

Ducks drop two to Cougars; darkness postpones final game

When coach Mel Krause added Stanford as one of the games on Oregon's California road trip last month, he gave little thought as to how it would affect the baseball team's series with Washington State.

He found out last weekend as the Cougars drubbed the Ducks 18-7 and 7-4 just three days after Oregon had taken a 12-0 beating from the Cardinals. The third game in the series at Pullman was postponed because of darkness with the score tied 4-4. The two losses left the Ducks 0-2 in conference and the lone resident of the Northern Division cellar.

"I think the results of our spring trip affected our play," Krause said. "When I scheduled Stanford, I didn't realize it would

affect the team this way. Obviously, I'll never do it again."

An 11-run third inning for the Cougars victimized Oregon in the first game of the series. Dean Kegler was the pitcher who weathered most of the damage, as his record fell to 2-2. Oregon's Dean Hummel was two for five at the plate with a home run and four RBIs in the losing effort.

In game two Saturday, a four-run WSU fourth inning broke open a close game to seal the Ducks' fate. A bright spot was sophomore Steve Crum, who clubbed his fifth home run of the season while keeping his average well over .400. Hummel (0-3) took the loss.

Although Oregon's pitching suffered over the weekend, the hitting did not. "Steve Crum and

James Nutt hit outstandingly," said Krause. "The whole team hit well, but we were always behind."

Krause also noted the series was played in Pullman, not Eugene. "If there's any good thing about that series, it's that it was on the road. In this league you have to count on winning all your home games and picking up a few on the road. This just cuts down our margin of error at home."

Oregon travels to McMinnville today to play a Linfield (2-0) before returning home tomorrow to play Willamette.

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Gymnasts fifth at NCAA; Yuhashi takes floor title

Oregon gymnast James Yuhashi won the floor exercise while his team took fifth at the NCAA championships held last weekend in Lincoln, Neb.

The team's performance marked the fifth straight year Oregon has finished in the top five. The Ducks scored 543.45 points to easily outdistance sixth-place Penn State (533.90). Nebraska won the team title with 566.45 points while Pacific-10 Conference champ UCLA finished third with 559.70.

Oregon's Alex Schwartz tied for third in the rings, scoring a 9.70, to also gain all-American honors Saturday.

Yuhashi, a senior, scored his victory using a spectacular, and original, mount — a double full-front flip.

Yuhashi's victory in the floor exercise comes on the heels of

a third-place finish last year. The Oregon senior scored a near-perfect 9.90 to beat Hartung, who had a 9.80.

It was only the second time an Oregon performer has won a national title. Scott McElDowney did it on the rings in 1978.

Yuhashi and teammate Pat Mullen each tied for seventh in their respective events — floor exercise and horizontal bar. The Ducks' Kelly Crumley finished 16th in the all-around (108.95).

In Friday's team competition, which is separate from the individual competition, Schwartz took third in the rings with a 19.25 score (two performances added together). Olympians Jim Hartung and Bart Conner finished ahead of Schwartz in a first-place tie, each scoring 19.35.

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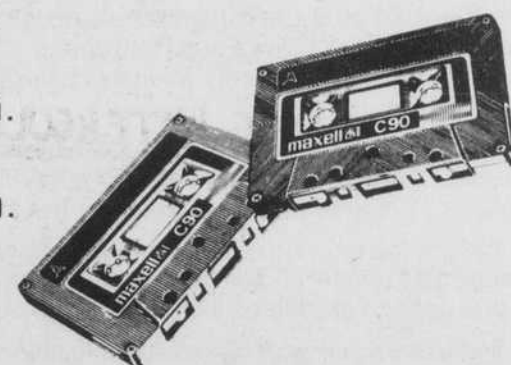
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