

■ Duck soccer

Oregon beats Huskies for first time in history

Nicole Garbin's first-half goal and Jessie Chatfield's nine saves help lead the Ducks to a long-awaited victory over Washington

BY SCOTT J. ADAMS
SPORTS REPORTER

The Oregon women's soccer team beat Washington for the first time in program history Friday night in Seattle. Senior Nicole Garbin led the Ducks with the game's only goal that clinched both a 1-0 win for Oregon and the team's second non-losing season in school history.

Those written into Oregon's 2005 roster may have earned their place in the school record books, but Friday's victory at rainy Husky Soccer Field did not come with ease. The win was still in doubt even after Garbin's first-half goal in the 36th minute.

Washington's defense held Oregon scoreless from then, but the Huskies could not put a shot past goalkeeper Jessie Chatfield of the Ducks. Chatfield's nine saves helped seal her team's first conference win since 2003.

The shut-out marked a school-record seventh of the season for the freshman goalkeeper, whose solid net-minding in the second half was crucial in handing the Huskies their eighth 1-0 loss this year (0-15-3 overall, 0-6 conference).

"Late in the second half, we were getting a little anxious because you could tell Washington was getting frantic and throwing everything they had at us," first-year Oregon head coach Tara Erickson said. "But Jessie was as calm and steady as usual and made the big saves when she had to."

The Eugene phenom ended the second half with four saves. Two of which came from

consecutive shots which she deflected off the cross bar.

The preserved lead made Garbin's goal the game-winner, bringing her school-record career total to 10. She now has 10 goals to her credit alone this season, also a school record. The standout forward has had a goal or assist in almost every Oregon win this year.

"Garbin played a tremendous game and Jessie (Chatfield) came up with some huge saves for us," Erickson said. "This is as happy as this team has been after a win. It's great to get any win, but getting the first one ever against the Huskies was sweet both for me and for these University of Oregon players who had never beaten Washington before."

Erickson had been looking forward to Friday's game against her alma mater Washington. Erickson was a two-time all-Pacific-10 Conference midfielder for the Huskies in 1990s and is now the only Oregon head coach in program history to have a win over Washington. The Ducks were 0-8-1 in their previous nine meetings with their rivals from The Evergreen State.

The win improved Oregon to 9-6-1 on the season, moving them into ninth in the conference standings at 1-5. Erickson is pleased with how well her squad has improved since its season-opening win against Louisiana State.

"I'm glad that we're finally playing more aggressively," Erickson said. "When we get down we don't stay down. We've battled back in games we were losing early which wasn't



MARCUS LARSON | FOR THE EMERALD

Oregon forward Nicole Garbin (17) fights for a loose ball against Oregon State on Oct. 21. Garbin scored the game-winning goal Friday at Washington to help the Ducks earn their first Pacific-10 Conference victory of the season.

the case for this team a year ago. We may not always play our best, but we never give up."

The Ducks are now past the mid-point of conference play with only two games left in the regular season. Oregon is guaranteed a record of at least .500, but to help their cause toward becoming the first team in program

history to reach the NCAAs, they will need to pull off an upset against the Bay Area schools of the Pac-10 this weekend. Oregon hosts No. 9 Cal at 5 p.m. Friday and Stanford at 1 p.m. Sunday.

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■ Women's basketball

Nurse provides youth on a senior-dominated team

The Ducks hope a revamped coaching staff and an experienced team will result in a winning season and an NCAA Tournament berth

BY JEFFREY DRANSFELDT
SPORTS REPORTER

The attraction of playing in the Pacific-10 Conference, one of the nation's largest conferences, extended beyond the basketball court.

Playing on the highest level of collegiate basketball, dynamic and quick point guard Tamika Nurse welcomes the attention.

Naturally then, off the court she is pursuing a broadcast career, which was a big reason why she chose the University of Oregon.

"For broadcast journalism this is the best school on the west coast — there's no question about it," Nurse said.

The 5-foot-9 native of Hamilton, Ontario, enters the 2005-06 season as Oregon's lone freshman. She gets her first experience tonight as Oregon plays the British Columbia in an exhibition game at 7 p.m. at McArthur Court.

Nurse played for the Canadian Junior National Team for two consecutive years, including the FIBA Under-19 World Championships as she helped them finish ninth.

She's considered by Oregon head coach Bev Smith as one of Oregon's fastest guards in years. The most important thing is effectively running the team and not solely relying on

quickness, Nurse said.

"I think my speed is a weapon," Nurse said. "It needs to be harnessed at times, but I want to use it to my advantage."

Or adding more options, assistant coach Phil Brown said.

"She has flat out speed, but she's going to need to get some other gears in there as well and know when to go and know when to pull it up and pull it back and recognize the defense's numbers back and we're in a half-court situation," Brown said.

Nurse has plenty of help with a veteran lineup and coaches including new assistant coach Brown. Brown has worked with 15 current or former WNBA players, including guards Penny Taylor and Belinda Snell and current Oregon players Eleanor Haring and Gabrielle Richards.

According to Brown, getting used to this level of basketball takes time.

"Part of it is trial and error experience," Brown said. "Just getting out there and the day-to-day environment of playing at the top Division I level."

Senior guards Brandi Davis, Chelsea Wagner and Kedzie Gunderson can help provide a solid learning environment.

"I think Tamika is going to be a great player," Davis said. "She's going to mature a lot here and she's going to have a great career here. By us being able to help her out with the little things and stuff like that ... it's only going to help her in the long run."

Oregon's roster has a veteran feel. The team has an opportunity to develop chemistry within McArthur Court's confines with five of its first six official games and two exhibition games at home. The only away game is a Nov. 22 trip to play the University of Portland.

In December, Oregon has no home games, playing road games against Cynthia Cooper's Prairie View A&M at the Rose Garden, Saint Mary's, Idaho State, UCLA, USC and Colorado. It is a schedule designed to prepare Oregon for a possible NCAA Tournament.

Last season, Oregon had a 21-win season and reached the second round of the NCAA Tournament, beating TCU before losing to eventual NCAA champion Baylor.

"We all expect to win," Davis said. "I know that's going to come with a price. It's going to be a lot of hard work for us, and I think we have great team chemistry this year and I think we're capable of doing something big."

Davis is a versatile three-point threat and adept scorer. She is third all-time at Oregon in three-pointers with 145 and was Oregon's fourth-leading scorer at 7.6 points per game last season.

The three other Oregon seniors should also play significant roles. Wagner returns after her

2004-05 season was cut to 15 games due to a knee injury. She shot 40 percent on three-pointers and averaged 8.8 points. Gunderson is a standout defender who has started 47 of her last 57 games at Oregon. Yadili Okwumabua enters the season after undergoing off-season knee surgery. She's expected to have a larger role after Cathrine Kraayeveld and Andrea Bills graduated.

Technically, Oregon has a fifth senior in Jamie Hawkins, but she will redshirt this season after transferring from Boise State.

Oregon's talented underclassmen are experienced and should make a significant impact with four juniors and three sophomores.

Kristen Forristall emerged toward the middle of last season as eight of her 11 starts were in Pac-10 Conference play. Forristall earned recognition as a member of the Pac-10 All-Freshman team by averaging 5.5 points and 3.2 rebounds.

Junior Carolyn Ganes and sophomore Richards are considered low-post players, but each has the outside touch of a guard.

Ganes gained experience over the summer with the Canadian National Team. She returns healthy after being a redshirt in 2004-05 and dealing with ankle injuries and back problems the year before. Ganes shot 41 percent overall in 2003-04 and 84 percent from the free-throw line. Richards shot 44 percent overall and 35 percent from three-point range in 2004-05.

Now in her third season, 6-foot-6 junior Jessica Shetters should factor in as well after