

Sloppy Ducks stop SOSC

By DAN LINDAHL
Of the Emerald

Artistic elements aside, Oregon was still able to do what it wanted, when it wanted, to claim a 5-4 baseball victory over Southern Oregon State College (SOSC) Wednesday afternoon at Howe Field.

Coach Mel Krause's Ducks committed four errors and left 10 men on base against the outmaned Red Raiders. Nevertheless, 11 Duck hits provided sufficient offense, and effective pitching stints by starter Eric Gilmore, and relievers Jerry Cunningham and

Dan Merrill kept the Raiders in check long enough to insure Oregon's fourth straight win.

While Oregon's defense was shoddy in the late innings—a fact Krause attributed to fatigue caused by three straight games—the impatience of Duck batsmen bothered the mentor most.

"The hitters were just not selective enough," pointed out the seven year Oregon coach. "The toughest thing is being patient enough to wait for your pitch, then recognizing it when it comes. We weren't doing that."

After Gilmore gave up hits to the first two batters of the game and the Ducks fell behind 1-0, Oregon proceeded to notch a run in each of the first four innings. The Ducks could have had much more, however, as they ripped SOSC slowballer Mark Baughman for nine hits in the opening four frames. But no matter how many hits they came up with in any inning, only one resulted.

"We could have really broke the game open, but we didn't do it," said Krause.

Jake Arback relieved Gilmore in the fourth inning and SOSC was able to get to him for three runs in his three frames of hurling. Much

of Arback's problem could be traced to the four walks he gave up in the fifth and sixth innings.

Despite dominating the game statistically, Oregon suddenly found itself in a 4-4 tie after 5 1/2 innings. It didn't take long for the Ducks to go out and earn Arback the win, however.

Shortstop Jeff Heaton led off the winning rally in the home side of the sixth with a single and moved to second on Mike Ritchey's sacrifice bunt. Mike Conolly then got his second hit of the afternoon when he rocketed a ground rule double to left field. Conolly's blast scored Heaton.

Cunningham and Merrill tossed the final three innings to ice the win.

Mike Keller, Steve Elam, and Conolly all had two hits apiece to lead the Oregon hit parade while Gilmore looked tough on the mound after his early trouble.

"Gilmore had better stuff than he has had," praised Krause.

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Baughman, Sprecher (4) and Azevedo. Gilmore, Arback (4), Cunningham (7), Merrill (9) and Nelson. W-Arback (1-1). L-Baughman.

Tuttle leads Ducks on links

SANTA CRUZ, Calif. — Scott Tuttle shot a one-under-par 70, but it wasn't enough to keep Oregon golfers out of 11th place after the first round of the Western Intercollegiate tournament here Wednesday.

Tuttle's sub-par round, coupled with Brent Murray's 74, Scott Krieger's 77 and Jon Heselwood's 77 gave the Ducks a 298 total after the first round.

Dick Shafer and Phil Currie each shot 78's for Oregon, but their totals were not counted in the 24-team tourney, which scores only the first four golfers on each squad.

Oregon trails USC by more than 20 strokes going into Thursday's second round. Southern Cal leads the tournament with a 277 total after the first round with Houston seven shots back at 284.

Mike Wiechers of USC leads the tournament after his first round total of 68.

WSU tops women

In what Duck coach Marti Schey had called an important early season test, the Oregon's women's tennis team dropped a 6-3 decision to visiting Washington State Wednesday afternoon at the Alder Street courts.

The Cougars built up an early advantage in singles competition, taking four of six matches. WSU then sewed the match up with two

wins in doubles play.

Helen Vozenilek, Oregon's number one singles player, won twice for Oregon, taking the number one singles match, 7-6 and 7-6, and teamed with Tina Mikelson to take the number one doubles match, 6-4 and 6-4. Joanna Fong scored Oregon's other victory in number four singles play, 6-3 and 6-0.

Title nixed, but Ballester happy

After Ducks end year with 4th at NCAA's

By MIKE MARINO
Of the Emerald

There was a message on the marquee of Mac Court last weekend. It was up for one day only — Sunday — and perhaps appropriately it faced away from campus. It read, simply, "CONTRATULATIONS FLYING DUCKS 4TH IN USA".

Gymnastics is somehow grouped into that bundle of events known as "other sports." The attendance at most gymnastics meets this year resembled the number of beachgoers on a rainy day.

But the lack of attendance at this year's meets didn't affect the performance of the Ducks. Popularity or no, the young Oregon team stormed through an 11-0 dual meet season and won the Pac-8 championship. It went on to the nationals and performed well, beaten by what coach Bill Ballester called "three super teams."

"I'm very happy with the way we did all year," says Ballester. "We could have been in real trouble from a couple of injuries but we came out of them very strongly."

Injuries were the only "if" in the pre-season forecast of Ballester. Jim Vokurka, a freshman from Illinois, battled injury all season and when Oregon's top all-around man, freshman Jim Kelch, injured his knee in the Oregon Open, things looked rather dismal. A team composed of mostly freshmen was suddenly without two of its best.

"I've had a lot of freshmen before, but I didn't have to rely on them as I did this season," Ballester says. "These were the guys we had to count on if we were to do well."

But the rest of the team came through. Miki Moyal established himself as one of the top all-arounders on the West Coast, as did Breck Grigas and Gene Christensen. Oregon was a winner, was Oregon Daily Emerald

undefeated, and was a team relying heavily on freshmen.

Thus, they went to the NCAA meet in Tempe last weekend as one of the favorites to win the championship, entering with the second best qualifying score in the country.

Oregon came into the NCAA's with three possible champions, and although none took first place, Ballester wasn't disappointed. "They didn't choke," says Ballester. "Mac (Scott McEldowney, still rings) was favored and finished second, but he had one of his best routines. He was beaten by two guys that were better."

Senior Don Lester had one of his finest floor exercise routines ever and was extremely happy but finished the championships in second place, behind LSU's Ronnie Gallimore.

On the pommel horse, Curt Rodgers and Tom Truedson had some trouble and finished second and fifth, but as Ballester says, "that's the nature of the sport, the small mistakes. But it doesn't take away from their great season."

Nor does failing to take home any medals take away from Scott Phillips or Jerry Bush. Bush placed ninth in the nationals (still rings), and while ninth place doesn't get the headlines, it scores team points. Because Bush is a junior he stands a good chance to improve his performances.

As for Phillips, it can be said he won the satisfaction of being the team leader, and his consistent all-around scores helped the team that much more.

Next year, although Oregon will lose Rodgers, Lester and Phillips, it will also host the NCAA nationals.

And the Ducks, with a year of experience under their belts, could possibly bring home the title — and maybe get the other side of the marquee.


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