

Baseball squad begins home season today

By BILL BIGELOW
For the Emerald

After 19 games on the road, Oregon's baseball team will finally make its home debut this afternoon, weather permitting, when they play the University of Portland at 3 p.m. at Howe Field.

The Ducks have compiled a 6-13 record thus far, including three wins in seven tries at the Riverside (Calif.) National Tournament. After winning their first two games, Oregon lost four straight before bumping Seattle University 9-4 Saturday in their California trip finale.

Now, after the day-and-a-half drive home, Oregon coach Mel Krause hopes his club won't be flat for the Pilots. The team took Monday off, and Krause feels it is important that the players regroup quickly, as league play opens this weekend with a three-game series against Washington in Seattle.

The California trip answered some of Krause's early-season questions, but also posed some new ones.

Dean Kegler, Bill Gwinn, and Mike Heil have earned positions in the starting pitching rotation, says Krause. "They pitched well on the trip, and will start next weekend in Seattle."

Catching is also a prime concern of Krause. "Jerry Rinella proved he can handle the catching duties after Mike Carr suffered a broken leg before the season-opener at Portland State," says the coach.

"Jerry looked good behind the plate," says Krause, who also used Mark Epstein, Kirk Cameron and Glen Baggerly



Emerald photo

Oregon baseball coach Mel Krause will lead his team against the University of Portland this afternoon — weather permitting.

as catcher when Rinella was injured and forced to miss several games.

Krause was disappointed with his team's play during the first week of the trip.

"We didn't play with team pride as a

representative of the University of Oregon and the northwest, he says. "We played like a bunch of bushers. We dropped routine balls and made too many defensive errors in the clutch."

But the second week brought

improvement.

"We played with more pride during the tournament," claims the coach. "We didn't win as many games as we could and should have, but we showed improvement in defeating Maine (a nationally-ranked team and defending Riverside Tournament champion).

"There's no question we have a better team than last year," he says. "We have better arms, better depth, and a more maneuverable team. We have proven that we can play with competitive teams, like UCLA (ranked in the nation's top 10) and Maine.

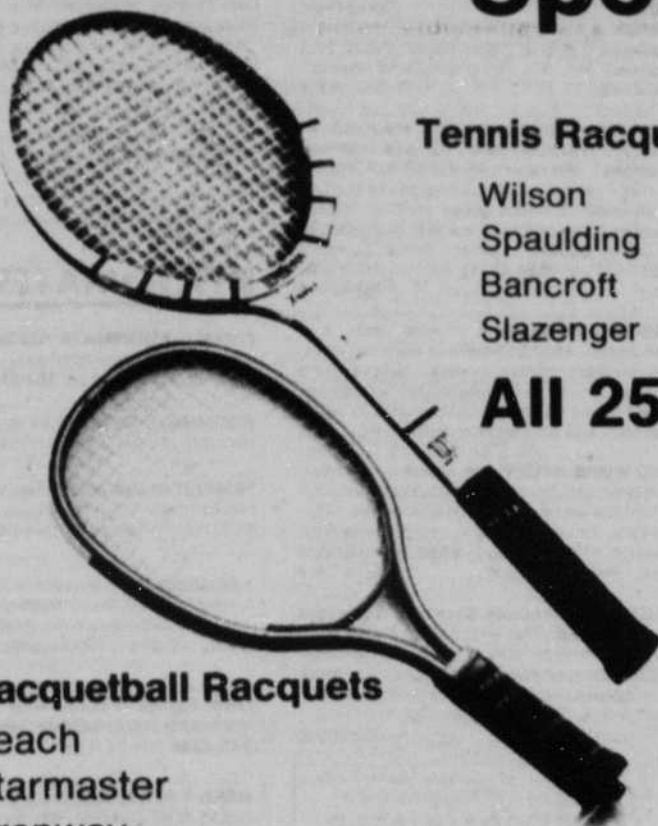
"But we also learned," adds Krause, "that we can't issue walks and give up free runs if we want to be a contender for the league championship."

Krause expresses pleasure with the defensive job done so far by Rick Moonitz at shortstop, and also with the hitting of Denny Boom (.400), Cameron (.333), Baggerly (.362) and Tom Dodd (.342).

The long road trip was prosperous for Dodd, who exploded out of an 0-for-18 batting slump with five home runs in the tournament, giving him six for the young season. The Oregon centerfielder needs only one more homer to tie Guy Krause's U of O record of 27 career round-trippers.

Today's game will pit Oregon's Bill Gwinn (1-1) against a University of Portland team which Krause calls "improved over a year ago." The Ducks won four out of five meetings with the Pilots last year.

Sporting Goods Sale



Tennis Racquets

Wilson
Spaulding
Bancroft
Slazenger

All 25% off

Racquetball Racquets

Leach
Starmaster
Trenway

All 25% off



Runner

Sprint

Country

Bata

Tennis and Jogging Shoes
\$3.00 off each pair



Bicycle Accessories

Leg Clamps Regularly \$.75 **NOW \$.49**
Arm Lights Regularly \$1.69 **NOW \$.79**
Head Lights Regularly \$2.49 **NOW \$.89**
Selected Bike Locks 1/2 off regular price
Toe Clamps Regularly \$3.35 **NOW \$.99**

Tennis Balls



Penn Regularly \$2.69 **NOW \$1.49**
Slazenger Regularly \$2.89 **NOW \$1.49**
Dunlap Regularly \$2.79 **NOW \$1.49**
Limited 3 cans per customer

Trager BACK PACK

Regularly \$10.95
NOW \$7.95



Dartboard Set

Regularly \$19.95
NOW \$9.95



Sale ends Saturday, April 7.

Limited to stock on hand.

**UO
BOOKSTORE**

13th & Kincaid 686-4331
Open: Mon-Fri 8:15-5:30 Sat 10:00-2:00