

Cougars offer baseball squad last chance in division race

Oregon's men's baseball team will have its backs to the wall this weekend when they host to Washington State University for a four-game series at Howe Field.

There's no "next series" for the Ducks anymore. Oregon holds a 1-8 Northern Division record, 5½ games behind league-leading Washington, and the Ducks must sweep the Cougars to have any real chance in the division race.

"I'm not willing to concede that we're out of this," says coach Mel Krause. "We could conceivably go 8-8. And it's still possible that all three of the other teams could have more than eight losses. Until we're mathematically eliminated, I refuse to give up."

Krause's troops will be facing a WSU squad that is having a down year despite a 6-4 conference record. "They're not as powerful a team as they have been in the past," says Krause of the perennial Northern Division winners. The Cougars have a 20-22 record after being ranked as high as fourth in the nation last year.

Oregon is coming off an 11-3 victory over Lewis & Clark in which they pounded out 16 hits. The win gave Oregon a 15-13 season record and some momentum going into the series opener with the Cougars.

Today's first game, slated to begin at 1 p.m., will conclude a suspended game that was tied 4-4 after nine innings in Pullman, followed immediately by the second game. Saturday's doubleheader will begin at 1 p.m.

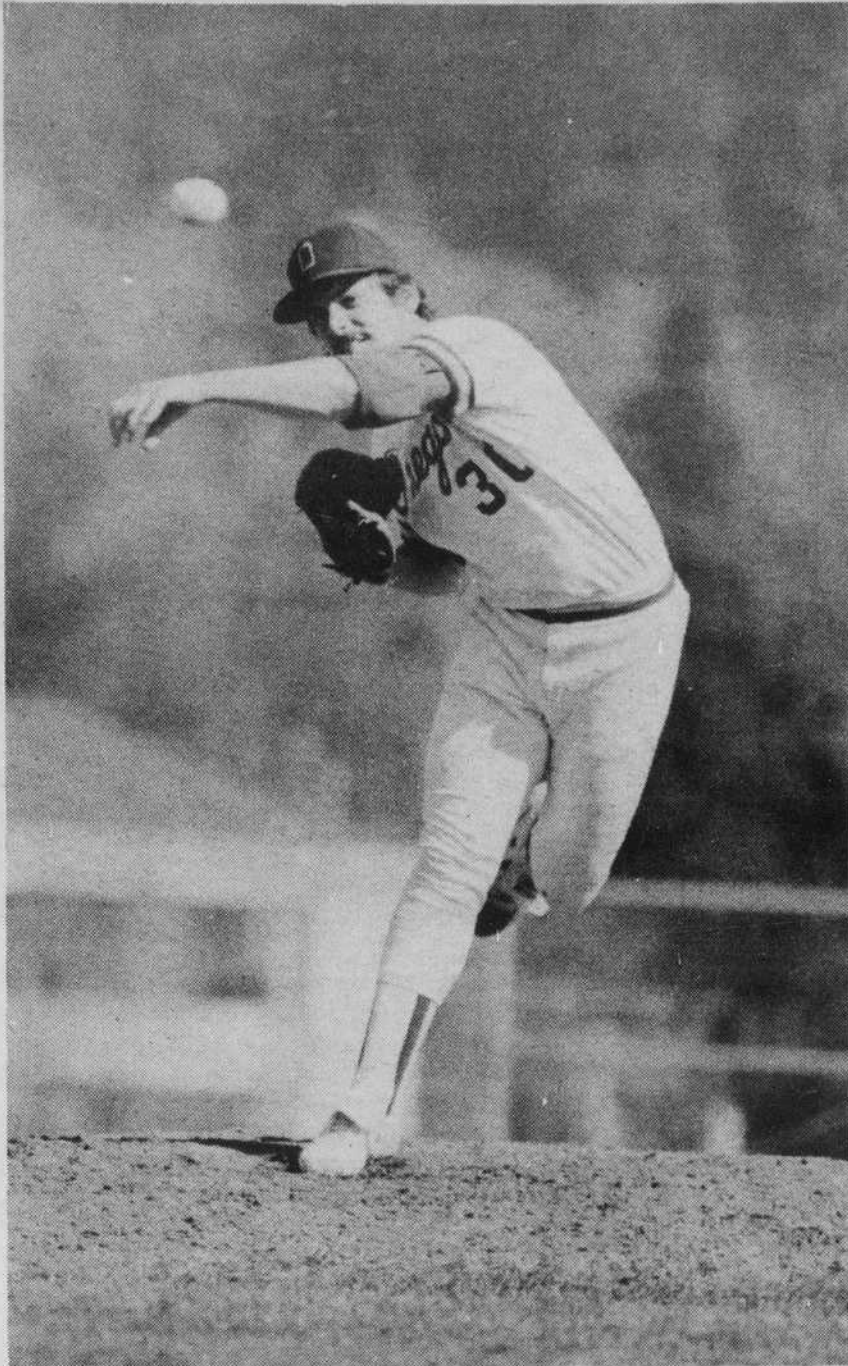


Photo by Steve Dykes

Oregon pitchers, including reliever Dan King, will have their hands full against Washington State this weekend

Softball team takes on Beavers

No one on Oregon's softball team checks out the stats before the game. That's the policy, says coach John Feeney.

"We just take them as they come."

Today, the softball team will take on Oregon State in a double-header in Corvallis, and the rule hasn't changed. "It doesn't matter what their stats are," says Feeney. "They have to prove them to us when they get on the field."

The no-peeking rule has helped the women's softball team get through the rough

spots this season, Feeney says. And there have been plenty of them.

The Ducks have only one pitcher, Terri Anderson, and she can only pitch one game before her arm gets sore. "That puts us in a bad position for double-headers," he says.

For the second game the Ducks call upon Marcy Sowa, who usually plays first base. After that "we have nothing," Feeney says.

Oregon, 6-11 this season after falling 1-0 to Portland State Wednesday, will face a tough Beaver squad that is batting

over .300 and has several pitchers to call on.

"They're a tough team," says Feeney. "They've got the best record now in the state and know how to put hits together."

The Ducks have only one batter above the .300 mark. The lack of hits has really hurt, Feeney says. "We've got to start connecting with the ball."

While the offense is weak, Oregon's defense is its strength, he says. "We can hold them off, if we can pick up the hits — and runs."

The double-header's first game will start at 2:30 p.m.

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