

softball

Women's softball team ends tough season

By CHRISTY BODE
Of the Emerald

Consistency is the theme that the women's softball team tried to play by this season.

"Our goal this year is to play consistently, to keep people challenging for positions and to reduce errors," said Coach Becky Sisley earlier this season. "If we can do that," she continued, "getting to nationals will take care of itself."

But a question still lurks as to whether the Ducks will compete in the nationals on May 24-27, in Omaha, Nebraska.

The regional tourney, scheduled for Tacoma last weekend, does determine the regional champs and also selects the top two teams in the league to compete in the nationals. Persistent rain, however, cancelled the tourney altogether.

Sisley stated under these unfortunate circumstances, Oregon State, the defending AIAW Region IX champions and top team in the region this year, automatically clinched a berth to nationals because of its season record.

Oregon, Portland State, SOSC and OCE were forced to schedule a series of elimination games in Medford yesterday to determine the second qualifying team.

Unfortunately, the Ducks lost to PSU in the first round, 2-1, eliminating themselves from a national berth.

The Ducks ended their regular season with a 4-14 record, which is not impressive by any means, but not bad considering the conditions they had to contend with.

Oregon had only seven players returning from last year's varsity squad, including pitcher Shawna

Baxter, infielders Kim Knox, Vicki Lesh and Allyson Smith, catcher Sally Blickle and outfielders Hanna Munson and Becky Paschke.

Sisley had to juggle positions and incorporate six junior varsity players in her squad. "We're a lot less experienced this year than last," added Sisley earlier. "We have quite a few new people who have the potential but they just haven't had that much game experience."

At the beginning of the season, the Ducks dropped doubleheader games to Utah State, Chico State and Sacramento State.

Hard luck set in after Spring break, as rain caused quite a few games to be cancelled and forced the Ducks to practice inside Gerlinger Annex, under cramped conditions. They managed to play only one game against OCE before entering the Nevada Invitational in Reno on April 21-22.

At the Reno tournament, Oregon dropped three games, including a 9-8 loss in a five inning game to Portland State.

Early in May, the tide changed for the Ducks when they beat SOC, 8-7, for their first season victory. The wins didn't stop there. Oregon then executed good defensive and offensive plays to beat OCE 5-2 and then shut out Portland State in a doubleheader 4-0 and 2-0. However, the Ducks did fall in a doubleheader to Oregon State 8-0, 11-6.

Knox, Lesh, and Julie Cushing have displayed the most consistent ball playing this season.

Knox has been impressive this year. She has switched between shortstop and pitcher (where she has a 1.66 earned run average)

and also has the team's best batting average at .321.

Lesh, who had Oregon's best fielding average (.975) last year, has failed to match that average so far but has pitched well and has a 2.66 earned run average.

Cushing was promoted from the junior varsity ranks and has performed well as first baseman. She has a fielding average of .957 and has hit for a .286 average.

Munson, a senior, has secured the position of outfielder for four years. As an experienced player, she has been a tremendous asset to the team by generating enthusiasm and spirit.

Sisley enlisted the help of Oregon graduate students Sue Kennedy and Karen Jones. Ken-

nedy served as the junior varsity coach while Jones, who played softball for Northern Colorado University, was the manager and assistant coach.

Doug McRea also assisted the team, working primarily on pitching technique.

Oregon's loss yesterday was a heartbreaker. The Ducks took a 1-0 lead in the second and held it until the fifth when the Vikings tied the score. It was in the next frame Portland State got the game-winning run.

Margo Smith took second when Shawna Baxter misplayed her single to left. Ellen Smith then delivered the game winner with a single to left.

Oregon had jumped ahead

when early when Baxter scored on Sally Blickle's rbi single. But Portland State got that back in the fifth, bunching three hits together, Cec Gillies scoring on Lori Davis' single.

For the game, Oregon could collect but six hits, all of them singles. Blickle and Becky Paschke led the way, each collecting two hits in three appearances.

Portland State could only get six hits off losing pitcher Vicki Lesh. But the Vikings got them when they were needed, while the Ducks couldn't put anything together. Oregon's last scoring chance came in the fifth, but a single baserunner was left.

Oregon 010 000 0 — 1 6 2
Portland State 000 011 x — 2 6 0
Lesh and Blickle; Davis and Smith

Childers

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he asserts steps could be taken to relieve some of the monetary pressure.

"There are things that could be cut back and the money could be used for better things; it could be used for people who really need it," said Childers with some bitterness. "I look around and see money going to things that don't need it as much as us."

Money was at the heart of another situation that had Childers on the brink of leaving school. Because he had fulfilled all the qualifications for state of Oregon residency, Childers applied last fall to become a resident and therefore be eligible for lower tuition rates.

A stumbling block emerged in the person of Bob Campillo, Oregon Associate Director of Ad-

missions.

"The complication was that Campillo wouldn't accept a loan of mine as a loan," explained Childers.

Campillo was ready to deny residency for Childers and that would have meant either leaving school or transferring to another school.

But Childers was saved by Don Chalmers, the director of the Office of Student Advocacy at Oregon. Chalmers pled Childers' case and "once it was out of Campillo's hands" Childers was granted residency.

His future secure, Childers has set his sights on attaining the National Collegiate Athletic Association tournament.

"I'd have to say my goal is going to the NCAA's," said Childers. "It's a very high goal and I really have very little chance of doing it."

Childers has more aspirations than those in the spectrum of tennis, however, and it would be an

insult to paint him as a one-dimensional jock. He has keen interests in political affairs ("I really liked Robert Kennedy"), social issues ("I respect a person like Ralph Nader who works for something even though he doesn't get that much out of it") and music ("I like Dylan and old 60's rock"). And while he's not certain of what he'll do with his math degree when he graduates, he is sure where he wants to be in 1980.

"I want to go to Moscow for the Olympics. It's been my goal since the sixth grade. It's even bigger than Wimbledon," smiled Childers, who has taken two years of Russian language classes. "I'll have to borrow money to do it, but I figure I'll learn as much spending the money to go to the Soviet Union as I would spending it on school."

Besides, by 1980 it will be about time for Oregon's tennis vagabond to start his wanderings again.



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