It started feeling better and I knew I was ready to give it a go."

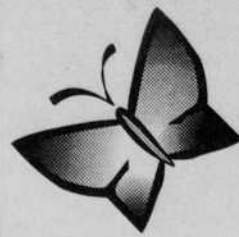
Abildtrup returned to anchor the 4x400 relay unit that finished seventh overall in the event with a season-best time of 3:42.23.

The women will go to the NCAA West Regionals in Northridge, Calif., in two weeks with an opportunity to later compete at the NCAA Championships in June.

Smith said the women have a bright future ahead of them.

"I think this season has been a great foundation as we continue to build both (the women's and men's) programs," Smith said.

Contact the sports reporter at alexam@dailyemerald.com.



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