

Softball team ready for Cal after 5-2 trip

After a successful California road trip that left the University women's softball team with a 5-2 record, the team has returned to Oregon to face the University of California-Berkeley today. The game will be played in Corvallis at 4 p.m. following the Oregon State-Berkeley game.

Softball coach Becky Sisley calls the California team "the toughest opponents we've met to date, but we have a good chance of beating them."

The seven-game trip left the team with a .258 hitting average while their opponents averaged .134. "The experience we gained on the trip was worth the two losses," Sisley said. "We played different calibers of teams and that helped us build confidence in our players. It left us with a good solid base to build on," she said.

Sisley will be pitching freshman Lori Sweet in the game today. Sweet returned from California with a .000 earned

run average and a 4-0 pitching record. "Sweet is our strongest pitcher," says Sisley. "She should do well against Berkeley. The unknown factor in the game is how our offense will respond to a strong pitcher. Berkeley has one of the strongest, if not the strongest pitcher, we will face."

Two of the Duck women are hitting above .500. June Liu completed the trip with a .500 average and Allyson Smith hit .562. "Liu and Smith are our

most consistent hitters," says Wendy Polhemus, team manager, and statistician. "They've both been able to hit anything thrown at them."

"All the runs against us have been on errors," adds Sisley. "We've got the depth needed, but made a few errors on the field."

With plans set to tighten the defense, which Polhemus says "is excellent, it just has temporary lapses," Sisley says the team has a good chance.

"We are eager to prove the Ducks are a strong team," says Sisley. "If we win the game against Berkeley I think we'll have the momentum to take the regionals."

The 1976 Duck softball team won the regional championship, a feat the 1979 team hopes to repeat. "I'm confident in all the players — they are strong and work well together. I would say we have the composition to take the regional title," the coach says.

Ducks win second, take tourney lead

Outfielder Tom Dodd hit two home runs and shortstop Glen Baggart got three hits as the University men's baseball team beat Maine, 15-6, in the Riverside National Invitational Tournament Wednesday.

The win left the Ducks with a 2-0 record in the eight-team round-robin tourney, while Maine, last year's champs, fell to 1-1.

"It feels good to finally come around on my hitting," said Dodd, who suffered through an 0-for-18 slump earlier this season.

Freshman Bill Gwinn went the distance for the Ducks and held the Black Bears to only six hits.

Gwinn also struck out 13 batters, including the first six he faced, but Oregon head coach Mel Krause seemed more pleased about his team's improvement on offense.

"Our hitting is coming around, and we're attacking the ball," said Krause, whose Ducks are now 5-9 on the season.

Poor weather in Southern California has forced several games to be postponed, and today the Ducks face the prospect of playing three opponents — Brigham Young, U.C. Riverside, and Indiana — all on the same day.

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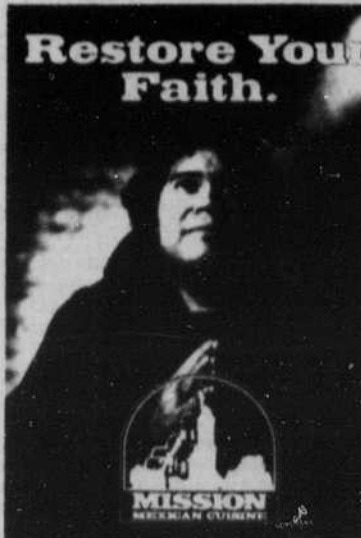
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