

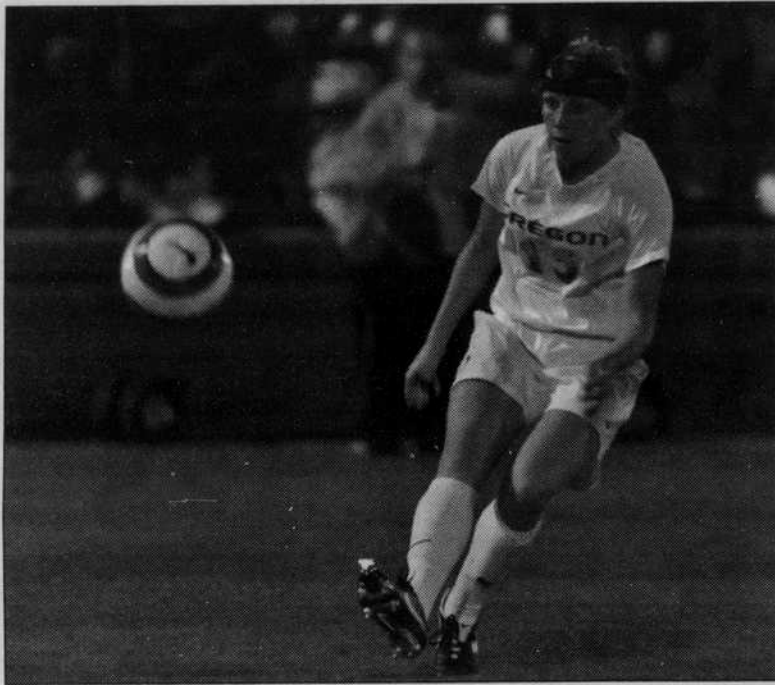
Soccer: Offense needs to step up in Tempe

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history and can attribute their breakthrough start to the stellar play of defense. Freshman goalkeeper Jessie Chatfield and senior defender Katie Abrahamson have led the backfield, and allowed an average .88 goals per game. Chatfield said the Ducks can have a prosperous weekend if they maintain their consistency.

Oregon's offense has scored enough goals to win games, but needs to do more to keep pace with its Pac-10 opponents. It hasn't scored more than two goals in a game; its wins and losses hinge on the play of the defense. Seniors Nicole Garbin and Cristian Higa are the backbone of the offense, but are receiving more and more help from their teammates in putting the Ducks on the scoreboard.

Oregon kicks off against Arizona tonight before going to Tempe, Ariz., on Sunday to face Arizona State. They return home next weekend to battle No. 4 UCLA and No. 27 USC.



NICOLE BARKER | SENIOR PHOTOGRAPHER

Oregon midfielder Kate Nelson clears a cross against South Dakota State. Nelson earned MVP honors as a freshman at San Francisco before transferring to Oregon.

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Tennis: Hard workers look for big dividends

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hitting his stride.

"I really haven't done as well over the last two years as I would have liked," said Bieri, who posted a 9-17 overall record in the 2004-05 season.

"But I really feel that I've worked hard in this offseason, and I'm working hard now too. I really feel like I'm improving every day now, and I haven't felt that for a while, so

that's exciting," he said.

The team started training the week before classes began. The off-season training phase includes skill and conditioning workouts and several preseason tournaments, the first of which takes place this weekend in California.

Vladimir Pino and fellow junior Eric Pickard head down to Santa Clara this weekend to play in the second annual Bronco Invitational.

"I want to play as many guys from Santa Clara as possible this weekend because we've had problems against them before," Pickard said. "So I just want to get out there, play and hopefully beat them."

Pino has higher aspirations for this weekend's tournament.

"I want to win it," Pino said. "If I'm healthy I think I have a good chance of winning it. I did pretty well there last year."

Volleyball: Road wins key

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Oregon had its positive moments against California and Stanford last weekend, pushing the Golden Bears to a fourth game and barely losing game one of its match against the Cardinal, 30-28. Oregon (10-5 overall, 0-4 conference) must play strong throughout the match, something Moore has been emphasizing since the season started.

"That is what discipline is all about — doing something every single time," Moore said.

Senior Kelly Russell agrees, adding, "In practice, we really worked on defense and siding out — everything you need to do to keep in rhythm. And I think that's huge for us."

UCLA and USC are familiar to Moore, who graduated from Long Beach State in 1980. When he coached at the high school level, Moore said he would take his players to matches at both schools.

Moore played UCLA twice during his three-year tenure at Texas. Stacy Metro, assistant coach and Moore's wife, idolized a UCLA player in high school, Moore said. UCLA coach Andy Banachowski is currently nine wins away from being the first collegiate women's volleyball coach with 1,000 career wins.

USC coach Mick Haley is a good friend of Moore's and offered him the chance to be the top assistant for the women's U.S. National Team. Moore chose to remain in the college game.

History aside, Moore is focused on his current team's performance and its ability to gain valuable road wins. "We need to be successful on the road," Moore said.

Oregon is facing the Los Angeles-

based schools during down years by their high standards. USC is 5-6 with only one win in the conference after beating UCLA last week. UCLA (7-5, 0-3) has lost to three ranked teams in Cal, Stanford and USC.

UCLA and USC maintain 35- and 29-game winning streaks against Oregon, respectively, and have Russell thinking Oregon can steal a match or two if either team takes the Ducks for granted.

"The second you think you're going to win, you get on your heels, you relax a little bit — maybe relax a little too much, which can work to our advantage," Russell said.

Freshman outside hitter Kaitlin Sather has made an immediate impact at UCLA, averaging 4.08 kills per game, 10th in the Pac-10. Setter Nellie Spicer is fourth in assists with 12.07 per game. Nana Meriwether is the conference leader in blocks with a 1.73 average.

USC's Bibiana Candelas earned Pac-10 Player of the Week honors after guiding the Trojans past UCLA with 26 kills, seven blocks and a .389 hitting percentage. Setter Nena Siljegovic ranks fifth in conference in assists, averaging 11.41 per game.

Away from the court, this weekend's matches are a family reunion of sorts.

Originally playing at the University of San Francisco, Tasha Demkiw transferred to Oregon last year and became eligible this season. The San Marcos native will be playing within two hours of home, with her family expected to be in attendance.

"I'm very excited," Demkiw said.

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IN BRIEF

Former Heisman winner retires from football

Heisman Trophy winner Jason White has been pursuing a job in the business world with an eye toward getting into coaching next season.

The former Oklahoma quarterback went undrafted by the NFL last April and was unable to catch on as a free agent. He joined the Tennessee Titans in May as an undrafted rookie after an audition with the Kansas City Chiefs did not lead to a contract offer.

In August, he called it quits, saying his surgically repaired knees wouldn't allow him to earn a job in the NFL.

He told The Associated Press in a telephone interview recently that he has talked with some companies, but "I'm not in any hurry to get a job," he said. "I've definitely thought about coaching, but that's something I might get into next season."

White will be at the Cotton Bowl in Dallas on Saturday for the Oklahoma-Texas game.

The Sooners struggled to replace

White, who won the Heisman in 2003, finished third in the voting in 2004 and led Oklahoma to BCS title games.

Oklahoma's offense has sputtered this season as it breaks in redshirt freshman quarterback Rhett Bomar.

White played a major role in helping Oklahoma win five straight against Texas in the Red River Rivalry.

The second-ranked Longhorns (4-0) are big favorites heading into Saturday's game at the Texas State Fair. White doesn't believe Oklahoma's winning streak gives the Sooners an

edge over Texas.

"I think it's just a matter of which team prepares the best and executes the game plan," he said.

Confederate flags spell trouble for NASCAR

NASCAR CEO Brian France doesn't like fans flying Confederate flags at races; he wants auto racing to appeal more to minorities and women.

"It's not a flag that I look at with anything favorable. That's for sure," he said in an interview with CBS' "60

Minutes" to be aired Sunday. "I can't tell people what flag to fly. I can tell you the flag we get behind: It's the American flag."

France is trying to broaden auto racing's appeal with minorities in places like Los Angeles, where France moved the important Labor Day NASCAR event last year, and New York, soon to have a track.

"(Reaching out to minorities) is something I work on every day. I work on it personally," France said.

— The Associated Press

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Horoscope by Holiday Matthis

TODAY'S BIRTHDAY (October 7). You whisper your wishes, and the universe amplifies them until the right people get the message. The next six weeks are particularly fortunate. Small investments of your time, energy and money grow rapidly. The new year shows you reaping personal rewards. Some marry in July. Your connections with Sagittarius and Pisces are meaningful. Your lucky numbers are: 5, 21, 54, 35 and 2.

ARIES (March 21-April 19). Being a good friend doesn't mean you have to give up a kidney, buy a plane ticket on your credit card or dig into savings in order to afford the right birthday present. The friendship is better off for the boundaries you establish now.

TAURUS (April 20-May 20). It's easy to see why others would want you on their team -- you do all the work. Caution: There are folks who will milk your generosity for all it's worth, not always out of maliciousness, but out of laziness.

GEMINI (May 21-June 21). Beware of high-maintenance types. People who have a life will not expect you to drop everything in order to do what suits them, and they will respect your decision to put yourself first from time to time.

CANCER (June 22-July 22). Trying to eliminate problems before they arise will make you neurotic. Instead, cross the bridges when you come to them. If you have to sell something, including yourself, you'll be fantastically persuasive.

LEO (July 23-Aug. 22). You give the very best of yourself and put your own desires on hold for the sake of a loved one's happiness. When it's time for the favor to be returned, the recipient of your kindness will be expected to do the same (or they're out).

VIRGO (Aug. 23-Sept. 22). You have a practical approach to romance. After all, what's more romantic than spending time with someone who makes you laugh through your daily chores? One-on-one time tonight is scrumptious, silly and sensational.

LIBRA (Sept. 23-Oct. 23). Loved ones grant your requests because you're so easygoing with them. More adventures will spring from your flexible attitude than could ever come from planning. You flirt dangerously tonight!

SCORPIO (Oct. 24-Nov. 21). You approach your projects with nothing less than intense dedication. In fact, you are giving much more than others give in return ... but they, who's counting, right?

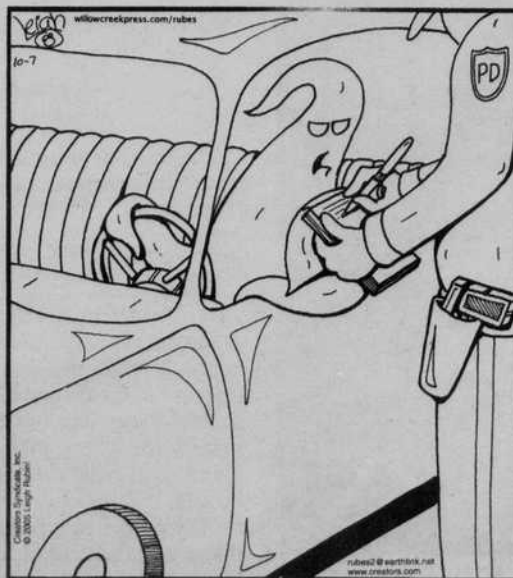
SAGITTARIUS (Nov. 22-Dec. 21). You're more competitive than some people seem to realize. So it will be surprising to them when you do everything in your power to get your prize. Friends brag about you. Don't stop them! Just say, "Thank you."

CAPRICORN (Dec. 22-Jan. 19). Go over your plan ASAP. If you don't, you're likely to fall into someone else's plan -- and you're just not the type to be happy as a pawn in the chess game of life.

AQUARIUS (Jan. 20-Feb. 18). You'll branch out and make new friends. Here's a bonus: They prove to be the kind of people you can insert successfully into almost any social situation. On a side note, your holiday social schedule is already filling up.

PISCES (Feb. 19-March 20). Don't postpone a date -- do it now if possible. You're utterly charming and don't need all the accoutrements you think you need in order to be attractive. So what if your hair hasn't been cut in months. You're hot!

Rubes by Leigh Ruben



"Spare me the 'seat belts save lives' speech, officer ... How do you think I ended up this way?"

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