

# Ducks' moment in the sun turns cloudy

By STEVE SPATZ  
Of the Emerald

Oregon's baseball squad had a brief moment in the sun Friday afternoon, using the glare of old Sol to gain a 4-3 11th-inning win over the Oregon State Beavers in Howe Field.

But with the disappearance of the sun Saturday, so too did the luck of the Ducks dry out. Battling a steady drizzle in Corvallis, Oregon lost both halves of a doubleheader to the Beavers, 7-1 and 2-1, dropping to last place in the Northern Division when it was all said and done.

Taking advantage of the other team's mistakes was the key to this series, and Oregon did just that on Friday. They were aided when OSU leftfielder Dave Backen lost two key fly balls in the sun, leading to Oregon's comeback runs in the ninth inning, and the winner in the eleventh.

But on Saturday, the tables were turned. OSU could do no wrong, and silly mental mistakes by the Ducks didn't hurt the Beavers' cause at all.

"They capitalized on our mistakes," fumed Oregon coach Mel Krause after Saturday's losses. "You can't play like that and expect to win."

To Oregon's credit, OSU took absolute control of the opener and never gave the Ducks a chance. The Beavers came through with the big plays at the right time, pushing seven runs across the plate on just six hits.

Beaver double plays ended just about every Duck threat until the seventh when they finally scored on Steve Crum's sacrifice.

"Oregon State deserved to win," said Krause. "They got men in scoring position and put them across with timely hitting."

But the second game was no such story. Oregon grabbed a 1-0 lead in the third inning on a two-out single by Mike Black, scoring designated hitter Bob Kreuger.

OSU tied it in the fourth with a solo home run by Bob McNair, and it stayed that way until the eighth.

With runners on first and third, and one out, OSU's Bob Hunsinger rapped a hard grounder straight back to relief pitcher Jim Givens. Givens hesitated with the ball, missing the opportunity to execute an inning-ending double play, and finally threw the ball to second base for a force out. Meanwhile, OSU's runner at third, Bob Bishop, scored the game winner almost unnoticed.

Friday is the day the Ducks would like to remember — but only the last few innings. The Beavers had things all their way, leading 3-0 going into the bottom of the ninth. But then Oregon got it together.

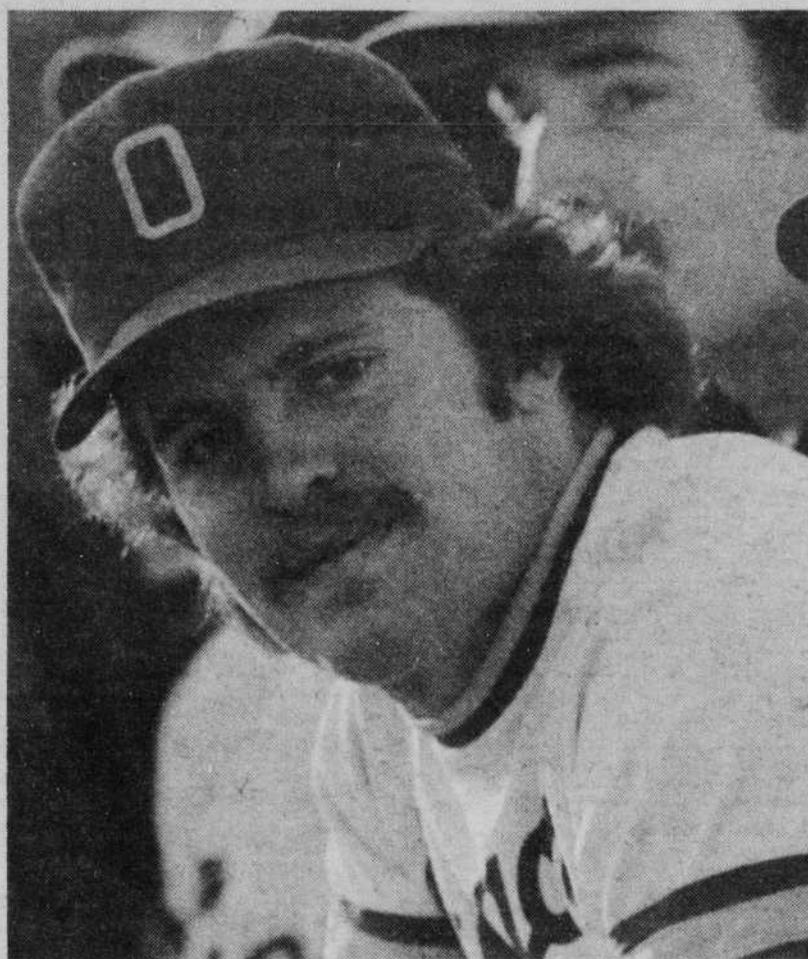


Photo by Steve Dykes

Oregon's Steve Crum had something to smile about last Friday — he drove in the tying runs in the Ducks' eventual 4-3 win over Oregon State.

Oregon's Mike Carr punched a double into centerfield, then scored a moment later on Rick Moonitz's single, his fourth of the day. After Jim Jordan walked, Crum smashed a high fly into left.

But OSU's Backen never had a chance. Looking right into the sun, Backen lost it, and in the process, both baserunners had scored to make it 3-3.

Finally in the 11th, the Ducks loaded the bases on two walks and another muffed fly ball by Backen. Mike Black delivered a single into right center for the game-winning hit.

# Women ousted in tournament

The Oregon women's softball team, still striving to become a squad deserving of the chance of competing at the national tournament, apparently hasn't reached that goal yet. The Ducks won two games and lost two games at the Reno Invitational and were eliminated from the tournament before the final day (Saturday).

Oregon defeated Northern Arizona on Thursday 4-1 behind the pitching of Rhonda Revelle and Lori Sweet. But the Ducks played three games Friday, and the second loss, 6-3 to Utah, forced them out of the double-elimination tournament.

Earlier during the day, Oregon lost to Fresno State 9-4 and beat Portland State 10-3. The Ducks have a record of 9-9 on the season.

"People just have to be patient with us," says Oregon coach Nancy Plantz. "We're a young team and need more game experience. I still think we're going to peak at the Cal tournament (the Cal-Berkeley Invitational this weekend)."

Oregon faces Oregon State Tuesday at 4 p.m. in the Ducks' first home game of the year. The contest is the second between the two schools this season. OSU won the first 4-0 in Corvallis one week ago.



# Ducks take to the water; top Huskies in downpour

Under miserable conditions and before a miniscule crowd, Oregon's women's track and field team continued to roll with a 75-52 dual meet win Saturday over Washington at Husky Stadium.

The atmosphere in Seattle was a shocking switch from the sun-drenched skies and mass intensity that surrounded the UCLA meet the weekend before. Rain doused the field, and all but 200 Washington track fans were smart enough to stay home. It had all the earmarks of a letdown for the Ducks, whose 66-61 win over the Bruins puts them in the prime spot for the post-season number-one dual ranking.

Oregon's Patty Kearney was the first to serve notice that the Ducks had no intentions of going belly up. Kearney, who started the season at 166-11, tossed the javelin 180-7. Her mark was two feet better than the school record and national

season best she set against UCLA and also qualified her for the Olympic trials.

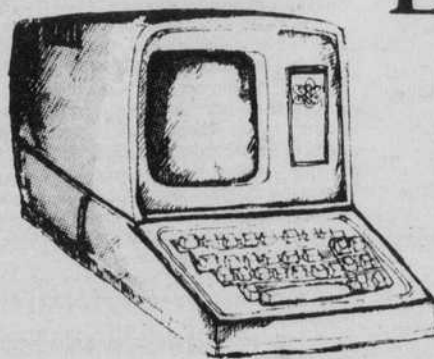
Lexie Miller, who earlier had the makings of a bad day when she and Grace Bakari dropped the final exchange in the 400 relay, came back to win the long jump with a personal best of 19-4, and finished second to teammate Robin Pate in the 100 hurdles. Pate, a freshman from Mountain Home, Ind., also won the 400 hurdles and has become the Ducks' premier hurdler, winning five of six races in Oregon's three duals.

Bakari also recovered from the baton exchange to win the 400 in 54.6 and the 200 with a 24.73 mark.

Carrie Albano heaved the shot 46-9 on her last attempt to beat high school rival Jackie Henry (45-7). Other winners for the Ducks were Leann Warren in the 800 (2:07.43) and Lisha Lass in the discus (147-0).

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