

"I don't think they're going to send me to Alcatraz."

Nebraska football coach Bill Callahan about possible disciplinary action after his apparent throat-slashing gesture in the Huskers' game versus Oklahoma.

■ In my opinion



JEFFREY DRANSFELDT
THREE TO WIN

New year, new faces, new styles, same results

Flashes came in spurts: the inside power move, the stop and smooth mid-range jumper, and baskets made in transition.

The University of Oregon women's basketball team is different than last year's. Success will be defined by contributions team-wide. Last year's squad had Cathrine Kraayeveld and Andrea Bills, and that worked too. Success came with an NCAA Tournament win against TCU and second round appearance against eventual champion Baylor.

This year, Oregon is deep and coach Bev Smith said she plans to have a large rotation. The move this season to start earlier with an exhibition game on Halloween night against the University of British Columbia helped. New point guard Kaela Chapdelaine started and dished out 10 assists. Gabrielle Richards scored 17 points and grabbed 10 rebounds. And the list goes on and on.

Each player brings something different and many things similar. Brandi Davis and Chelsea Wagner are threats. Cicely Oaks and Kedzie Gunderson provide strong on-ball defense. New guard Tamika Nurse possesses breakneck speed. Post players Carolyn Ganes and Richards showed they can stretch opposing defenses with mid-range shooting.

More telling, Oregon had 10 of its 11 players in uniform score at least two points and five players had four or more rebounds.

"We have a lot of people that can come in and contribute in different ways," Smith said.

Teams win all the time without a main go-to player, i.e. men's National Champion North Carolina, who had a collection of talented players, but no one player that stood above the rest. It just means Oregon needs performances team-wide. When one player struggles, another needs to step up.

It helps to have players buy into the idea. Last season's success and enticement for further success should make any sacrifice worthwhile.

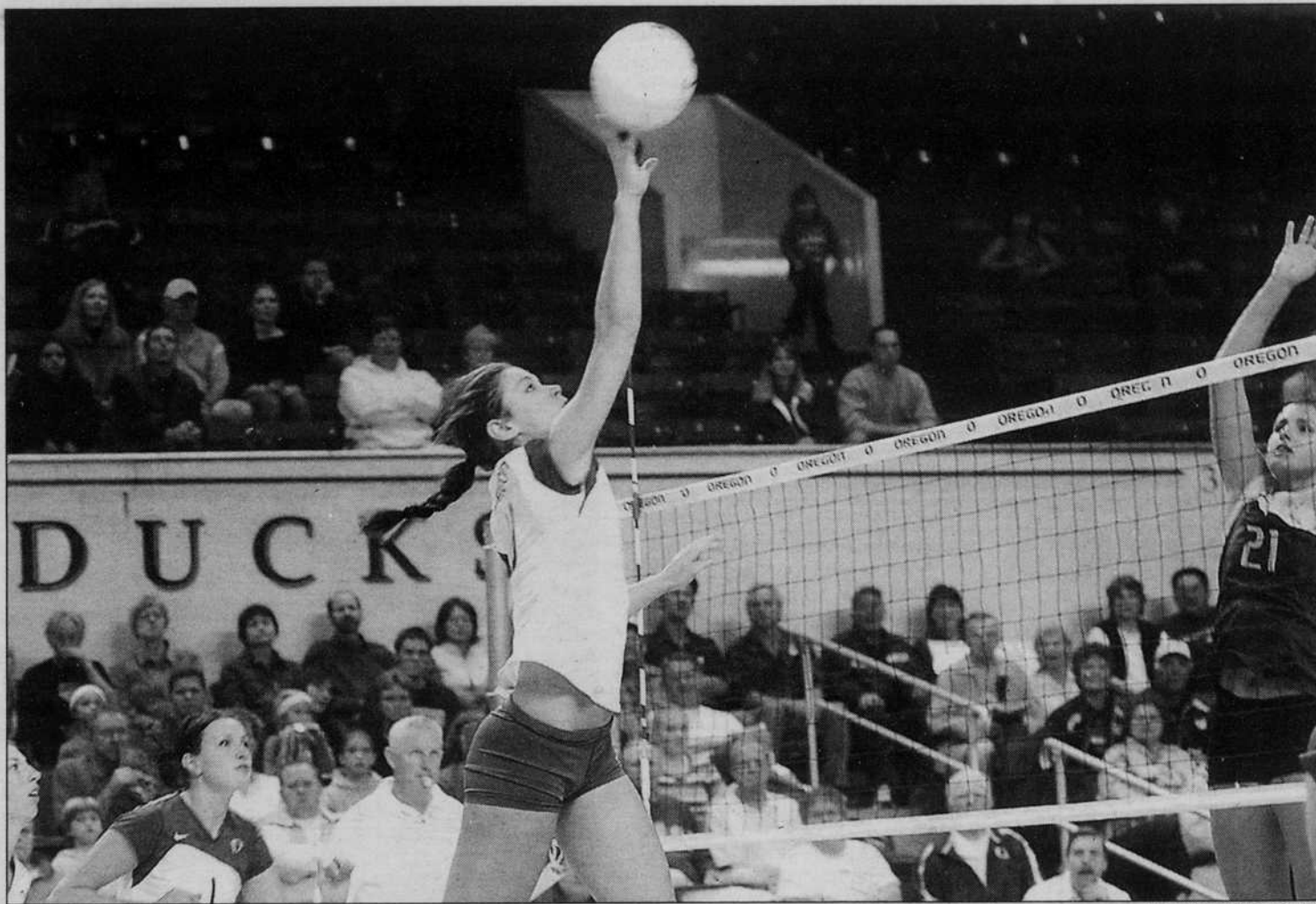
Lone freshman Nurse is making the transition to Division I basketball. Against British Columbia on one break, she collided with a defender and came down with the ball off her leg for a turnover. During another possession, Nurse collided with a defender at the free-throw line and was called for a charge. She adjusted. Again, Nurse sprinted up court. This time she stopped and swished a mid-range jumper.

The pieces are there and Oregon has opportunities to gel with seven contests including the two exhibitions within McArthur Court.

If Oregon can come together, watch out. The Pac-10 media poll predicts Oregon will finish fifth, but that's assuming Oregon struggles without Kraayeveld and Bills. Here's saying they won't.

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■ Duck volleyball



ZANE RITT | PHOTOGRAPHER

Kelly Russell, pictured here two weeks ago, tips the ball against Washington. Russell has 282 kills so far this season.

Opportunities abound for wins

With the toughest part of its season behind it, Oregon enters the homestretch looking to scratch together a few more victories

BY JEFFREY DRANSFELDT
SPORTS REPORTER

Road games are being replaced by the comforts of home for the University of Oregon volleyball team. Entering November, Oregon plays six of its final eight matches at McArthur Court.

Oregon's home stretch starts tonight with Southern California at 7 p.m. UCLA visits Friday at the same time. These first two matches are followed by matches with Portland State and rival Oregon State on Nov. 8 and 10, respectively.

The schedule, with a single road trip left to face Washington State and Washington, gives Oregon (11-11, 1-10 Pac-10 Conference) winnable matches and possibility of a winning record for the first time since 1990, coach Jim Moore said. Oregon finished 15-14 that season under then-coach Gerry Gregory.

Oregon enters tonight coming off losses to No. 5 Stanford and No. 15 California last weekend. Matches finished quickly with each ending in three games. Characteristic of this year's team, Oregon's loss to Cal featured 22 attack errors and 12 service errors. Earlier this season, Oregon tested Cal as it stretched the match to four games and almost a fifth.

"We want to play hard," Oregon libero Stephanie Alleman said. "We know there are teams like Cal we have a chance to beat and play with. For some reason, it just wasn't our night."

Alleman has been a steady contributor all season. She had 15 digs against Stanford and 17 against Cal in place of injured libero Katie Swoboda. Moore said Swoboda was cleared Monday to play and will return tonight.

"Stephanie's done great things all year long in

terms of stepping in and playing a lot of different positions," Moore said. "She's basically been the first person off the bench all year long."

All season long Moore has emphasized Oregon's need to focus on its side of the net and avoid unnecessary service and attack errors. With increased fan support at McArthur Court this season, Moore said Oregon needs a performance worth supporting.

"Hopefully we do the things that we're capable of doing just for those people that have been coming to the matches and making our lives a lot easier," he said.

Opportunities are there. Portland State ended Oregon's five game unbeaten streak to start the season. Oregon led two games against Oregon State before collapsing. Oregon beat Washington State at home. Oregon matches up well with Arizona State.

Oregon needs to do things offensively in these matches it has missed in Pac-10 play — things it

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■ Duck golf

Fall season comes to a close in Las Vegas

Ducks tie for eighth in the Nevada tournament; were led by junior Therese Wenslow's 21st place finish with a 3-over 75

BY SPENCER CRUM
FREELANCE REPORTER

The 27th-ranked Oregon women's golf team played earlier this week against the country's best in Henderson, Nev., and gave a strong performance. The women finished tied for eighth with Missouri.

"The field is a very good one," Oregon head coach Shannon Rouillard said about their field. "We'll see some different teams, since there's fewer from the Pac-10, but the quality should be equal to the Ihlantfeldt tournament. The course is a desert one, on the side of a mountain. The wind can blow, so hopefully we'll have some

decent weather, and the ball will roll. We'll have to continue to focus on target golf and keep the golf physical."

The tournament comprised three top 10 teams: No. 2 UCLA, No. 4 Pepperdine, No. 6 Arkansas, and seven others, including Oregon, in the top 50. These included No. 11 UNLV, No. 23 Arizona, No. 28 Kent State, No. 30 Missouri, No. 31 Notre Dame, No. 33 BYU and No. 45 TCU. The rest of the teams were SMU, UC Irvine, Colorado State, Eastern Washington and Oklahoma to make up the 16-team field.

In the overall standings, redshirt junior Therese Wenslow led the Ducks after two rounds after she shot a 3-over 75. She

continued her strong tournament by sinking three birdies including two on the back nine. Wenslow, who is regarded as Oregon's top threat whenever she steps on the course, ended the tournament tied for 21st. After sitting out 2004-05 with an injury, Wenslow showed her resolve with a great performance this week.

Wenslow was the only Duck to break par on the par 72, 6,207-yard course with her first-round 71 Monday, and followed with a 75 second-round Tuesday.

Senior Erin Andrews took her 5-over on Halloween, and finished one over on the next two rounds. Andrews equaled Wenslow's score for the day, and held even for the last round. Andrews also owned the Ducks' best score on Tuesday (73), after she shot an opening-round 77 Monday. She too knocked in three birdies —

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