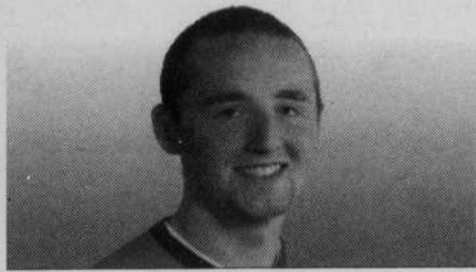


*"They say a tie is like kissing your sister. I guess that is better than kissing your brother."*

Former college football coach and current ESPN analyst  
Lou Holtz on games that finish in a tie.

■ In my opinion



LUKE ANDREWS  
EXCESSIVE CELEBRATION

## It was a sad day for the Emerald sports desk

For the first time in, well, ever, I am happy to say it: I suck.

Apparently, as it was pointed out to me some 300 times over the course of last Saturday's game by loyal Duck fans, I picked the Arizona State Sun Devils to beat the Oregon Ducks.

Needless to say, I was wrong. Oregon pulled off the 31-17 upset.

And unlike Duck fans out there who were also worried about Oregon's chances against the Sun Devils in Tempe, my worries were printed in 8,500 copies of this paper.

Even worse, I picked against my own school and had my picture right above it.

I'll see everyone in a few weeks; I'm entering the witness protection program.

I guess I could blame my shaky-at-best performance on jitters, as it was my first time making Pacific-10 Conference selections.

But, then again, there is no excuse for correctly picking only one out of four games.

I chose California to beat UCLA. I was wrong.

I picked Washington State to beat Stanford — wrong again.

In fact, the only game I picked correctly was USC over Arizona, but everyone and their dog picked the Trojans last week.

After all, USC entered the game winners of 26 straight and Arizona, which had lost 11 of its last 14 conference games, really had no chance.

To put my performance in perspective, journalism academic advisor Sally Garner, who by her own admission knew little about any of the games on Saturday, correctly picked three out of four games.

Her only loss came because pesky Stanford upset Washington State.

Congratulations Sally. Maybe we should switch jobs.

Now don't get me wrong; I'm not bitter.

I was more pleased than anything that many of my conference picks went against me.

I was glad to see Cal finally play a quality opponent. Now Jeff Tedford and his Bears have been exposed after easily getting conference wins against Washington and Arizona and generously climbing the national polls.

I was also elated to see Stanford rebound with a win on the road at Washington State. The Cougars look very susceptible, and remember, Pullman is arguably Oregon's toughest remaining road trip this season.

And, of course, it was the biggest win of the season for the Ducks against the No. 17-ranked Sun Devils. Saturday's game in Tempe just may be the defining moment for this Oregon team in search of a return trip to a prominent bowl game.

But, you know how I am with predictions.

So if I happen to do something crazy like pick the Washington Huskies to beat the Ducks this weekend in Autzen, please don't badger me about it — I did it for Oregon's good.

landrews@dailyemerald.com

■ Duck volleyball

## Volleyball swept in Los Angeles

The 0-6 Ducks will face Corvallis Friday and attempt to garner their first Pacific-10 Conference win

BY JEFFREY DRANSFELDT  
SPORTS REPORTER

When he took charge of the Oregon volleyball team, head coach Jim Moore emphasized that it would take time to elevate the Ducks to the Pacific-10 Conference elite.

This was never more evident than last weekend, when Oregon's high hopes of stealing a match against ranked opponents evaporated with consecutive sweeps to UCLA and USC.

Oregon's six consecutive losses to start Pac-10 Conference play has the team looking forward to facing unranked rival Oregon State on Friday in Corvallis. OSU will be Oregon's first unranked opponent after playing five consecutive ranked teams.

Even so, Oregon State won't be an easy win, having beaten Arizona State in five games in Tempe, Ariz. To open the conference schedule the Sun Devils swept Oregon.

It doesn't get any better after Oregon State — Oregon has a two-match homestand against No. 2 Washington and then Washington State on Oct. 21 and 22.

The opportunities are there for Oregon to win matches, it just has to take advantage of them, Moore said.

"We have to compete every night," Moore said. "We didn't do that Friday night (against UCLA) and that has to change."

Measuring whether they are improving or winning is secondary to getting a consistent effort, he said.

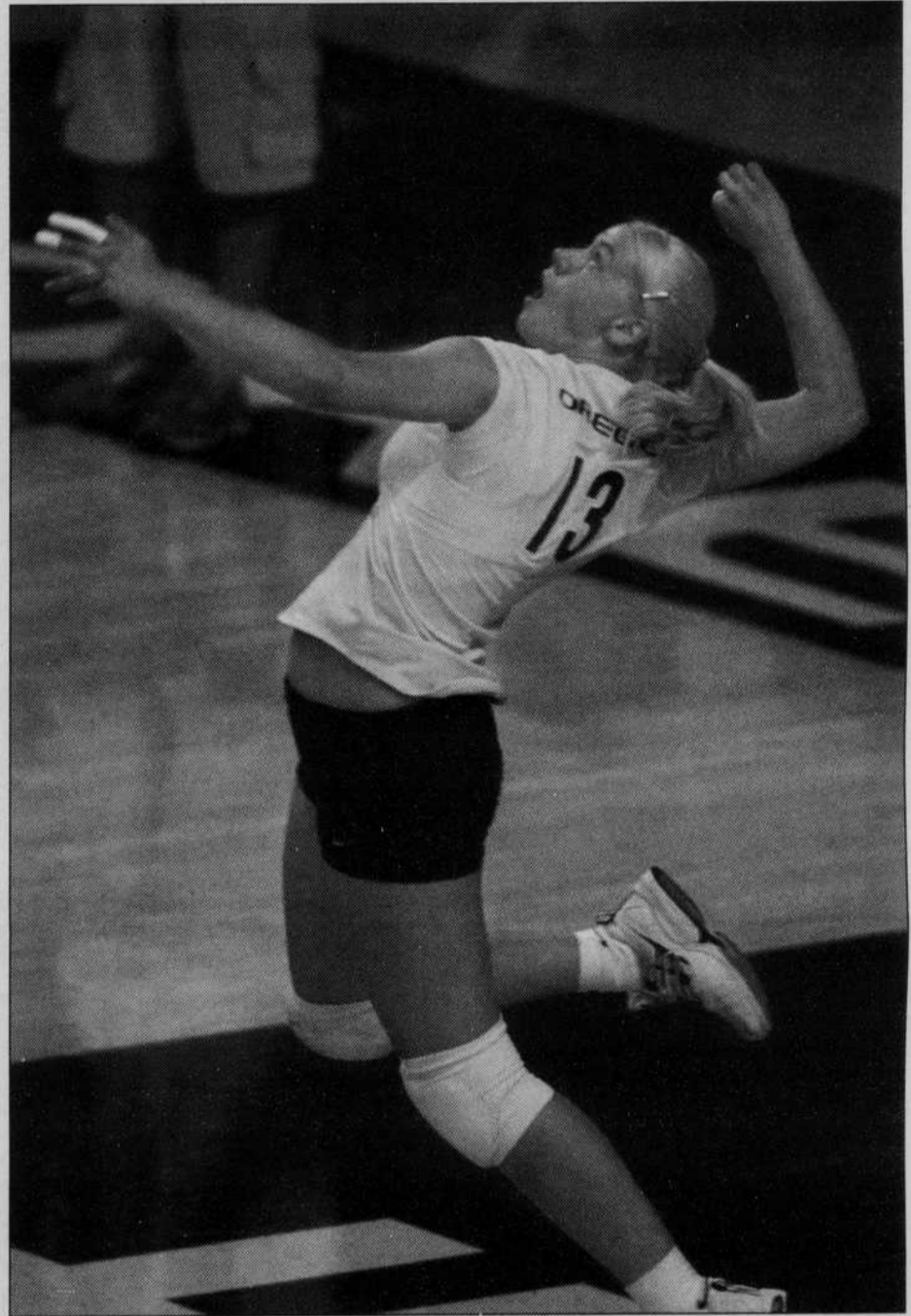
"Right now, we can't measure whether we're improving or not if one night we don't show up to compete and the next day we do," Moore said.

Kristen Bitter, Oregon's 6-foot-4-inch middle blocker, said getting the experience of playing in a hostile environment helped.

"It's really important that we're able to play with the same level away that we do at home," Bitter said.

Oregon started slowly against UCLA, losing its first game 30-15. UCLA started with a 9-2 run and Oregon only got within five the rest of the game.

To begin game two, Oregon (10-7 overall, VOLLEYBALL, page 6



NICOLE BARKER | SENIOR PHOTOGRAPHER

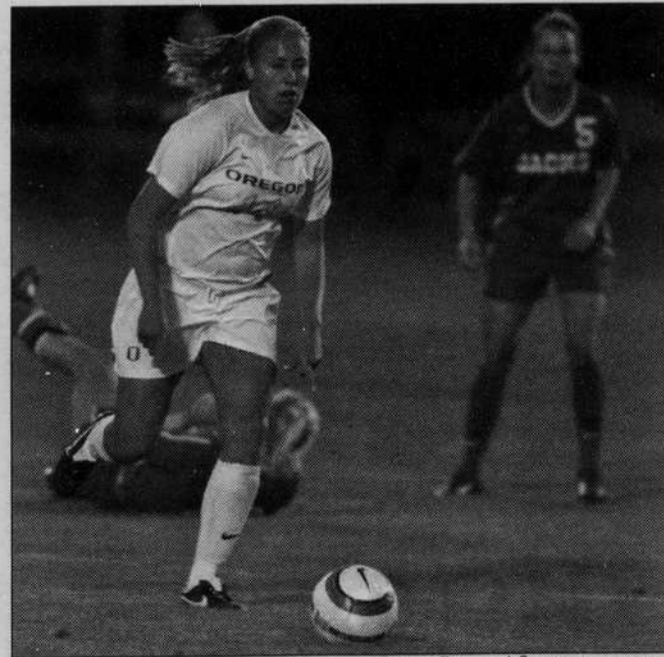
Mira Djuric, fourth in the Pacific-10 Conference in kills per game, serves the ball against Stanford Sept. 30. Djuric had 11 kills against UCLA on Friday.

■ Duck soccer

## Soccer can't net first Pacific-10 win

Hat trick, second-half spurt downs the Ducks who face No. 4 UCLA at Papé Field on Friday

BY SCOTT J. ADAMS  
SPORTS REPORTER



NICOLE BARKER | SENIOR PHOTOGRAPHER

Darcie Gardner is one of the many freshmen that head coach Tara Erickson has started this season. She has started in seven of the Ducks' 12 games.

The Pacific-10 Conference schools of the Grand Canyon State proved too tough for the Ducks over the weekend, who lost on the road to both Arizona and Arizona State by a combined score of 7-2.

On Friday, Oregon fell 4-2 in its conference opener against the Wildcats and was blanked by the Sun Devils 3-0 on Sunday.

Going into their game against Arizona (7-3-2 overall, 2-0-0 conference), the Ducks (8-3-1, 0-2-0) were riding high after winning Wyoming's UniWyo Shootout Oct. 2 en route to posting the best start in program history. Not seen out of Oregon this weekend were the two essential parts of its game that have led to its eight wins — an offense that scores at least once an

outing and a defense that seldom allows more than one goal.

The loss to Arizona State (6-5-2, 1-1-0) was especially uncharacteristic of the Ducks under first-year head coach Tara Erickson, who saw her team's drive fade in the second half under the desert sun.

"We played a good half, but we didn't play for 90 minutes," Erickson said. "I think fatigue was a factor, but we didn't fight through that and take care of the little things that allowed us to be successful earlier this season."

Led by their young but reliable freshman goalkeeper Jessie Chatfield, the Oregon defense held the Sun Devils at bay through a scoreless first half, but buckled early in the second. Seniors Lara Kezer and Brittany Cooper drew first blood

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