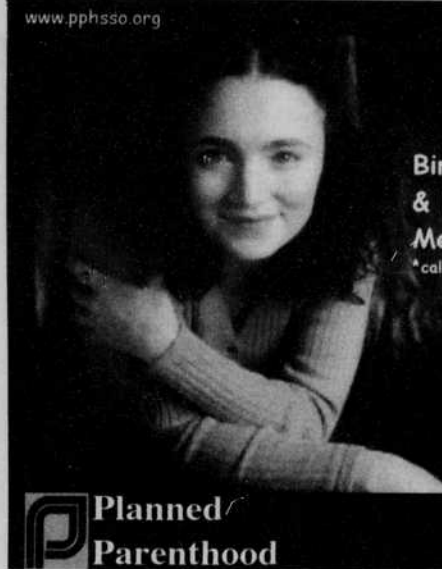


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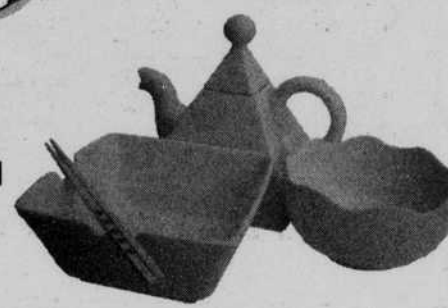
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■ Duck tennis

Both Duck squads host first home duals this weekend

The men will play Gonzaga and Linfield, while the women take on Utah, UC Irvine and Portland

BY ALEX TAM
DAILY EMERALD FREELANCE REPORTER

Oregon men's tennis head coach Kevin Kowalik arrived in Eugene just three weeks ago to take the helm of the program and has enjoyed every bit of it.

"I think it's been great so far," said Kowalik, who was named head coach in November. "I've really enjoyed being with the team."

Kowalik will guide the Ducks (1-1 overall) to their first home dual matches of the season Saturday against Gonzaga at 9 a.m. and Linfield at 5 p.m. The matches will be held at the Student Tennis Center.

Kowalik said the goal for this year's squad is to continue its ascent toward the top of a tough Pacific-10 Conference that includes three teams in the nation's top 10, according to the Intercollegiate Tennis Association.

"We want to beat the teams we can beat and beat the teams we haven't beaten before," Kowalik said. "We're here to prove that we're not the doormat of the Pac-10 anymore."

The Oregon men are coming off a 7-0 victory against Hawaii on Friday

and a 5-2 loss to Florida State on Saturday. But in the team loss, senior Sven Swinnen defeated Florida State's Mat Cloer in three sets, 7-5, 6-7 and 6-4, and inched ever closer to becoming Oregon's all-time career leader in singles victories. The 23-year-old Swinnen is four wins shy of that mark.

Meanwhile, teammate Manuel Kost recorded his 50th career victory over the weekend to sneak into the top 10 on Oregon's all-time career-victories leaderboard.

The Ducks begin the home season against a young Gonzaga squad that contains two freshmen and only one senior in the lineup.

"I know Oregon has players with an enormous amount of experience — both at the national and international level," Gonzaga head coach John Gant said. "We will have our hands full, but my team will raise up to the level of tennis that will be played this weekend."

Women to host three matches

The Oregon women's tennis team is set to open its dual season at home this

weekend with three dual matches against non-conference opponents.

The Ducks will compete against Portland at 10 a.m. and Utah at 6:30 p.m. on Friday, and against No. 64 UC Irvine at 10 a.m. on Sunday at the Student Tennis Center.

Senior Davina Mendiburu is coming off a strong performance at the Pac-10 Indoor Championships last week, in which she captured the Flight II singles title. The Ducks also had an opportunity to win three other titles at the tournament, but lost each time.

However, women's head coach Nils Schyllander said that overall he was happy with the results.

"As a group, we played great for the beginning of the season," he said.

Schyllander added that his team will be tested against three quality opponents this weekend.

"UC Irvine is a strong team, Utah is a scrappy team and Portland is a tough team," he said. "We just need to be ready and be healthy."

The Oregon women start the season ranked No. 27 in the nation and hold a strong home record after winning all eight dual matches last season at the Student Tennis Center.

Men: Olson dubs Duck youth 'outstanding'

Continued from page 13

Maarty Leunen stayed consistent inside, grabbing 10 rebounds against the Huskies.

"UCLA had some good freshmen in (the McKale Center), but you'll see three up in Oregon that will matchup with anybody in Bryce Taylor, Malik Hairston and Maarty

Leunen," Arizona head coach Lute Olson said. "Their freshman group is outstanding."

With both teams coming off narrow victories, Olson said he expects a dogfight.

"It will be the typical kind of Oregon game and crowd," Olson said. "I'm sure they are already excited

about us coming in. It starts with us getting off the bus, where the students are lined up and passing out all kinds of pleasantries to all of us. It's a great atmosphere. It may be the toughest place (to play) in the country."

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Jones: Redlands scored 153 points, lost by 28

Continued from page 13

Play some defense.

Just this past Saturday they scored 130 points ... and lost.

The Bulldogs played Cal Lutheran and lost by a single point, 131-130. While Redlands pumped up 58 three-point shots and made 22 of them, Cal Lutheran made 57 of 69 shots for an 82.6 field-goal percentage.

Cal Lutheran's Ryan Hodges went 29 of 31 from the field for 63 points.

I haven't seen this team with my own eyes, but I imagine it's pretty crazy.

Redlands scored more than 150 points earlier this season and lost to Cal Baptist — by 28 — 181-153. Cal Baptist made 82 of 100 shots and only missed five shots in the second half.

So you would think the Bulldogs would be coached by some young guy who wants to pump up scores and play no defense, but they're not.

They're coached by Gary Smith, who is in his 34th year of coaching at the school. In the early 1990s, he switched to the philosophy of running and gunning, but it has never been like this. They're on pace to destroy their school's season record

of 104.9 points per game.

But is this style of play good for the game of basketball?

Like I said before, I haven't watched them play a game, but I can't imagine they are real strong on fundamentals, so I would say no.

While it's amazing the sheer number of points they put on the board and how fun it must be to play on this team, I don't know how they can see themselves winning conference titles.

Especially after an 0-2 start.

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FULL DUCK BASKETBALL COVERAGE

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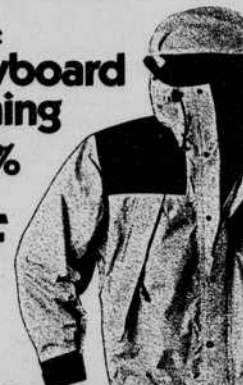
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