

sports

Ducks face the odds with WSU in town



Oregon will have to get hitting like this from Jerry Rinella and the rest of the team if it expects to beat WSU.

Photo by Mike Marino

Kegler to start as Oregon plays four with Cougs

By MIKE GRADY
Of the Emerald

It may be the turning point of the season for the Oregon baseball team this weekend. League leading Washington State arrives today for a four game series.

Action starts at 2 p.m. today with the two teams finishing a game that ended in a tie two weeks ago in Pullman. The game will resume at the top of the 13th inning, where it was when suspended by darkness.

WSU stands at 6-2 in league with the Ducks one game behind at 5-3. If Oregon sweeps, first place will be theirs. Winning three will place them in a tie with the Cougars and a split will leave them where they started.

"The only way we can get in trouble is if we lose more than two," said Oregon assistant coach Dave Pyles. But that doesn't mean if they lose all of the weekend contests it'll be all over for the 1978 season.

"It's really not as crucial as what it might seem," said Pyles, a former All-Pac-8 player from WSU. "All four Northern Division teams so evenly matched, it's going to go down to the end."

Pyles indicated that freshman Dean Kegler will be on the mound to finish the game that has been tied for two weeks and will then possibly start the nine inning game which follows. Kegler holds a 7-0 won-loss record, three of those are league victories.

Saturday's starters for the Ducks are a question mark according to Pyles. Head coach Mel Krause will most likely pick between Ron Sloy, Adam Berlin and Glen Fisher for the doubleheader which starts at 1 p.m. John Lazarich, Mark Thompson and Mike Jordan will be among those ready to be used in relief.

Although Pyles played at WSU for Coach Chuck "Bobo" Brayton only four years ago before going pro, he didn't give any indication that the series means anything more to him than any other.

"There's no loyalties because I went there," he said. "I do have a lot of respect for Brayton. Talent-wise they're not as good as in the years past, but when Bobo gets 'em whipped up they're really respectable."

In the first series between the two teams this year, Oregon lost the first game 8-3, won the second 4-3 and had the third suspended.

Softball looks for games, new playing field

By CHRISTY BODE
Of the Emerald

Rainy conditions and lack of field space have put a damper on the women's softball schedule and performance.

After Spring break, the Ducks

managed to play only one game against OCE before competing in the Reno Invitational Tournament, held last week. Other games against OSU and Portland State were rained out.

Oregon coach Becky Sisley

said a rematch with Portland State is scheduled for today, weather permitting. There is also a tentative date set for a game with OSU at Junction City on Sunday.

Despite dropping three games in the Reno Tourney, including a 9-8 loss to Portland State, Sisley was optimistic. "We played well in Reno and we're improving. We had good defensive plays but made some costly errors."

The lack of games and cramped practice quarters have hurt the Ducks. During wet conditions the team must resort to the Gerlinger gym for drills and mock games.

When conditions are dry, the team holds practice at either Amazon Park or at the library field. But there still remains the problem of hosting games on a quality regulation field.

According to Sisley, there are plans now underway to build a

softball field at the south end of Hayward field where the hammer throw area is located. The expected completion date for this project is set for next Spring.

Sisley said the layout for the new field will be comparable to the baseball field in terms of direction placement. Bleacher areas for spectator viewing are also included in the plans.

Jim Johnson, University physical plant estimator and design supervisor, said there are some problems dealing with the drainage system that must first be installed.

Despite the hard luck the Ducks have encountered so far, nobody can dispute Sisley's claim that she has the best indoor team around.

Blazer fans still cheering

PORTLAND (AP) — Some 1,000 people crowded Portland International Airport Thursday to cheer the Portland Trail Blazers on their return from Seattle.

"We can't let them get depressed," said Anita Newman, who took time off from her job to show her support for the defending National Basketball Association champions.

Portland lost to Seattle 100-98 Wednesday night to fall behind 3-1 in the best-of-seven quarterfinal series.

Team members signed autographs as they fought their way through the crowd. The cheers brought smiles to the faces of the players.

sportfolio

Soccer teams at OSU

Oregon's women's Club Sports soccer team will play Sunday in Corvallis, with the annual men's game between Oregon and Oregon State to follow.

Sailing regatta this weekend

The Northwest District Team Racing Championships in sailing will be held at Dexter Reservoir Saturday and Sunday, starting at 10 a.m. both days.

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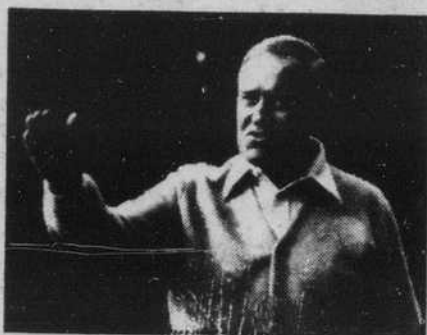
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