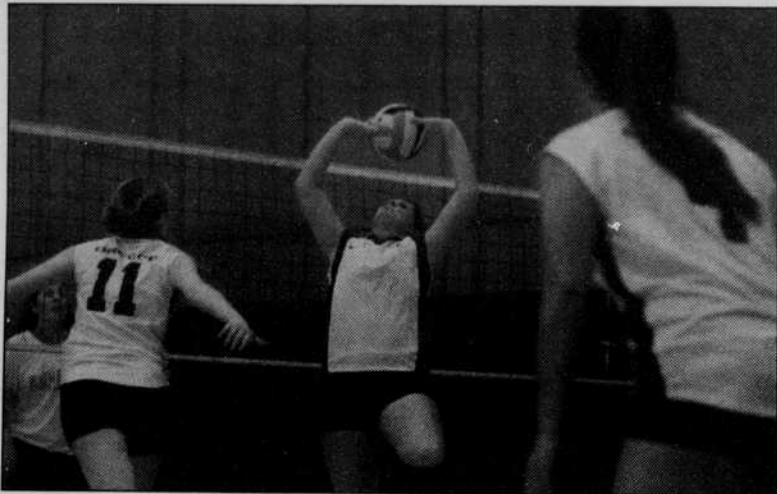


■ Club Sports



LAUREN WIMER | SENIOR PHOTOGRAPHER

The Oregon women's Club volleyball team, seen here at the home tournament Saturday, finished third behind Washington and Oregon State's "B" team.

Club volleyball ties for third place at home tournament

BY LUKE ANDREWS
DAILY EMERALD FREELANCE REPORTER

The Oregon women's Club volleyball team began its season last weekend finishing tied for third in a six-team tournament at home.

After two unofficial scrimmages with Oregon State, the tournament marked the first actual taste of game competition for this year's young Oregon team. The team wrapped up the weekend behind Washington and Oregon State's "B" squad.

"We played hard and had a lot of energy," head coach Cody Banner said. "We just made too many errors, and that is what it came down to."

In addition to Washington and two teams from Oregon State, the tournament included Eastern Washington and the Eugene Bible College.

Oregon drew rival Washington — the eventual tournament winner — in the first round match and lost game one 25-21 in a back-and-forth contest. Oregon's inexperience was apparent as the squad was continuously hampered by miscues and errors.

Game two was a different story with Oregon coming out as the aggressor. The team managed an early lead and held on for an impressive 25-18 victory.

"We were really pumped up," Caitlin McDonald said. "It was a really fun and exciting game to play."

The deciding game three ended in disappointment for Oregon as the errors that plagued them in game one returned.

The Huskies took an early 8-2 advantage. Oregon staged a comeback but eventually fell short as the Huskies squeaked by with an 18-16 victory to claim the game and match.

"Washington is a pretty solid team, and they were fired up to play us," Banner said. "And we played well,

just not well enough."

One bright spot for Oregon was the play of middle blocker Michelle Burt, who finished the game with eight kills and only one error.

As a team, Oregon had nine service aces, but the errors were too much to overcome. However, errors were few and far between against Eastern Washington and the Eugene Bible College. Oregon swept the matches against both teams.

The squad quickly overwhelmed Eastern Washington 25-10, 25-8, in its second game of the tournament, notching the team's first win of the season.

Sophomore setter Megan Beugli had 10 assists and four of Oregon's 10 service aces for the match.

Oregon then cruised to two game victories against the Eugene Bible College, upping its season record to 3-1. Oregon won the first game, 25-7, 25-6, and the second game, 25-10, 25-7.

"Everyone played well and we put up good statistics, but they are not indicative because the competition was far below our level," Banner said.

After three straight victories, Oregon got another shot at the Huskies but was again turned away, losing 26-24, 25-18.

Oregon and the Huskies were tied numerous times throughout the match, but once more it was a string of mistakes that allowed Washington to pull away each game and claim its second straight win over Oregon.

"We played well, but our communication was not as good as it was in the first game," McDonald said. "We were a little scattered."

Senior Christina Chun amassed 12 service aces throughout the entire tournament.

Overall, Oregon finished the day tied with Oregon State's "A" team for third place. Washington, however, carried its momentum into the championship game and defeated Oregon State's "B" squad.

"This was our first real chance to go out and play," Banner said. "I know we can beat them (Washington) later in the year."

Banner, after a two year break from the coaching ranks, returned this season to lead the team. He led Oregon to two straight National Championships in 2001-02 and brings with him a surplus of confidence, which will benefit Oregon down the road.

The next tournament for Oregon is the Far Westerns at UC Davis on Feb. 12.

"We have a legitimate shot at winning the National Championship," Banner said. "It is just a matter of getting that swagger that comes with playing and winning matches."

Softball: Duck starters return to outfield

Continued from page 9

is that Ashley is an introvert and doing the verbal side of catching is a chore for her. Being a dominant catcher and calling out plays is something she has to work on."

All-Pacific-10 Conference pitcher Ani Nyhus said it will be hard getting used to a new catcher.

"Missing Jen Poore is huge for me, because I worked so close with her," Nyhus said. "But Ashley is a great catcher — a little quiet — but really talented."

The infield will once again be anchored by senior second baseman Erin Goodell and junior shortstop Breanne Sabol. Goodell has only missed eight starts since coming to Oregon, and Sabol has started 119 consecutive games. They helped the Ducks lead the conference in double plays with 32.

Sabol is projected to hit second, and last season set an Oregon single-season record in sacrifice bunts with 29.

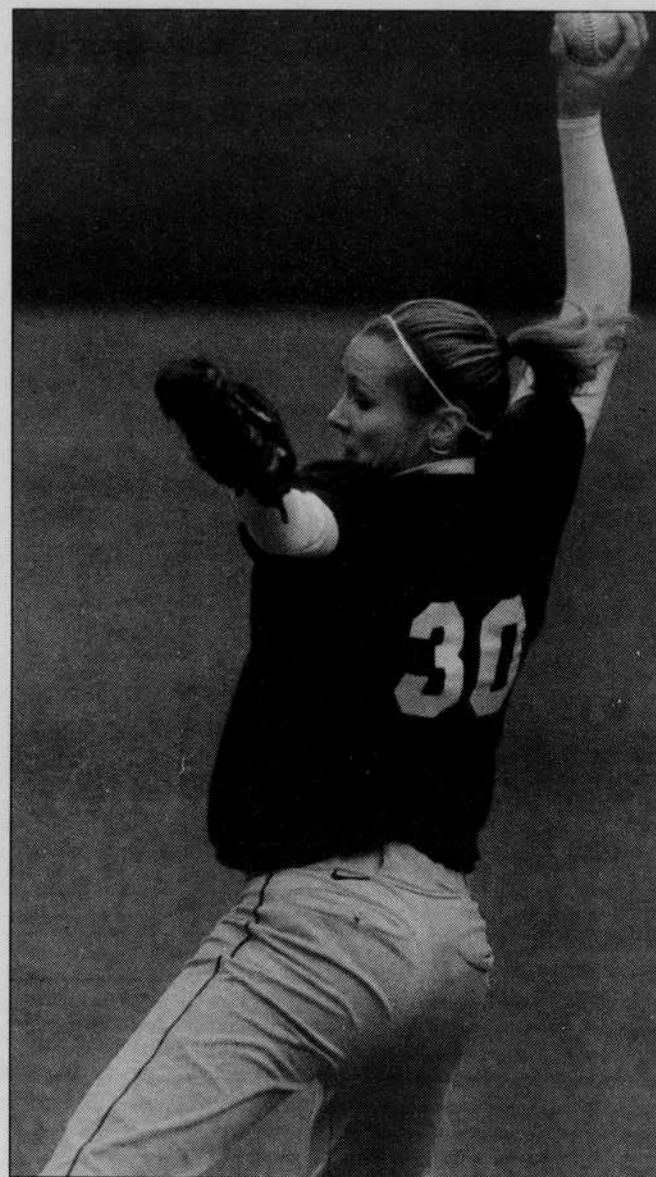
Starting at first base will be junior Beth Boskovich. She started all 63 games last season, 26 of them at first base. The Camarillo, Calif., native hit .281 last season with 6 home runs and 29 RBIs.

At the other corner, freshman Joanna Gail will get a chance to take over the spot that Richards left at third base when she moved to catcher. She was first-team all-league in high school and competed on the 2004 Greek Olympic Team during the Summer Olympics.

In the outfield, the Ducks will again have all their starters back. Left field duties will once again belong to junior Dani Baird. Last season she shined against the best competition as she batted .571 against defending national champion California.

Starting in center field will be sophomore Suzie Barnes. As a freshman she started 52 games and led the team in stolen bases (8). She likely will be hitting leadoff for Oregon this season.

In right field, sophomore Kayleen Hudson. A great freshman year saw her finish fourth on the team in average (.261), runs (23), hits (36), home



LAUREN WIMER | SENIOR PHOTOGRAPHER

Oregon senior Ani Nyhus returns after a first-team all-conference performance last season where she set the school record in strikeouts with 202.

runs (6) and RBIs (22).

The deepest position for the Ducks might be their pitching with Nyhus, junior Amy Harris, senior Lindsey Kontra and freshman Alicia Cook.

The senior Nyhus returns with an impressive resume after only one season with the Ducks. The junior-college transfer had a 25-13 record and broke the single-season record for strikeouts with 202. She is recovering from a forearm injury, but is expected to be at full strength once conference play begins.

Newcomer Alicia Cook will also be fighting for innings this season. The local from Elmira High School finished 26-1 with a 0.13 ERA and

helped lead Elmira to a second consecutive state title.

Arendsen has no plans of her redshirting this season.

"She's going to be playing for us," Arendsen said. "She will get innings for us, and down the road she could be one of Oregon's best ever."

With such a deep team returning, there is one goal in mind for this Oregon squad — the Women's College World Series.

"It's everything we're working for," Nyhus said. "Last year we got to regionals, but this year we want to make it all the way."

claytonjones@dailyemerald.com

Smith: Ducks need 'special something'

Continued from page 9

"It just makes us feel a lot more comfortable," Oregon senior Corrie Mizusawa said. "We always get about 4,000 fans a game, which is always a huge advantage, and it always makes it a lot more difficult for opponents to come in and play well."

So, what gives? Remember that certain "something"?

The Ducks have it at home, whatever it is.

Patience? Confidence?

Whatever is contained in Mac Court needs to make it onto the plane the next time the Ducks play away from home — preferably in some sort of carry-on.

So maybe instead of photos of Mac Court, the Ducks' duffel bags should contain planks of Mac Court hardwood instead.

briansmith@dailyemerald.com

Breitenbush: Pools provide relaxation for retreat visitors

Continued from page 9

all-you-can-eat organic vegetarian meals served three times a day.

"It is cafeteria-style dining with a lot of rice curry dishes and homemade bread," Baldwin said. "The salads are immense, and there are a lot of options in there."

For people who can't fit their desired activities into the time frame of one day, both Ekberg and Baldwin recommend an overnight stay.

Ekberg described the cabins as rustic, clean and simple and said they provide a good night's rest away from phones, cars, barking dogs and sirens. Each cabin is geothermally heated and powered by hydro-electricity. Some, but not all cabins, have private toilets and sinks. The remaining cabins share one of the common bath houses.

The 20,000 people who go to Breitenbush every year are as diverse as their surroundings. The

staff welcomes all ages and walks of life. On any given day, the clientele can range from newcomers to older people who have been visiting to Breitenbush for 20 to 30 years.

In addition to using the center as a place for renewal, many visitors use Breitenbush as a base camp for their winter recreation activities. Located in the Cascade Mountains and within 10 miles of Mount Jefferson and the Mount Jefferson Wilderness, it offers mountain proximity that winter recreation enthusiasts love.

Overall, Breitenbush provides something for everyone.

"We strive to provide a relaxing, cleansing and enlightening experience," Ekberg said.

Whether it is being used for renewal or recreational opportunities, with this many ways to relax in a place free from outside distractions, Breitenbush Hot Springs Retreat and Conference Center accomplishes its task.

FOR MORE INFORMATION

Visit www.breitenbush.com or e-mail the Breitenbush Hot Springs Retreat and Conference Center at office@breitenbush.com.

RENTALS!

Downhill (new shaped skis).....\$10

Cross Country.....\$10

Snowboard & Boots.....\$20

Back Country & Tele Pkgs.....\$10

Snow Shoes.....\$7

Berg's Ski Shop

13th & Lawrence • 683-1300 • www.bergsskishop.com