

■ Duck tennis

Swinnen, Panova head team efforts in championships

Men's 'mixed bag' of performances leaves questions concerning their upcoming Michigan tournament

BY ALEX TAM
FREELANCE REPORTER

The Oregon men's and women's tennis teams will compete in their respective regional championships with an opportunity to move on to one of the nation's premiere collegiate indoor tennis tournaments.

The Oregon men will travel to Berkeley, Calif., to play at the Wilson/Intercollegiate Tennis Association West Men's Regional Championships that runs through Tuesday.

Oregon men's interim head coach Ross Duncan said he has been pleased with some of his players' efforts in the first couple of tournaments. However, he said there have also been some disappointing performances from some players, whom he would not identify.

"We've been a mixed bag, but we have had a lot of promising results," said Duncan. "There were (also) guys who haven't done as well."

Senior Sven Swinnen is once of the Ducks looking to bounce back after being upset by Boise State's Luke Shields in straight sets at the ITA All-American tournament earlier this month.

Duncan said Swinnen had been battling a cold the past couple

weeks, which could have slowed him down.

A surprise in the early going for Oregon has been the play of Vladimir Pino, who is entering his second season as a Duck. Pino, a native of Stockholm, Sweden, made it to the quarterfinals at the Bronco Classic tournament in Boise two weeks ago.

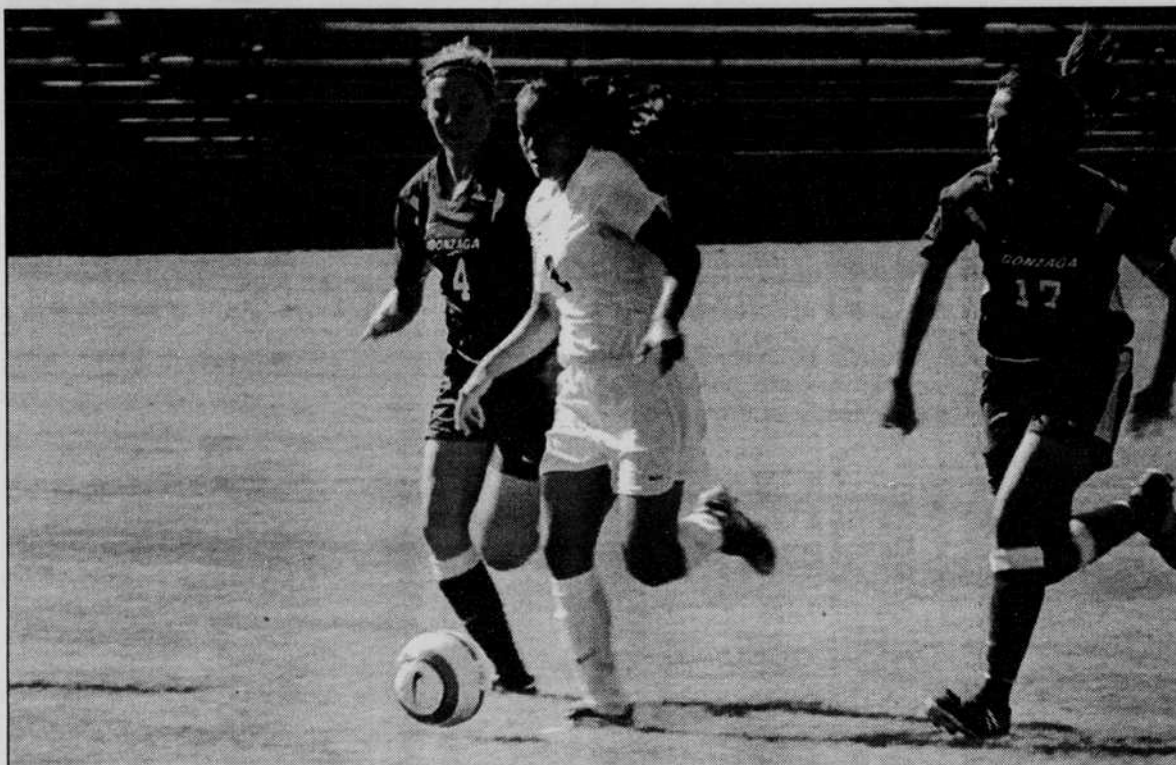
"He's been practicing really well," Duncan said. "He has a good idea what he's doing. He showed up in a little bit better shape. I think that's been a major factor."

The Ducks will be without the junior Arron Spencer. Duncan said Spencer, who had shoulder surgery this summer, will not play due to precautionary reasons.

On the women's side, the Ducks will make the trek to Palo Alto, Calif., for the Wilson/ITA Northwest Women's Regional Championships.

Oregon senior Daria Panova is slated to hold one of the top singles seeds in the tournament. In doubles, Panova and sophomore Dominika Dieskova will pair up as the No. 3 seed.

Alex Tam is a freelance reporter for the Daily Emerald



ERIK R. BISHOFF | PHOTOGRAPHER

Oregon junior Cristian Higa will shoulder most of the offensive load this weekend in lieu of Mele French, who received a red card against Oregon State Friday. French will return to the line-up to face Washington.

Soccer: Oregon battles Washington teams

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conference poll but currently sit in a tie for third with Southern California.

The Cougars are coming off their first sweep in school history of the two southern California schools, USC and No. 6 UCLA.

Washington State's junior goalkeeper, Katie Hultin, shut out both schools, posting nine saves against UCLA, which has already recorded 35 goals this season. The shutouts earned her Pac-10 Player of the Week honors for the second time this season. Hultin is currently ranked second among Pac-10 keepers in shutouts (6), shutouts per game (.46), saves (65) and saves per game (5.00).

"They have had some mixed

results," Steffen said of the Cougars' up and down season. "They have a great goalkeeper and a good defense."

Oregon (3-9-1, 0-3) vs. Washington (10-3-1, 1-2-1)

No. 7 Washington's 1-2-1 record in the Pac-10 is deceiving.

The Huskies are in the top five in the conference in nearly every major category, and one of their losses was a drumming against No. 6 UCLA last weekend.

The Huskies completed non-conference play with a 9-1 mark, tying the 2000 school-best non-conference record.

Washington is fifth in points (68), goals (26) and goals per game (1.86).

"They have one player, Tina Frimpong, who is very dangerous,"

Steffen said. "But we need to be aware of the entire team, not just Tina."

The senior is on the verge of becoming the most prolific offensive player in school history.

Frimpong scored her 35th career goal last week against USC to move past current UW assistant coach Tami Bennett, who had 34 from 1997 to 2000.

She also holds the school record in game-winning goals with 15. Frimpong, the 2003 Pac-10 Co-Player of the Year, has 79 total points in her career.

Oregon will open the weekend today at 7 p.m. against Washington State.

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Baseball: First World Series since 1987

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Biggio made contact with Suppan's fourth pitch, hitting a no-doubt drive to left. At 38, it was the kind of big hit he hoped for much earlier in his career.

Jim Edmonds of St. Louis prevented a big inning with the type of catch that's made him a six-time Gold Glove winner. Shaded toward right-center, he raced back into the left-center alley and made a headlong dive to rob Ausmus with two runners on. Clods of grass kicked up as Edmonds' knees hit the ground, and he slid several feet on his stomach.

When Edmonds came up in the bottom of the second with his

grass-and-dirt stained uniform, he had a few fun words with Ausmus at the plate.

After taking away a couple of runs, Edmonds was charged with an error that gave back a run in the third. Beltran walked with one out, stole second and tagged up on Jeff Bagwell's fly ball. Edmonds' strong throw arrived simultaneously with Beltran at third base, and the ball skipped into the dugout.

Edmonds was charged with the error that allowed Beltran to trot home. It was a tough error, ending St. Louis' record streak of 12 straight postseason games without a mistake, dating back to 2002.

Suppan put down a perfect suicide-squeeze bunt that pulled the Cardinals to 2-1 in the third. Womack hustled for a lead-off double, running at will on Biggio's weak arm in left, and moved up on a grounder.

On the first pitch, Suppan bunted to the right side and the Astros' only play was at first base.

Notes

The Cardinals became the first NL Central team to reach the World Series. It was the only division without an appearance. Hall of Famer Red Schoendienst threw out the first ball. He managed the Cardinals to the 1967 World Series title against Boston and is currently a special assistant.

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