

■ Duck volleyball

# Ducks surrender a pair of losses to Arizona teams

Oregon failed to win a game last week as it was swept by both Arizona and Arizona State on the road

BY STEPHEN MILLER  
SPORTS REPORTER

Oregon's volleyball team came up drier than a desert as it was swept in two matches on the road against the Arizona schools last week. The Ducks have lost 10 straight league contests.

Sophomore outside hitter Sarah Mason returned to Oregon's rotation against No. 22 Arizona on Thursday, but the Wildcats — with a .434 team hitting percentage — claimed a victory in three games, 30-17, 30-19, 30-19.

The Ducks (9-14 overall, 1-12 Pacific-10 Conference) scored more than 20 points in each game against Arizona State Friday. The Sun Devils used 64 digs to reel in a 3-0 win, 30-23, 30-24, 30-22, and end their five-game losing skid.

"We began (Friday's) match siding out as well as we have in weeks," Oregon head coach Carl Ferreira said. "I was pleased with our passing as well. We just could not slow them down defensively."

Junior outside hitter Kelly Russell shared the match-high total for kills with 14 on 38 attempts for a .237 average. Individually, Russell led Oregon in those three areas as well as digs. She posted a team-high 12 digs en route to her sixth double-double of the season.

Mason reached double figures in kills with 10 for the first time since Oct. 9.

"There was almost a feeling that we were back to playing how we were earlier in the season," Ferreira said. "It was really good to see Sarah back at full-strength."

Arizona State (9-13, 4-9) hit .579 in the second game as a team and .280 for the match. Middle blocker Colette Meek landed 14 kills on 21 attempts and tallied only two attack errors (.571). The freshman also recorded two solo blocks and one block assist.

Libero Sydney Donahue, also a freshman, collected two match-highs with 19 digs and three service aces.

The Sun Devils refused to attack in

the direction of Oregon libero Katie O'Neil, who finished with only six digs, ending her streak of 10 consecutive matches with at least 10 digs.

Setter Heather Madison put up 31 assists, 10 digs and two service aces for Oregon.

On Thursday, Oregon landed a total of 28 kills in three games and was unable to establish a consistent attack or a reliable defense as it yielded 54 kills to Arizona.

"We got off to a sluggish start," Ferreira said after the loss. "Arizona played really well. We had a bit of a slide in terms of team blocking, and that hurt us."

Despite recording only one team block, the Ducks limited the Wildcats' leading attacker, Kim Glass, to 11 kills and a .100 hitting percentage. The junior All-American committed eight errors on 30 attempts.

Arizona (14-8, 7-6 after defeating Oregon State on Friday) had 11 attack errors total, and it heavily relied on outside hitter Meghan Cumpston to score points. The sophomore delivered a match-high 17 kills on 28 swings with one error (.571).

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# Football: California defense blanks Ducks in second half

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to McArthur.

The Cal defense used the score as momentum in the second half and didn't allow another Oregon point. The Ducks penetrated the Golden Bear side of the field only once during the final two quarters but came up short on Allen's fourth-down drop.

"I'm extremely proud of our kids and the character they showed in the second half," Cal head coach Jeff Tedford said. "In the first half, we had a little bit of trouble slowing them down. But there was never any doubt. We came out and moved the ball very well in the second half."

Whitehead finished with 91 yards in 15 carries, while Clemens added 53

yards in 14 attempts for Oregon. Maxwell led the Ducks with five receptions for 53 yards and a touchdown.

Rodgers finished 21 of 32 for 275 yards and three touchdowns for Cal. His top target was McArthur, who caught eight passes for 121 yards and two touchdowns.

Oregon has two games remaining on its schedule and needs to win one to become bowl eligible. The Ducks face UCLA Saturday at Autzen Stadium and finish the regular season at Oregon State the following weekend.

"I'm excited to go home and prepare for UCLA," Clemens said. "We're feeling good."

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# Men's: Freshman Bryce Taylor impressive off Oregon bench

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He can pass it, he can shoot it, he can get to the hole, he rebounds and defends."

In the first half, Trinity Western kept the game within reach on a 7-1 run that closed the Oregon lead to 45-35 entering halftime.

The Spartans were led by guard Adam Friesen, a Tualatin native, who had 10 points at the end of the first half. Friesen, who attended Lane Community College, finished the game with 31 points and nine rebounds.

The Oregon lead could have grown even larger if it weren't for continuously missed lay-ups and shots inside the paint. Kent said his coaches counted "16 point-blank lay-ups alone" that his squad missed in the first half.

"We missed due to nerves and jitters a little bit," Kent said. "But once we settled down, I thought this team did a really, really good job of sharing the basketball and scoring the basketball. We will shoot it better once we get comfortable with the crowds."

In the second half, the Ducks turned up their defensive pressure and used size to their advantage

against Trinity Western, whose tallest player stood at just 6-foot-8. Oregon went on a 12-2 run during the first two minutes of the second half to take a 57-37 lead, essentially sealing the game's fate. The Spartans got no closer than 12 points the rest of the way.

Kent said the group who started the second half — including Hairston, Aaron Brooks and Jordan Kent — asserted themselves defensively to take control of the game.

"We made some adjustments at halftime," Kent said. "I thought the group that started the second half (did well). We just jumped out to a 20-point lead like nothing."

Another freshman who made a big contribution was 6-foot-5 guard Bryce Taylor. Coming off the bench, Taylor was the team's second-leading scorer with 13 points on six-of-13 shooting in 18 minutes.

"That's just how I play; with no fear," Taylor said. "I know that's what I do best; I shoot the ball. I just get out there and if I'm open, I'm going to shoot it."

Alex Tam is a freelance reporter for the Daily Emerald

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