

■ Club Sports

Women's rugby wraps up season in Bay Area

The Club team finishes the weekend winless, including a 93-0 drubbing by Stanford and a 22-5 loss to Cal

BY LUKE ANDREWS
DAILY EMERALD FREELANCE REPORTER

The Oregon Club women's rugby team finished its season against some of the nation's best this weekend at the Pacific Coast Tournament in Palo Alto, Calif.

It was the fourth consecutive season the Ducks headed south for postseason play. This year, Oregon advanced to the tournament after defeating Oregon State 38-17 to end the regular season.

Unfortunately for Oregon, the first round of the tournament paired the Ducks with the fourth-ranked Stanford Cardinal, and Oregon's sloppy play, coupled with a high-powered Stanford attack, led the Cardinal to a lopsided 93-0 victory.

"Our spirits were down, and we were intimidated," Oregon's Ramey Marshall said. "But we would not be surprised if (Stanford) won the national title."

Despite the loss against the Cardinal, the Ducks rebounded in the second game against the 14th-ranked California Golden Bears.

Oregon managed a stronger

attack than in the first game and advanced the ball into Cal territory several times, but the Bears managed to hold off three Oregon tries to preserve their 22-5 victory. Krista Gust had the lone try for the Ducks.

"We spent most of the time with possession of the ball in their half of the field, and if we would have gotten those tries down, it would have been us in the sweet 16," Oregon head coach Greg Farrell said. "The calls were questionable, but they (the Ducks) played their hearts out."

Despite the two losses, this weekend's trip to the Bay Area ended one of the best seasons in Oregon history. In addition to beating Oregon State to earn a berth into the Pacific Coast Tournament, the Ducks went a perfect 5-0 in league play and outscored opponents 141-17.

"It was a very gratifying season," Farrell said. "They peaked each week and put in everything they needed to."

The tournament also marked the end for four seniors — Jade Santana, Lindsay Babb, Kelly Brittan

and Jessie Oettinger. The group helped Oregon to four postseason appearances including a sweet 16 finish.

"We lose a lot, but we have a great core coming back that will help continue to build this program," Farrell said.

Women's Club lacrosse "B" team defeats Portland

Despite an impressive first half of play, the Oregon Club women's lacrosse "B" team needed a late game surge to defeat the visiting Portland Pilots 10-8 on Saturday.

Junior Emma Lott scored three goals for Oregon, helping the Ducks improve to 4-1 on the season.

The victory over Portland, however, did not come easily for the Ducks.

After posting seven goals and taking a three-goal advantage into the second half, the Ducks watched their lead disappear into an 8-8 tie with five minutes remaining in the game.

"We started out really tough in the first half, but we lost our momentum in the second," Oregon goalie and team captain Lauren Kondak said. "(Portland) came back pretty strong, and we were trying to

force it too much."

But the Ducks regrouped after a time-out, and juniors Bethany Parkyn and Lott put on the finishing touches to give the Ducks the 10-8 victory.

"After the time-out, we knew we needed to be more patient on offense and not try to force it as much," Parkyn said.

The Ducks were also scheduled to play Central Washington in the second of Saturday's games, but due to a cancellation, Oregon played a doubleheader against Portland, winning the second game 7-4 in a friendly match.

The Ducks travel to a tournament in Bellingham, Wash., next weekend.

Women's Club lacrosse "A" team struggles in California

The Oregon Club women's lacrosse "A" team traveled to Cal last weekend and faced some stiff competition in a non-league tournament in Palo Alto.

The Ducks tangled with UC Santa Barbara, a San Francisco women's team, UCLA, and UCLA alumnae. Although the Ducks ended the weekend without any victories, they gained valuable

experience competing against several upper-level teams.

"We were really proud of our team," Oregon coordinator Anneke Dorsch said. "We played some really hard teams and the intensity helped us. We learned a lot."

On Saturday, Oregon faced UCLA in the first game and lost 7-3 despite two goals from Dorsch. The Ducks eventually fell to San Francisco, 10-3, and UCSB, 10-2, to round out Saturday's games.

The Ducks finished the tournament with a tough 3-2 loss to the UCLA alumnae.

"We did not bring any subs, but everyone had a phenomenal weekend," Dorsch said. "Our team really showed how much heart we have."

Dorsch, Leslie Furumasa and Allison Hosek had three goals each to lead the Ducks.

This weekend's experience should benefit Oregon in upcoming weeks. The Ducks travel to Bellingham, Wash., next weekend and to Boise State the following weekend for the Women's Division Intercollegiate Associates' Northwest league championship. The Ducks currently secure the top ranking with a 5-0 league record.

Baylor becomes NCAA champ

BY CHUCK SCHOFFNER
THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

INDIANAPOLIS — The Baylor Lady Bears simply wanted to be a shining light for a university that needed something to applaud. One dazzling national championship ought to do.

Sophia Young's 26 points, Emily Niemann's precise three-point shooting and the brilliant, energetic play of guards Chameka Scott and Latoya Wyatt carried Baylor to an 84-62 victory over Michigan State on Tuesday night for the school's first NCAA title by a women's team.

And what a title run it was. Five years after coach Kim Mulkey-Robertson took over a team that went 7-20 and was at the bottom of the Big 12 Conference, the Lady Bears now sit at the top of their sport by winning a game between two teams playing in the finals for the first time.

"What a team I get to coach," Mulkey-Robertson said. "It wasn't the coaching — it's these guys taking me for a tremendous ride."

When the horn sounded, the Lady Bears flopped on the floor in delirious celebration as confetti sprayed all around the RCA Dome. They jumped in unison, donned championship

caps, and fans chanted "Mulkey, Mulkey" while the players swarmed their coach.

They won with unforgiving defense that disrupted almost everything Michigan State tried and by poking enough holes in the Spartans' matchup zone to stay comfortably ahead after zooming to a 19-point lead in the first half. Niemann finished the first half with 15 points on 5-of-7 shooting from the three point line.

However, Michigan State had rallied from 16 down in the second half to beat Tennessee in Sunday night's semifinal. But Baylor never let up, keeping the Spartans from getting any closer than nine.

Even with a 20-point lead, Baylor players kept attacking, making steals and scrambling for loose balls.

Young was named the most outstanding player of the Final Four and was unstoppable, scoring 18 points in the second half.

"Well, all those moments all just paid off right now," said Young, a junior who came to the United States from the West Indies at age 15 and had never played basketball before that. "This is what I came here for, and I'm living my dream."

Young went 10 for 19 from the field, grabbed nine rebounds, and had four assists. Steffanie Blackmon scored 14 points in the second half and finished with 22. Niemann missed her only three-pointer of the second half and wound up with 19 points.

The victory completed an unprecedented double for Mulkey-Robertson, who became the first in the women's game to play for a national championship team and then coach one. She was the starting point guard when Louisiana Tech won the first NCAA title in 1982, and later became an assistant coach at LA Tech, spending 15 years there before taking the Baylor job in 2000.

The Lady Bears (33-3) finished the season with 20 straight victories and helped erase an ugly stain on the university, which was rocked two years ago by a scandal in the men's basketball program that was uncovered after a former player was accused of killing a teammate.

Baylor had defeated Illinois St., Oregon, Minnesota, North Carolina and Louisiana St. in its previous tournament games before Monday's national championship game.

Kayak: John Day, Umpqua, Rogue rivers provide variety

Continued from page 9

students can then discover Oregon's outdoor kayaking opportunities.

"When there is actually rain in Oregon, thousands of rivers, creeks, and waterfalls start running, and Oregon is turned into a paddling paradise," Moser said.

Moser recommends the canal by Autzen Stadium and the Cotton Candy wave just upstream of Knickerbocker Bridge as two beginner-friendly spots just close enough to campus for students to get in a paddle session between classes.

Some of Dochnahl's favorite kayaking routes are on the Umpqua, Rogue and John Day rivers. These locations prove kayaking can be practiced in a variety of settings.

"Each of these Oregon rivers has its unique atmosphere, from lush, dense forest to the feel of high desert canyon," Dochnahl said.

While locations are accessible,

equipment isn't as easy to come by. Kayaking is a costly sport. A new boat alone goes for \$1,200, Moser said. Students also need a personal flotation device, a paddle, a helmet and warm clothes. Still, students who use their resources can find kayak rentals or join the Kayaking Club and enjoy free use of its equipment. The OP rents out a hard-shell kayak package for \$20 a day.

The sport of kayaking is about as eclectic as a sport can be. Everyone has a unique reason for liking it and a favorite location for practicing.

"The best part of kayaking is that each person can push their limits and expand their skills as far as they want," Moser said. "White-water can always get harder and more challenging, so there is no limit to the sport. That and you're dealing with water, so if you tip over, the worst that happens is that you get your head wet."

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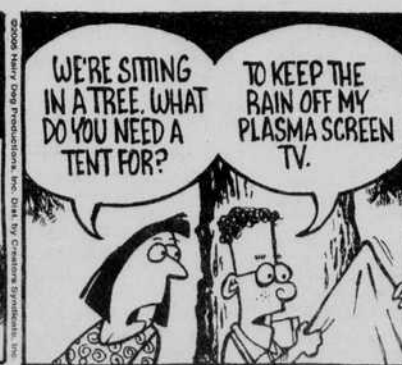
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