

■ Duck volleyball

## Stanford attackers overwhelm Oregon

*Kelly Russell and Sarah Mason both posted 15 kills for the Ducks, but the Cardinal swept the match*

BY STEPHEN MILLER  
SPORTS REPORTER

Oregon gave its opponent trouble, but Stanford's attackers ultimately prevailed on Thursday at McArthur Court.

Four of the Cardinal's hitters recorded double-digits in kills as they handed the Ducks (9-15 overall, 1-13 Pacific-10 Conference) their 10th sweep of the season, 30-22, 30-22, 30-27.

"(Stanford) was pretty difficult to block, but I think our blockers did a good job," Oregon setter Heather Madison said. "Ogonna (Nnamani) hits over the block and Kristin Richards hits low, so we were just trying to adjust to that."

Nnamani landed a match-high 21 kills on 46 attempts for the No. 11 Cardinal. The senior outside hitter finished with a .348 hitting percentage. She recorded nine kills in the first game alone.

The Ducks had two players turn in equally impressive performances. Outside hitter Kelly Russell posted 15 kills, bringing her total number of kills on the season beyond 300. Sarah Mason also posted 15 kills, and both players recorded 13 digs.

"They both did an amazing job," Madison said, who finished with 39 assists. "We executed a lot better in this match than in previous matches."

Mason, a sophomore, landed Oregon's only two service aces of the match in the first game.

"A lot of people stepped up, but Sarah had an incredible match," Madison said. "We have a lot of people that are really driven on this team."

Madison said her team's all-around patience on the floor is what kept them in the contest.

Stanford (18-6, 10-3) received 11 kills and a match-best 18 digs from Richards, who now has 15 double-doubles this season. Senior Jennifer Hucke also shined with 10 kills and 10 digs.

Freshman Franci Girard added 11 kills and a match-high six block assists for Stanford, which finished with 10 team blocks compared to Oregon's four. Every player that was included in Stanford's attack recorded a hitting percentage above .225.

Oregon hit .175 for the match and sustained its hitting percentage above the .200 mark in the first and third games. Stanford hit .341 to extend its winning streak to three matches.

Senior libero Katie O'Neil collected a team-high 15 assists for the Ducks.

Oregon tied the score five times in each of the first two games. In the third game, the Ducks strung together several sideouts and recorded 13 ties, but never saw a lead greater than two points.

Stanford libero Bryn Kehoe added 50 assists and 14 digs.

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■ Men's basketball

## Ducks shift gears, turn focus to defense

*Oregon hopes to improve defensively heading into its last exhibition game with Western Oregon on Sunday*

BY CLAYTON JONES  
SPORTS EDITOR

Everybody gets to see more of the new-look Oregon men's basketball this week when they host Western Oregon in their final exhibition game Sunday at McArthur Court.

The Wolves are coming off Monday's 67-51 loss to Oregon State, but the game was much closer than the final score indicates.

In their the Ducks' first exhibition game last weekend, they blew out Trinity Western 106-79, but head coach Ernie Kent said his young team still has much to improve.

"Defensively, I want to greatly improve, particularly with our on-the-ball defense," Kent said.

Defense has been the focus at practice this week for Oregon, according to freshman Malik Hairston.

"The team needs to look better defensively," Hairston said. "We want to focus on executing, especially on transition defense."

Junior forward Ian Crosswhite, who scored 11 points and had eight rebounds against Trinity Western Sunday, agreed with Hairston.

"I think we all would like to see us do a better job on defense," Crosswhite said. "Trinity Western scored so many points so we are going to have to go out there and get some stops."

Redmond native Maarty Leunen, who grabbed a

team-high 11 rebounds against Trinity Western, said containing the ball has been stressed upon this week in practice.

"Containing the ball one-on-one and working on our defensive stance (is key)," Leunen said. "If we do break down we have to make sure it goes to the help side."

One thing that didn't break down for the Ducks on Sunday was their offense, with Hairston leading the way with 30 points in 19 minutes.

"We really started to get up and down and shared the basketball," Kent said about his team's 109-point performance. "We really got into a rhythm and I would like to start the game in that rhythm in Sunday's ball game."

The Ducks' fast-paced game wasn't easy for everybody to pick up.

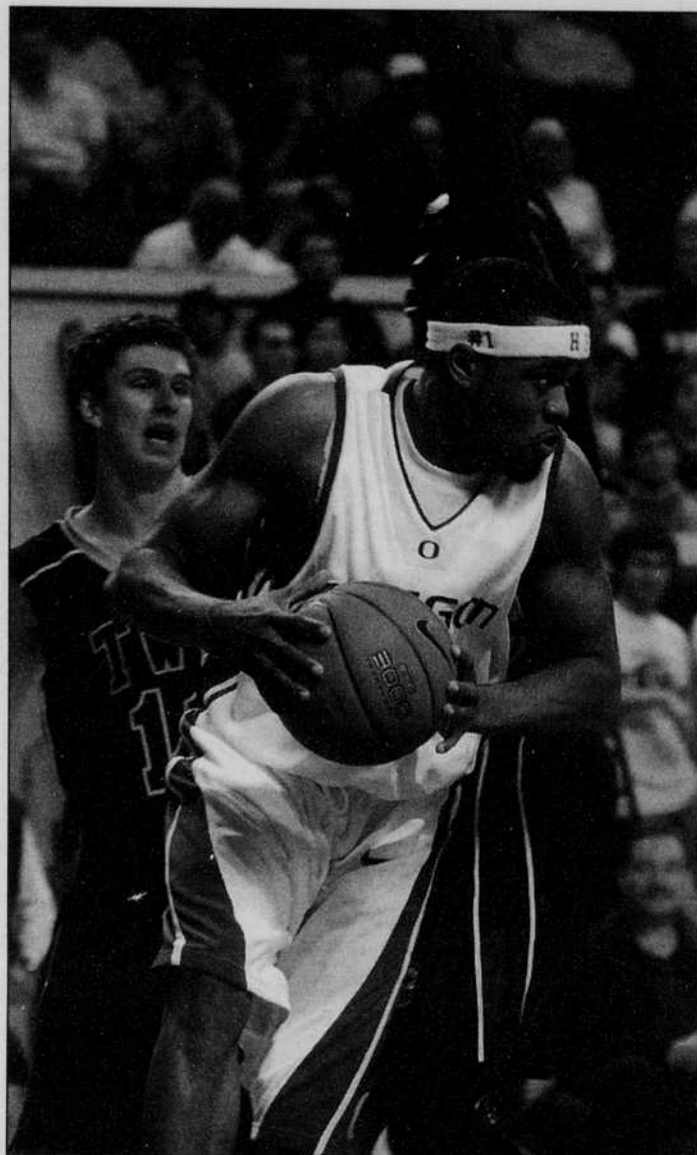
"I think it is great," Hairston said about the offense. "When I first got here, I couldn't handle it. Now that we are weeks into practice I feel like I fit right in."

Crosswhite knows despite the fast pace and a feeling of exclusion, the offense will sometimes be forced into half-court situations.

"(The offense) is fun," Crosswhite said. "As long as you are ready to go then you can get involved. Sometimes you do just feel like you're getting rebounds and just throwing the ball out there (to the guards)."

"But when it comes to sets,

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DANIELLE HICKEY | PHOTO EDITOR

Oregon guard Malik Hairston scored 30 points in 19 minutes Nov. 7 against Trinity Western. The Ducks take on Western Oregon Sunday at Mac Court.

■ Women's basketball

## Oregon prepares for game against Czech club team

*Strakonice BBC caps off a two-week tour, playing the Ducks for the second-straight year in this season's last exhibition game*

BY BRIAN SMITH  
SPORTS REPORTER

For the second year in a row, the Oregon women's basketball team will take on Strakonice BBC, a club team from the Czech Republic, in an exhibition matchup today at 5 p.m. at McArthur Court.

This will be the second and last exhibition of the year for the Ducks, who are coming off a 75-23 win over Western Oregon.

The Strakonice BBC team is part of Basketball Travelers, Inc., a company that organizes tours and tournaments for college and high school teams. Strakonice is wrapping up a two-week tour of the western United States, playing eight schools — Arizona State, Northern Arizona, UC Santa Barbara, St. Mary's, San Francisco, Fresno State, Oregon and Oregon State — along the way.

"They are a European club team, which means they are a little more experienced and older (than a college team)," Oregon head coach Bev Smith said. "They are very skilled and should be a good challenge for us."

While Strakonice will present a different look for Oregon, the team is neither deep nor offensively dangerous. Strakonice has scored 70 or more points once during its trip and has

not shot above 35 percent from the field in any of their games.

"They are more of a passing, slashing type of team," Smith said. "They are more simplistic on offense and not as athletic as other Division I college teams, but they should still be tough."

Its top two scorers are Martina Hulkova, a 5-foot-9 forward, and Miroslava Vodrazkova, a 6-foot-4 center. Both Hulkova and Vodrazkova have scored 17 points in a game and have been Strakonice's top scorers in four of its six contests.

Strakonice center Jitka Musilova had a team-high 15 points against UCSB on Nov. 7.

For the Ducks, defense and shot selection will be the emphasis in the game.

"We have to work on not talking about the outcome (during the game)," Smith said. "We're looking to be more consistent on defense and to have better shot selection. We can't have as many three-pointers (as we did last time)."

Oregon went 5-21 behind the arc against Western Oregon, with junior Chelsea Wagner connecting on three of them, while Brandi Davis had the other two. The Ducks attempted

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IN BRIEF

### Canadian point guard signs letter of intent with Oregon

Tamika Nurse, a member of the Canadian Junior National team, signed a national letter of intent with the Oregon women's basketball team yesterday.

The 5-foot-9 point guard from St. Thomas More Catholic Secondary School in Hamilton, Ontario, will join the Ducks for the 2005-06 season and is expected to replace current senior Corrie Mizusawa as the Ducks' point guard next year.

"She's got great speed ... in the full court and has really good quickness in the half court to break people down," Oregon head coach Bev Smith said. "We have a need for speed in that position. Defensively, she's a very aggressive, tough defender, particularly on the ball."

Nurse competed on the Canadian Junior National team last summer where she was the team's second-leading scorer and assists leader. She helped the team qualify for the World Championships for the first time in Canadian history.

A two-time MVP in the Canadian National Junior championships, she also was a member of the Hamilton Transway club team that won seven provincial championships.

She comes from an athletic family — her father played in the CFL, mother played college basketball at McMaster University in Hamilton and her aunt, married to the Philadelphia Eagles' Donovan McNabb, was a basketball standout at Syracuse.

— Brian Smith