

■ Duck tennis

Mendiburu tops Yesley for Flight II singles title

BY ALEX TAM
DAILY EMERALD FREELANCE REPORTER

Oregon fifth-year senior Davina Mendiburu remains undefeated this season after capturing the Flight II singles title at the Pacific-10 Conference Indoor Championships on Sunday.

The 22-year-old Mendiburu, who has a 7-0 overall record, defeated No. 1 seed Anne Yelsey of Stanford in straight sets, 6-2, 6-2 to win the championship. Mendiburu dominated her opponents by winning all three of her matches in straight sets.

"This is as good as I have seen Davina play," Oregon women's tennis head coach Nils Schyllander said. "Every shot was falling for her against some quality opponents."

The Ducks had a chance to capture three more titles — a singles title and two doubles titles — but they fell short each time.

In the Flight III singles finals, junior Jamie Marshall was defeated by Arizona's Kasia Jakowiew in a tough three-set match, 3-6, 7-6 and 6-2.

In the Flight I doubles finals, the No. 45-ranked duo Daria Panova and Dominika Dieskova lost to seventh-ranked Alice Barnes and Erin Burdette of Stanford, 8-6.

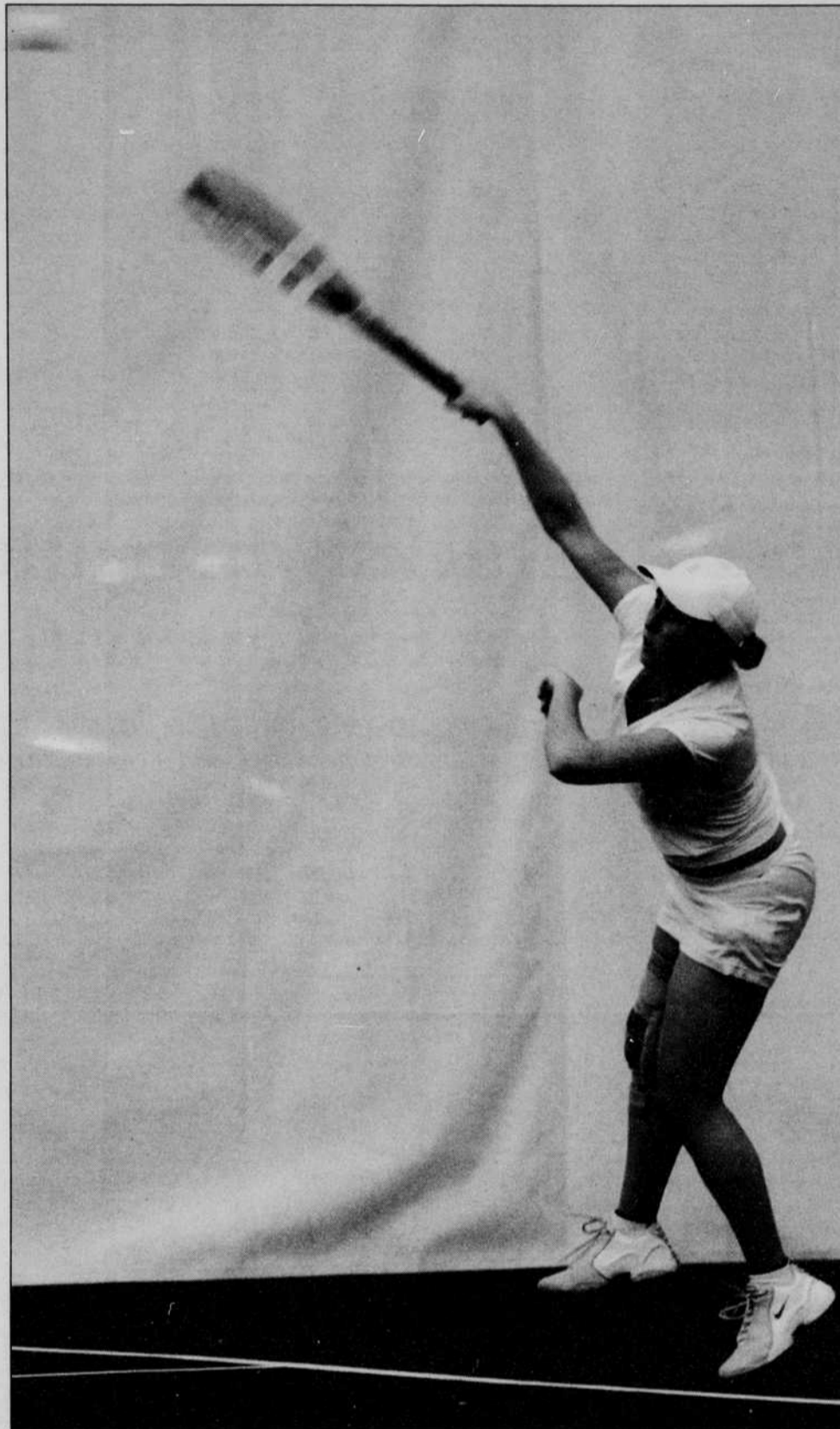
In the Flight II doubles finals, senior Ester Bak and Mendiburu were defeated by Stephanie Balzert and Kelly Perry of Arizona, 8-4.

Despite the defeats, Schyllander said he was impressed with his team's effort and play before the regular season begins this weekend.

"Overall, I am very pleased with the way the team competed," Schyllander said. "This was a tremendous opportunity to prepare for the dual season. We are excited to get home and play some dual matches."

The Ducks will begin their dual season on Friday when they host Portland at 10 a.m. and Utah at 6:30 p.m. They will also play Sunday against UC Irvine at 10 a.m. All games will be played at the

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ERIK R. BISHOFF | PHOTOGRAPHER

Oregon senior Davina Mendiburu won the Flight II singles title at the Pacific-10 Conference Indoor Championships on Sunday. Mendiburu is undefeated for the season with a record of 7-0.

■ Duck football

New coach will take over Duck offense

Former Brigham Young head coach Gary Crowton named offensive coordinator Tuesday

BY CLAYTON JONES
SPORTS EDITOR

It's been a month since the Ducks lost offensive coordinator Andy Ludwig to Utah, but it seems they have now found their guy as former Brigham Young head coach Gary Crowton has been anointed Oregon's new offensive coordinator, Oregon head coach Mike Bellotti said Tuesday.

Crowton, who will also serve as the Ducks' quarterbacks coach, led the Cougars to a 26-23 record during his four-year tenure at Brigham Young and captured a Mountain West Conference championship in 2001. In that same 2001 season, he maneuvered BYU to a 12-2 record and created an offense that both led the nation in total offense — with 542.9 yards per game — and scoring, averaging 46.8 points per game.

"I'm excited for the opportunity to join a program as well established and with the reputation of the University of Oregon," Crowton said. "It's an honor from me to work with Coach Bellotti, and I look forward to the challenges of working with the players, coaches and administrators already in place."

Before BYU, Crowton was the offensive coordinator for the Chicago Bears in the National Football League for two years (1999-2000). In 1999, Crowton helped the Bears set franchise highs in passing with 4,136 yards, placing them third in the NFL in passing. That team would finish eighth in the league in total offense.

The Orem, Utah, native was head coach of Louisiana Tech before he joined the Bears. During his final season with the Bulldogs, his team passed for a nation-leading 432.1 yards per game and was second in the nation in total offense, averaging 542.0 yards per game. Louisiana Tech went on to score over 50 points in eight of its 12 games that season. Overall, in three seasons at Louisiana Tech Crowton recorded a 21-13 record.

Crowton has been brought in to help revitalize Oregon's offense. The Ducks fell to sixth place in the Pacific-10 Conference in scoring and passing yards per game and fifth in total offense, much lower rankings than Oregon has been accustomed to in recent years.

Bellotti is confident that Crowton has the credentials and the skills to help turn the offense around.

"He's been an excellent football coach, both as a head coach and an offensive coordinator at the Division I level and in the National Football League," Bellotti said. "He knows how to make quarterbacks successful, he's very innovative and creative within the offensive structure and his philosophy fits well with mine."

Crowton's ability to master different styles of offense also seemed to attract Bellotti's attention.

"I like the way he presents his ideas and concepts," Bellotti said. "And the fact that he has experience with both two-back and one-back offenses, including option and spread attacks. I think he is a perfect fit for what we want to do in the future with our personnel and where we want to go with this offense."

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■ Outdoor Program

Snowcamping takes Oregon by storm

More than 35 students and instructors will go on a three-day trip to Tumalo Mountain to learn the tricks of the icy winter sport

BY ASHLEY GRIFFIN
FREELANCE EDITOR

Most people watch the weather to decide how many layers of clothing to wear or to determine if they'll need to defrost their cars before driving to school. Snowcampers tune in to see if a cold weather blast will allow them to leave their warm living rooms and enter a world where building and sleeping in igloos is commonplace.

For warm-weather campers, the mere idea of snowcamping can seem absurd; hiking, dining and sleeping in the dark, icy conditions of winter hardly fall under the definition of outdoor fun.

Jim Blanchard, who teaches the Outdoor Pursuits Program Snowcamping Preparation

class, explains that snowcamping actually tops regular camping for many reasons.

"When it snows, the lands that might not be up for wilderness character are beautiful and free from most people," he said.

Blanchard also recommends snowcamping because it doesn't require bug repellent — all the bugs and mosquitoes are dead.

First-year snowcamper Aimee Furber, who tried the sport so she could continue backpacking when the cold weather hit, said people shouldn't try to the sport completely unpracticed.

"Before someone tries snowcamping they should have some experience backpacking. Not everyone is into backpacking, and dealing with winter conditions adds an extra

element," she said. "The person should know about safety issues like hypothermia and avalanche danger and have some understanding of what it takes to stay comfortable in the cold."

Trip preparation involves equipment with extra insulation that will hold up in winter elements. Blanchard suggests bringing a thicker or second sleeping bag, layers of wool or synthetic clothing, snowshoes, mittens, extra socks, rainwear and a pair of boots that provide loose, dry insulation.

Furber has her own set of preferred gear.

"Some of the most useful items I've found in cold weather are hand and feet warmers, ... a Thinsulate pad to sit or stand on to minimize heat loss and one complete layer head-to-toe that always stays dry," she said.

While a tent is seemingly an important piece of camping gear, it is optional in this

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