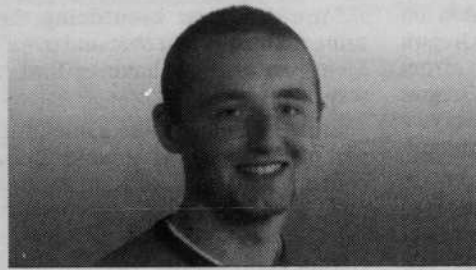


"I want to be remembered as a great player, but I guess it will be as a player who got angry on a tennis court."

Tennis legend John McEnroe, who threw more fits and rackets than the average 5-year-old.

■ In my opinion



LUKE ANDREWS
EXCESSIVE CELEBRATION

Saturday provides excitement nationwide

By the end of last weekend's day of dramatic college football, one thing was certain: Saturday was definitely not for the faint of heart.

Culminating with No. 12 UCLA's comeback win in overtime against Washington State, Saturday may go down as one of the most remarkable days in college football history.

It began with the battle for Paul Bunyan's ax between rivals then-No. 23 Wisconsin and No. 22 Minnesota. The Badgers trailed 34-31 with less than 40 seconds to play, but in a stunning turn of events, Jonathan Casillas blocked a Minnesota punt that was recovered by Wisconsin in the end zone with 30 seconds left, lifting the Badgers to the eventual 38-34 victory.

The shocking finish was just the start of the awe and disbelief fans felt across the country. Seven of Saturday's games involving then-top-25 teams were decided in overtime or during the last two minutes of regulation.

Here's how the day played out. Michigan scored on the final play with a 10-yard touchdown pass to give the Wolverines a 27-25 victory over previously unbeaten No. 8 Penn State. It was Michigan's seventh straight over the Nittany Lions.

West Virginia, after trailing 24-7 in the fourth quarter, completed the school's best comeback in 13 years by stuffing Louisville's Brian Brohm on an attempted two-point conversion in the third overtime to seal a 46-44 thriller over the No. 19-ranked Cardinals.

In similar fashion, No. 14 Boston College rallied from a 30-21 deficit with less than three minutes to play to score two touchdowns — one with 1:18 remaining — to steal a 35-30 victory against unranked Wake Forest.

Sixth-ranked Alabama kept its perfect season alive after kicking a 31-yard field goal as time expired to secure a 13-10 win on the road at Mississippi.

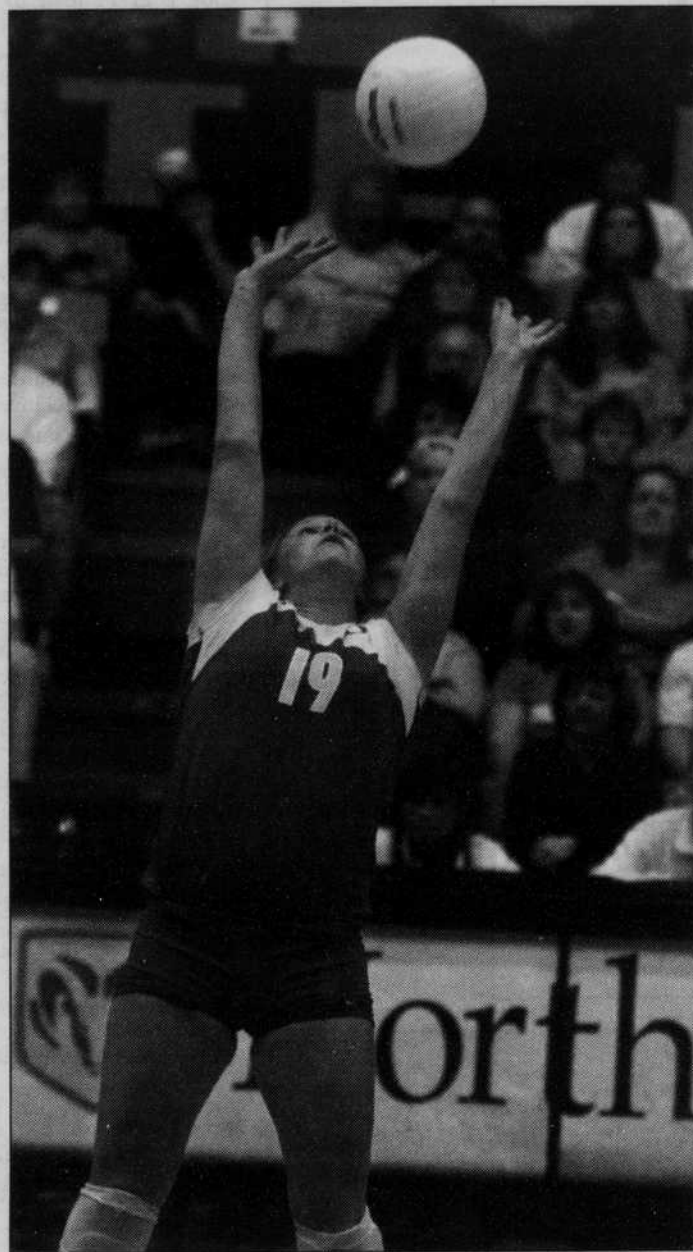
Yet, most of Saturday's dramatics rested on the final play between top-ranked USC and No. 9 Notre Dame. The Trojans' 27-game winning streak was on the line during the final drive in South Bend, Ind., when, on a fourth-and-nine play, USC's Dwayne Jarrett hauled in a Matt Leinart pass for 61 yards to set up the unbelievable finish. On the 2-yard line, Leinart attempted to scramble and dive into the end zone, but the ball came free and went out of bounds as time ticked down to 0:00, much to the jubilation of Irish coach Charlie Weis.

But, as fate would have it, officials granted Pete Carroll and the Trojans seven more seconds on the clock, setting up Leinart's plunge into the end zone with three seconds left to give the Trojans the improbable 34-31 win.

In fact, one of the few games involving a top-25 team that played out as scripted was Oregon's 45-21 thumping of hapless Washington at Autzen Stadium.

But if Saturdays continue to unfold in similarly astonishing fashion, the demand of oxygen tanks may increase as the number of fingernails decrease among college football's faithful.

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NICOLE BARKER | SENIOR PHOTOGRAPHER

Heather Madison sets the ball in a match Friday night against Oregon State. The Ducks were swept in three games and are in search of their first league win.

■ Duck volleyball

Ducks can't find killer instinct against Beavers

Oregon can't hold onto late leads in games two and three, loses fifth straight Civil War match

BY JEFFREY DRANSFELDT
SPORTS REPORTER

CORVALLIS — The match between in-state rivals Oregon and Oregon State was expected to be a close, competitive contest.

Oregon State defied this expectation.

Playing consistently throughout, Oregon State swept Oregon in three games Friday night and made an already difficult start to Pacific-10 Conference play even worse for the Ducks. Oregon has lost 22 straight Pac-10 matches, including its first seven this year, and the last five matches in the Civil War rivalry.

Oregon returns home for matches against Washington and Washington State Friday and Saturday — the first matches at McArthur Court since Sept. 29-30 against California and Stanford.

Right now, Oregon will take anything positive after starting another match slowly. Oregon head coach Jim Moore and the players emphasized opening strong against Oregon State (6-7

overall, 2-5 conference), starting game one with a 4-1 lead before Oregon State outplayed the Ducks (10-8, 0-7) the rest of the way, en route to a 30-16 win.

"I don't know if they played harder than us, they just seemed like they wanted it way more than we did," junior defensive specialist Stephanie Alleman said.

Oregon started game two strong as outside hitter Mira Djuric pounded the Oregon State side. The Ducks continued to match the Beavers point for point. Then in a span of minutes, Oregon went from a 24-18 lead to a 30-24 game two loss.

The same qualities that gave Oregon a lead — Djuric's kills, Erika Bartruff's strong serving and Kelly Russell's kills — disappeared through mistakes.

"We didn't pass. We didn't set. We didn't hit, and so they just scored 12 points in a row," Moore said.

Nearly identical to what happened in game two, Oregon

VOLLEYBALL, page 6

■ Duck soccer

Late goal sends Ducks to another loss

USC's Rosa Anna Tantillo knocks in the game-winning goal in the 87th minute

BY SCOTT J. ADAMS
SPORTS REPORTER

For the first time this season the Oregon women's soccer team failed to protect an early lead as it fell to USC 2-1 in heart-breaking fashion Sunday.

The loss marks the fourth straight for the Ducks, who, despite posting eight wins thus far, are still in search of their first conference win under first-year head coach Tara Erickson.

"It was a tough loss for us," Erickson said. "Obviously we were in it and so close, I wanted a win. We weren't playing for a tie, we weren't packing it in, I wanted us to have a better result. Anytime you get down to the wire and give up a goal in the last minutes it's hard. They had chances, we had chances, we battled hard and it was a well-fought game."

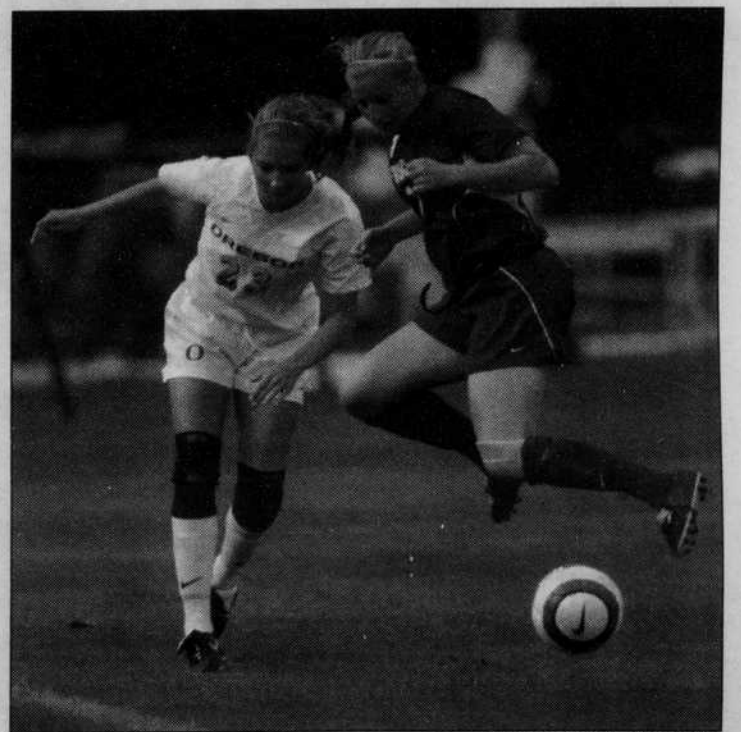
Senior midfielder Caitlin Gamble got the Ducks (8-5-1 overall, 0-4-0 conference) on the board first with a goal scored in the 18th minute. Gamble went unmarked by the USC defense as she sprinted toward the net and tapped in a well-placed cross by

Tiffany Smith. Smith's pass arched over USC goalkeeper Veronica Simonton, who could only watch the ball roll across the penalty box to Gamble, who parked it in the left corner. It was Gamble's third goal of the season. Smith and Nicole Garbin were both credited with assists on the score, which brought the crowd of 540 at Papé Field to life who, like the Oregon players, hunger to see more wins.

"This game was a missed opportunity," Gamble said. "But if anything we showed that we could really play in this conference and that we're ready to win."

Junior midfielder Rosa Anna Tantillo of USC (7-4-1, 1-1-1) came off the bench in the first half and drilled home the equalizer marking her first of two goals in the game. In the 33rd minute, Tantillo effortlessly dribbled the ball unopposed on Oregon's end of the field before firing in a shot from 25 yards out that banked off the crossbar and past the outstretched arms of goalkeeper Jessie Chatfield.

From there the Women of Troy rolled up their sleeves on



KATE HORTON | PHOTOGRAPHER

Oregon's Nicole Dobrzynski (23) battles for a loose ball Sunday against a USC defender. The Ducks lost 2-1 to the Trojans.

defense and denied the Ducks a second goal. Oregon peppered Simonton and her teammates with 12 shots. In between the goal boxes, the opposing midfielders waged a physical battle highlighted by Duck Kate Nelson, who duelled with Tantillo.

The two glanced off one another early and often exchanging slide-tackles, but no handshakes.

"We definitely could have beaten them and that was more exciting than anything, playing

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