

Softballers make pitch for more wins

By JACK CONDLIFFE
Of the Emerald

Bolstered by its strongest recruiting class in years, the women's softball team hopes to

unseat Oregon State as the Northwest region AIAW champion and win a berth in Women's College World Series.

"We're a lot stronger than we

were last year in terms of offensive and defensive strategies," says coach Becky Sisley.

Defensively, the Ducks have added two freshmen pitchers, Lori Sweet and Amy Rickman, who will join junior Vicki Lesh. The addition of the pitchers and infielders, Stacey Allman and Ellen Strom, means the team will have more defensive flexibility, says Sisley, noting they will not have to shift the infield lineup each time there is a pitching change, a major weakness of last year's team.

Offensively, the women have two returning power hitters in seniors Allyson Smith and Shawna Baxter. The women's attack will be strengthened with the addition of All-America outfielder Vicki Hogan, a freshman from Portland, and the return of Lynne Conroy, who led the team in batting in 1977, but did not attend school last year.

Rickman is also considered a strong offensive threat, and Sisley adds that her and many of the other new recruits have substantial summer league experience.

Rickman, Strom and outfielder June Liu all played with the Eugene Chicks, a four-time participant in the Amateur Softball Association national championships. Hogan played for a Lake Oswego team and earned All-America honors.

One rule change will be a boost to teams with offensive might — the use of a designated hitter. The change was adopted in international softball rules, as was another rule change allowing players to re-enter the game.

Sisley says the re-entry rule will allow her to take advantage of the

team's depth and to develop players who might not otherwise get to play.

"We've got good flexibility," Sisley says. Last year's schedule started the season with some tough games and the coach says the easy schedule early this season will be an important adjustment.

The schedule begins with games against two community colleges, Butte College on March 22, and American River College on March 23, as the first part of a spring-break road trip. The team then faces Utah State and Sacramento State on March 24 before taking on Chico State in a doubleheader on March 26.

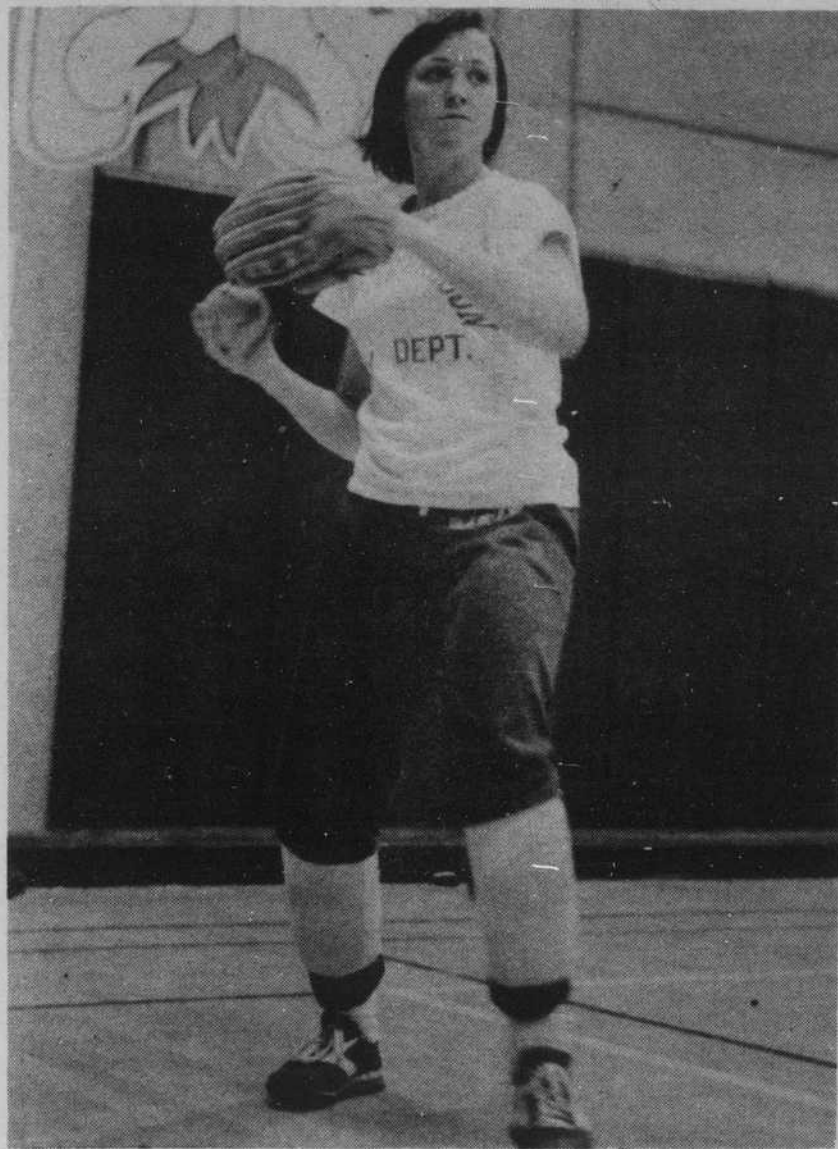


Photo by Suzanna Argen

Oregon's softball team has been forced to practice indoors because of the weather, but during spring break they will begin their season outdoors in California.



Photo by Ken Sands

Seniors Kelvin Small, Rob Closs and Larry Barthlow gave their farewell speeches to the players and coaches of the Duck basketball team Monday night at its award banquet. Small was voted the most valuable player, junior John Murray was named the most inspirational player and sophomore Stu Lyon was given the scholar-athlete award.

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EVENTS

ASUO STUDENT HEALTH INSURANCE COMMITTEE

Will be holding an open forum to discuss YOUR 1979 Student Health Insurance Policy, Wednesday, March 7th at 2:30. All students interested in next year's policy and/or participating on next year's committee are invited to attend. It's YOUR policy! Room to be posted in EMU. 06821:3-7

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06810:3-7

PERSONAL

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ROB CLOSS: You're through playing the court, now try playing the field! 3-6

THIEF! Brass SAM DICKEN seminar room plaque ripped from wall of 160 Condon has great sentimental value. RETURN to Dept. of Geography. 3-7

Give him a dooby.
Give him a beer.
And COWBOY will CRONK all year! 3-6

I like your chair!
ROUGH EDGES 3-6

I WANT to sail the SAN JUANS with your crew Spring break. PLEASE CALL 686-6674. 3-7

ALPHA KAPPA PSI general meeting TODAY, 5:30, EMU (room posted) — BE THERE. 3-6

DEBBIE — You had better go! I refuse to return my flowered shirt and bermudas. DAVID 3-6

Girl with red hair, white sweater, and blue jeans who sat in front of me at the Duck-Beaver game: WHO ARE YOU? Guy with big mouth, brown hat, and dropped jacket. 3-6

To the Adorable Brunette in 8:30 MANAGEMENT: I'm in love! LEATHERED ADMIRER. 3-6

LIZ and ANN: Thanks for the freebie at the OSU game — it really made my day — would like to return the favor sometime. BRIAN X5350. 3-6

LOST — One stick-pin with small umbrella attached to it. Sentimental value. If found call, 686-2875. 3-7

LAS VEGAS!

COMETAKE A CHANCE — WEDNESDAY, March 7, 7 p.m.

RIVER ROAD RECREATION
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THANK YOU for the beautiful roses! PLEASE TELL me who you are!! ROSALYNN 3-6

HISTORY MAJOR with SICK PLANT — Thanks for the note. "THE MOUSE" Goodrich. 3-6

LISA PARDINI — Happy Belated Birthday! We should really stop seeing so much of one another. Good Luck with Finals. Love, "THE B." 3-6

MR. BILL:

HAPPY BIRTHDAY!

I hope your day is "DEECE"! ILY! Love, LITTLE ZINGER 3-6

MARY JO

You've made 19 So we'll keep this clean We'd just like to say Have a CROUTON BIRTHDAY! Love, your FELLOW CROUTONS 3-6

THANK to our PIKE BIG BROTHERS Who took care of us like our mothers The function was great Breakfast was late And now we can't wait for another! Let's make it a week next time! Love, Your LIL SISTERS. 3-6

DEAD HEADS: It's DEAD week! "What a long, strange trip it's been." — COSMIC COWGIRL (Bonnie) 3-6

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