

In my opinion



CLAYTON JONES
SEVENTH INNING STRETCH

Clarett says Ohio State put the buck in Buckeye

Just when things couldn't get worse for Ohio State, they did.

Former Buckeye Maurice Clarett told ESPN The Magazine that he was receiving improper benefits from The Ohio State.

Oh how The mighty have fallen.

The Buckeyes aren't ranked in the top 25.

They lost three games in a row for the first time in quite a long time, including a loss to, oh I can barely say this ... Northwestern.

Now allegations are being thrown at them that they are violating a cornucopia of NCAA rules.

The former Ohio State running back, who led them to a national title during the 2002 season, claims head coach Jim Tressel along with other people within the program and boosters set him up with fake jobs and fast cars.

Clarett claims he was paid quite handsomely for landscaping jobs that he wouldn't even show up for.

He said boosters "made sure your money's straight."

Clarett said boosters would give him thousands of dollars and the better he performed, the more money boosters would give him.

He continued on, saying that the program arranged for him to be with an academic adviser whose sole purpose was to ensure he was eligible to play football. Clarett says he was enrolled in independent study courses and was handpicked professors who would pass him whether he attended classes or not.

The New York Times quoted a teaching assistant at Ohio State saying Clarett received "preferential treatment," and that he walked out of a midterm exam and still passed the class after a professor gave him an oral exam.

Tressel is also accused by Clarett of setting him up with loaner cars.

But let's all remember this is a guy who was kicked off the team for potential academic and "financial irregularities" and vowed his revenge against the Buckeyes.

Is this his revenge or is he trying to do the right thing?

Who knows, but nobody from Ohio State is saying anything.

Clarett isn't the only one stepping up and accusing Ohio State of illegal actions. Former linebacker Marco Cooper, who played for the Buckeyes before also being suspended after two arrests of drug possession, claimed he also had fake landscaping jobs, boosters helped furnish his apartment and that he borrowed cars from dealers in exchange for signed Buckeye memorabilia, according to ESPN The Magazine.

Maryland running back Sammy Maldonado, who transferred from Ohio State, said that advisers placed him in so many bogus classes that only 17 of his 40 credits transferred to Maryland.

He wasn't forced out of the school.

Ohio State officials haven't said anything about the allegations, but Ohio State athletic director Andy Geiger told ESPN The

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Club Sports

Men's water polo wins division title

Oregon avenged its only loss of the season by beating rival OSU 10-9 in the championship game

BY BEAU EASTES
FREELANCE REPORTER

The University's Club men's water polo team is heading to the home of Touchdown Jesus and the ghost of the Gipper in search of a national title.

Oregon claimed a spot this weekend in the National Collegiate Club Championships in South Bend, Ind., at Notre Dame Nov. 19-21.

The 14th-ranked Ducks, who are first in the Northwest Division of the Collegiate Water Polo Association, won three matches this past weekend in the Northwest Division Championships in Puyallup, Wash., including a 10-9 championship game against archrival Oregon State.

"The win is the most important the program has ever had," coordinator George Slavich said.

It was the first-ever divisional championship finals appearance for the Ducks.

"It's a feeling of complete elation," Slavich said.

The national tournament has been a goal since the start of the season, Slavich said, but "it's always surreal when it happens."

The victory was also sweet payback for the 10-1 Ducks, their only loss of the season coming to the Beavers in the teams' first game.

"Not only were we avenging a loss," Slavich said, "but we beat our rival for the first time ever."

The Ducks started off the five team regional with wins over Western Washington and Portland. Oregon defeated the Vikings 18-11 in the opening round and the Pilots 21-4 later that day.

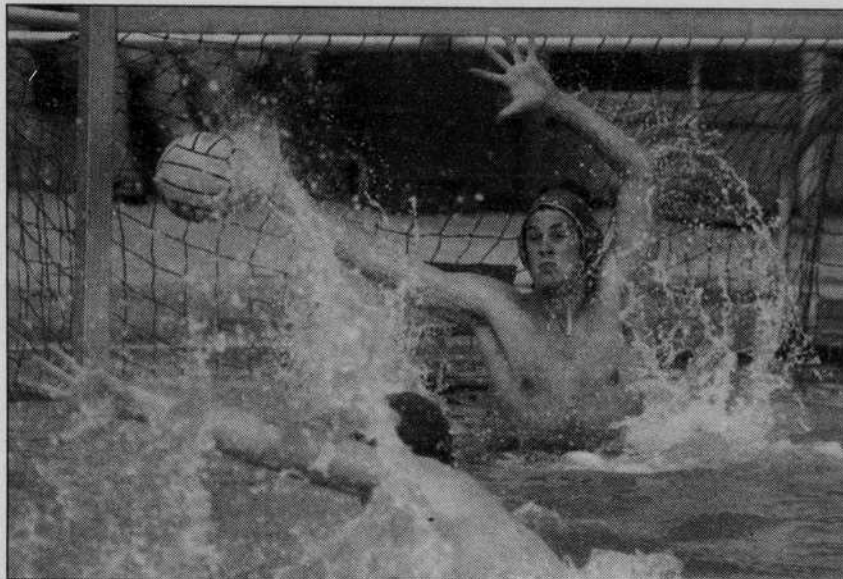
Slavich attributed the success of the season and the tournament to team defense and an efficient offense.

"We deserved it," Slavich said. "We wanted it more."

Club hockey splits with California

The University's Club hockey team also found success on the road this weekend, splitting two games with Pacific-8 Conference leader California.

"Anytime you can get a win on a road trip,



Freshman goalie Noah Saltman attempts to block a shot in the Ducks' season-opening loss against Oregon State. The Ducks turned around to beat the Beavers 10-9 Nov. 7 to win the Northwest Division Championship

LAUREN WIMER | SENIOR PHOTOGRAPHER

it's pretty good," forward Justin Keeland said.

In a unique scoring twist, the Ducks tied the Golden Bears 3-3 in regulation Friday night, earning each team one point in the American Collegiate Hockey Association standings. But because Pac-8 rules require a winner for conference games, Oregon and Cal went to a shootout to decide the winner. Cal won the offensive tiebreaker, giving them the Pac-8 win.

"It was disappointing we couldn't pull it out," said Keeland, also the club coordinator. "We felt we should have scored a lot more."

Cal opened the first period with an early goal, but the Ducks answered with three quick goals to pull ahead 3-1. The Golden Bears rallied late, scoring two goals in the third period, the tying shot coming with 28 seconds left in regulation.

Senior center Mike Tornabene led Oregon offensively with two goals in the contest and junior forward Justin Savich added a goal and two assists. Defensively, freshman goaltender Matt Nuernberg stopped 38 of 41 shots for the Ducks.

In Saturday night's contest, the Ducks rebounded from the previous night's defeat by again jumping out early. Oregon, riding on freshman Cal Brackin's two goals, took an early 4-1 lead from which Cal would be unable to recover.

"We came out ready to skate," Keeland said. Cal scored two late goals in the third period,

to make the final score 4-3.

"We feel we proved something," Keeland said.

Sophomore defenseman Mike Roley had two assists in the win that also saw junior defenseman Jordan Guffin and Savich each score a goal. Nuernberg allowed the three goals on 35 shots.

For the weekend, the 11th-ranked Ducks outshot their Berkeley counterparts 85-76.

The Ducks host College of the Canyons this weekend before they travel to No. 10 UCLA Nov. 19 and 20 for their next Pac-8 matchup.

Eap wins Club Cross Country meet

Sopagna Eap won the University's Running Club's first home meet of the season, Pre's Trail Cross Country Open, Sunday.

Eap, a graduate student, won the women's 5K in 18 minutes, 29 seconds, 12 seconds ahead of the second-place finisher. The women's running club had four athletes finish in the top 10 with Tiffany Beechy placing fourth (18:45), Liisa Heinonen seventh (19:44) and Meriel Hartling ninth (19:57).

In the men's 8K, Oregon's Carlos Trujillo finished seventh (26:17) on the course at Alton Baker Park to lead the male runners.

Beau Eastes is a freelance reporter for the Daily Emerald

Pac-10 volleyball

Stanford star approaches Pac-10 career kills mark

With seven matches remaining, senior Ogonna Nnamani needs 123 kills to pass former UCLA star Kristee Porter's career total

BY STEPHEN MILLER
SPORTS REPORTER

The highlighted numbers in the Pacific-10 Conference this week are three and 20.

Stanford's Ogonna Nnamani was honored as the Pac-10 Player of the Week for the third time this season. This is the fifth time she has been recognized in her career.

Nnamani has accrued 2,133 kills in her stint with the Cardinal and 506 this season. The senior needs 123 kills to pass Kristee Porter and become the Pac-10 career kills leader with only seven matches left. She is the league leader in kills per game (5.69) and points per game (6.35). Her .341 hitting percentage is seventh in the conference as she has committed 124 errors on 1120 attempts.

Last week, No. 12 Stanford upset No. 4 USC in a three-game sweep. Nnamani hit .578 and landed 27 kills against the women of Troy. She posted 24 kills and 14 digs against UCLA for her ninth double-double of the season.

Nnamani has recorded double figures in kills in 51 consecutive matches.

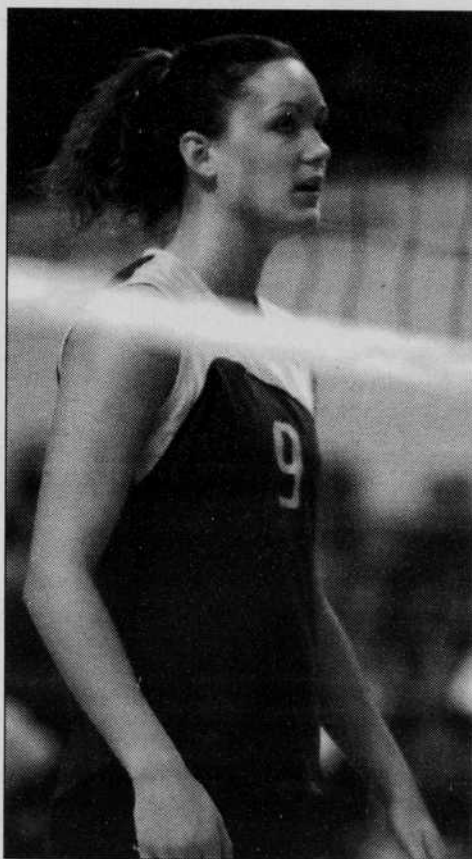
Stanford, now ranked No. 11 in the nation, has posted three of the top-five team hitting percentages in the conference this season with its last being .460 against USC.

Twenty and counting

Washington (20-0 overall, 12-0 Pac-10) is holding down the fort at No. 1 in the most recent top-25 poll. Washington State won the third and fourth games against the Huskies last week to force a fifth game, but the Seattle team prevailed once again.

Both Washington schools have played five games in two of their last three matches. The Cougars (4-21, 1-11) are the only team, besides Oregon, to not have a home win.

The Huskies continue to rely on freshman outside hitter Christal Morrison. She tallied a



DANIELLE HICKEY | PHOTO EDITOR

Washington outside hitter Christal Morrison leads the team with 294 kills this season.

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