

sports

Oregon faces Beavers in battle for second in Northern Division

By MIKE GRADY
Of the Emerald

Oregon's baseball team finishes league play this weekend, traveling to Oregon State for a game today, then hosting the Beavers in a double header on Saturday.

Although the second half of Northern Division play has been bitter for the Ducks, they'll be going for a good series for more reasons than just pride's sake. The first has to do with finishing in second place.

While Oregon has won six and lost nine in conference play, good enough for third, the Beavers are 6-8 and only a half game up on the Ducks.

"More than anything it's a foundation for next year," said assistant coach Dave Pyles. "If we can make second it will be a big building factor."

"Being in second place — it's the whole ball of wax. Look at the recruiting factor. Whoever gets second between OSU and us will have the jump on the other in bettering their program. It will help budget-wise and recruit-wise."

The series could also determine whether Oregon can keep from having its second losing season in a row. With a 22-19 record at present and six games in Hawaii next weekend, winning at least two of the three would mean a lot.

Last year's losing record of

14-27 was Oregon's first in 45 years and those in the program don't like to be reminded of it.

In the first civil war series this season, OSU took two games by scores of 5-2 and 6-4. Oregon won the other, 5-4.

The lone successful Duck pitcher in the initial OSU series was Dean Kegler. After throwing four innings against Oregon College of Education Wednesday and picking up his eighth win of the year, Kegler will start one of the games on Saturday.

Kegler's victory over the Beavers three weeks ago was also his last in league play. Since then he has lost three to Northern Division foes, although one was only a one inning stint.

Senior righthander Glen Fisher has been tabbed to start today's game. Fisher has won four and lost four. While Kegler is a sure starter for half of tomorrow's twin-bill, a second starter is more or less up in the air.

Oregon State is expected to counter with Eric Sallee (5-1), Pat Barry (5-4) and Bob Flynn (2-5). The Beavers are led at the plate by leftfielder Jerry Miller. Miller, a junior, is currently hitting .355 and last week broke the OSU school record for hits in a season. He now has 65, erasing the one year mark of 64 by Jeff Doyle.

Today's game starts at 3 p.m. at OSU's Coleman Field. Saturday's action starts at 1 p.m. at Howe Field.

DUCK NOTES — Sophomore center fielder Tom Dodd has been heating up as of late and now leads the team in just about every imaginable offensive category. His 147 at bats, 31 runs scored, 52 hits, .354 batting average, 3 triples, 12 home runs and 9 stolen bases don't leave too many other Ducks claiming a team high... Besides Dodd, three other Oregon players are hitting above .300: Kevin Tabler (.310), Mike Connolly (.301) and Elam (.301).



Photo by Neil Gruenfelder

The last time Dean Kegler faced Oregon State he won and improved his record to 7-0. Since that time, he has lost three of four decisions, which is an example of how the Ducks have fallen off in second round of Northern Division play. Kegler is slated to throw this Saturday against OSU.

Article says Bill Walton might have bone disease

PORTLAND (AP) — Bill Walton, injury-ridden star center of the Portland Trail Blazers, may have a rare bone disease, the Oregonian says in a copyrighted article in its Friday editions.

The article, by sportswriter Augie Borgi, said the diagnosis of osteopetrosis, ("marble bone") is "unconfirmed" and "is a rumor at present."

John White, spokesman for the National Basketball Association team, denied flatly that there is any truth to the rumor.

White quoted Dr. Robert D. Cook, the Trail Blazer team physician, as describing the report as "nonsense, pure conjecture and sensationalism."

Dr. Cook and Walton were both unreachable.

Walton has been plagued with injuries throughout his professional basketball career. He missed much of the first two seasons with the Trail Blazers, then led them to the NBA championship in 1977.

The Blazers were making a runaway of their division and appeared to be headed for a second title when Walton went out with injuries again this season. He missed the final 21 regular season games, saw action in the first two playoff contests, and then went out again with a broken bone in his upper left foot. Portland lost the playoff series to Seattle 4-2.

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