

Volleyball: Strong effort and focus were team's goals

Continued from page 9

Arizona to start conference play without Jones.

"That probably is as big an impact on our season as anything," Moore said. "It shouldn't have been, but it was."

Jones returned the following weekend against California. Oregon lost eight consecutive matches to start Pac-10 play. Currently 1-15 in conference, Oregon looks to challenge Arizona State, only one game ahead in the conference standings.

And with this weekend, Oregon attempts to complete Russell and Jones' Duck careers with a win.

Russell is second to freshman Mira Djuric in both kills and service aces with 351 and 28, respectively. Jones has 155 kills.

"Kelly ... is a great physical player," Moore said.

Moore's message of strong effort and focus on Oregon's side of the net — repeated throughout Oregon's season — again holds true if the Ducks hope to win this weekend.

"If you play hard and you do the things you're supposed to do and you can execute, we can play with a lot of people," Moore said.

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Women's basketball

Oregon's steady offense leads to win over Portland

Eleanor Haring and Chelsea Wagner combine to score 26 points while leading Ducks to the year's third win

BY JEFFREY DRANSFELDT
SPORTS REPORTER

PORTLAND — The Oregon women's basketball team (3-1) used consistent offense to overwhelm a young Portland team (0-3) 63-36 Tuesday night at the Chiles Center.

The win also helped erase bad memories of previous losses to Portland, including a 76-58 set back in 2003-04.

"That was very embarrassing and we did not want to leave here (like that)," Oregon's Chelsea Wagner said.

Oregon used a team-high 14 points from Wagner and 12 from Eleanor Haring to cap a team-wide effort.

Ahead 36-22 early in the second half, Oregon used its bench often and outscored Portland's subs 30-7.

"We are extremely deep," Wagner said. "There is no drop-off." No Oregon team member played more than Haring's 23 minutes and every player scored.

Freshman point guard Tamika Nurse played 22 minutes. The quick guard scored two points and passed for four assists with only two turnovers.

The steady hands of Wagner and Brandi Davis helped Oregon jump

out to an early lead. Because of players such as Oregon's 6-foot-3 Gabrielle Richards, Portland used a zone defense to try to control Oregon's size. While Portland held Richards to four points on one-for-three shooting, it allowed Oregon's perimeter players to thrive.

Wagner hit two early three pointers for a 10-5 lead. Oregon extended its lead to 21-12 with a Richards three-point play and consecutive left corner three-pointers from Davis.

Oregon led 31-19 at halftime and Portland was only able to close within 10 points in the second half.

Wagner's play did not show effects from a minor knee injury sustained in Oregon's second exhibition game. She had another strong game after scoring 21 points Sunday against Nevada. Oregon coach Bev Smith said Wagner has more movement in her knee and teammates are finding her.

"She's doing a better job of moving and our players are doing a better job of finding her either on penetration or when our post players are doubled," Smith said.

As a team, Oregon made 8 of 21 three-pointers.

"We can always get that three-pointer so let's try to exploit the inside," Smith said.

Haring helped the inside game with a variety of mid-range shots. She had two jumpers off spin moves early in the first half and added two more right before halftime.

"(Haring) really gave us a positive and a productive night," Smith said. "I thought she ran the floor well. I thought she put herself in position to make plays."

Oregon's offensive success came with another strong effort on defense. The Ducks forced 22 Portland turnovers and scored 13 points off the miscues. Portland shot 27 percent from the field and 21 percent from three-point range.

"I was happy with the defense," Smith said. "We just, again, have to keep working to move offensively and (on) decision making."

With two consecutive wins, Oregon is focused on getting better.

"We are just trying to improve and focus on what we didn't do well in the game, and then correct that the next game and try (to) build on that," Wagner said.

Oregon returns home to play Arkansas at McArthur Court Friday at 5 p.m.

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Horoscope by Holiday Matthis

TODAY'S BIRTHDAY (November 23). You get what you ask for this year! The next five weeks bring happy events -- the stepping stones to a financial payoff in January. Couples recommit in December. Singles are surrounded by admirers. Choosing one standout sweetie is easiest in March. Spring travel leads to new business. Love with Gemini and Cancer is golden. Your lucky numbers are: 2, 14, 9, 30 and 7.

ARIES (March 21-April 19). Watch out for the modern version of the snake oil salesman. Society is filled with remedies that are devoid of scientific merit. That doesn't mean they don't work -- and it doesn't mean that they do, either.

TAURUS (April 20-May 20). A relationship that has remained relatively inert for years now morphs into one of your life's moving forces. So change is real! When others show new initiative, you're inclined to do the same.

GEMINI (May 21-June 21). You're not only a winner now, but you're absolutely impervious to losers! Negative people exert their poisonous attitude, and yet, you stand strong. Administer a pat on your own back.

CANCER (June 22-July 22). You know how a business should be run while others don't. From your point of view, colleagues seem at worst ridiculous and at best ineffective. Don't just criticize! Be the leader.

LEO (July 23-Aug. 22). Complications arise, but that doesn't mean that something is broken. You're tempted to upgrade to the latest and greatest, but the timing isn't right. Don't do anything rash.

VIRGO (Aug. 23-Sept. 22). If ever there were a day to forget about what is largely out of your control (global warming, flu pandemic, toxic slush), it is today. The world gets dirtier, and the average human life is longer than ever. So give guilt and anxiety a rest.

LIBRA (Sept. 23-Oct. 23). You're now realizing you may have "jumped ship" on a project too soon. It's not too late to get back on board to bail out some of the water. All it takes is an hour of dedication to get things afloat again.

SCORPIO (Oct. 24-Nov. 21). Spontaneity, creativity and insight are your most useful tools today -- you can use them to attract new love and friendship. You're a giver, and all you give multiples.

SAGITTARIUS (Nov. 22-Dec. 21). Do what's right. Don't hesitate, and don't fumble. You may think you don't know what's right, but that's just a procrastination tactic. Call yourself out. Be stringent when it comes to your rules for yourself.

CAPRICORN (Dec. 22-Jan. 19). You're a hit wherever you go. Remember that you are in control, and drop anyone who makes you feel otherwise. A previously slow-moving project begins to gain momentum.

AQUARIUS (Jan. 20-Feb. 18). The planets set your stage with temptations and triggers. Your knee-jerk reactions may be impressive -- your reflexes are quite amazing. Unfortunately, action without thought brings folly. Reserve the right to contemplate.

PISCES (Feb. 19-March 20). Cutting expenses brings you back into balance and doesn't affect your life too much either. Now you can give money where it can do enormous good. Tonight, you're all aflutter over something po-

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