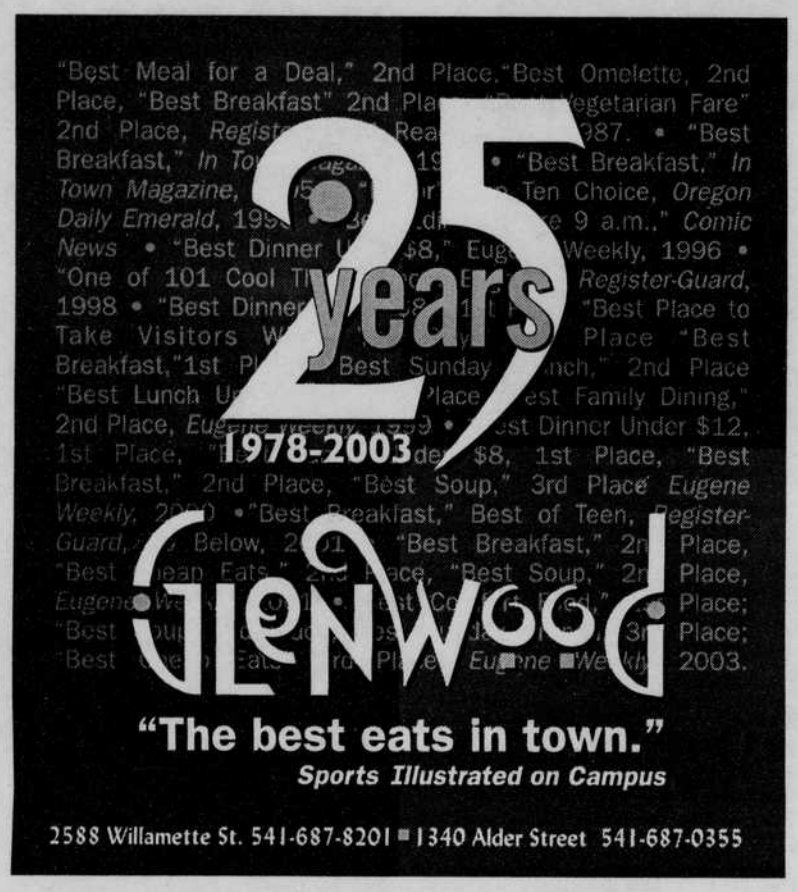

SPORTS BRIEF

Women's tennis hires new assistant coach

The Oregon women's tennis team hired Monica Poveda as a new assistant coach, women's tennis head coach Nils Schyllander announced last week.

Poveda, a former professional tennis player and a member of the Bolivia Fed Cup team, replaces former assistant coach Kathy Sell, who left Oregon to take over the women's tennis head coaching job at Princeton University in May.

"We are very excited to have Monica join our staff," Schyllander said. "She played at a very high collegiate and professional level and has a tremendous amount of coaching experience under her belt. We look for her to have an immediate impact on our program.

"Poveda, a Bolivian native, is a 2001 graduate of the University of Tulsa and was named the Western Athletic Conference Player of the Year in 2000. She helped guide Tulsa to a program-best No. 21 ranking four years ago.

Since 2002, Poveda has coached junior players from Bolivia, while she continues to play on the Bolivia Fed Cup team. She was named team captain this past year.

The Oregon women's tennis team returns all but one player from last year's squad, which won 17 matches and reached the second round of the NCAA Tournament.

— Alex Tam

VOLLEYBALL

continued from page 17

postseason and becoming a consistent top-20 team.

"All of our players are winners," Ferreira said. "We are on the verge of Pac-10 success and have the makeup to have a good start and potentially be in position to make some noise in the conference."

Westendorf was one of the Ducks' top outside hitters in 2003 after posting a total of 219 kills and 1.76 digs per game. She has also missed only one game over the past two seasons.

Fellow outside hitter Kelly Russell, last season's Most Valuable Player, also returns after leading the team in kills (278) and service aces (17).

O'Neil will play the libero position, which is primarily a defensive position. The libero is not allowed to serve, to spike the ball over the net or to rotate into one of the front-row positions. O'Neil, a graduate of Gresham High School, has played in all 91 of Oregon's games with a team-high 266 digs and an average of 2.92 digs per game.

OREGON VOLLEYBALL

Last season's record: 3-24 overall (0-18 Pacific-10 Conference)

First game: Oregon vs. Southern Oregon, McArthur Court, Wednesday, September 1, 7 p.m.

Backing up O'Neil at the libero position are three sophomores — Stephanie Alleman, Candice Feola and Allyson Leavitt. All three will provide depth on defense.

"I feel that we have the ability to play a ball-control style," Ferreira said. "All four players will give us the effort we are looking for at the position."The Pacific-10 Conference will once again be the top league in the nation after six Pac-10 teams reached the Sweet 16 last season and USC winning its second straight championship. Oregon begins conference play on Sept. 24 at home when they host Oregon State.

"The bottom line is we need to utilize what we are strong at and continue to promote the concept of relationships and family with this team," Ferreira said. "Our players have worked very hard and deserve to see results which I feel are right around the corner."

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TAM

continued from page 17

the community here in Eugene.

"I like the people in the town," Kelly said. "They have a lot of love for the football program at Oregon. I was just walking around the town and I could see the spirit of the school. Everyone was wearing Oregon stuff and people would come up and ask me if I was a football player. There's a lot of respect for the college in the community and it doesn't rain as much there as people think."

It's a shame that Kelly won't be able to experience that downpour of rain that often unpredictably hits Autzen Stadium during football games.

It's a shame that Kelly won't be able to feel what it's like to play in one of the greatest college-football stadiums in the country.

And it's a shame that Kelly won't be able to compete in front of 54,000 screaming Duck fans, including students, parents and alumni, who root and support their team every down, every minute and every second.

All of this will now not be possible because of a couple of idiots, who mindlessly fired off a gun late Thursday night.

It's a real shame.

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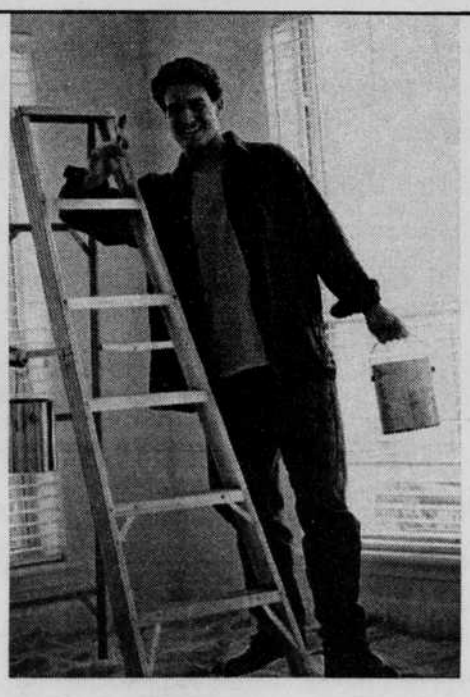

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