

In an effort to bolster an injured pitching crew . . . Sowa steps to the mound

Hand Reggie Jackson a rosin bag and tell him to take to the mound and pitch. Make Johnny Bench toss aside his catcher's glove and mount the hill.

That is exactly what happened to Marcy Sowa, a freshman member of Oregon's women's softball team.

Sowa, who was the backup first baseman when the season got under way, is now pitching for the Ducks in an unusual attempt to bolster their depleted staff.

It became a game of numbers as the Oregon pitching staff shrank to one.

After the Ducks took seventh in last year's AIAW championship, their pitching staff has never looked the same. The two expected main hurlers — freshmen Tami Caldwell and Stephanie Heisler — went down with knee injuries early in the season and were never able to show their stuff.

Krista Parent, who originally played second base for the

Ducks, had done some pitching in high school, and when the casualties began to mount, coach John Feeney asked his second baseman to help out with pitching.

But soon Parent became a member of the casualty list and Duck newcomer Terri Anderson, a transfer from Southern Oregon State College, became the nucleus of the Oregon pitching staff. Then Sowa got into the act.

"She got into pitching by accident," Feeney says. "She volunteered to get ready for next season. We put her on a program to get ready for next year, but we have had to pitch her this year because of the injuries."

"I was doing some pitching drills given me by coach Feeney because I had sort of volunteered to pitch if the injuries kept up," says Sowa.

The neophyte pitcher gained her initial exposure to the mound in California when Anderson developed a sore arm.

"On our last trip to California we were down by 10 runs in a game in the fourth inning," she says. "Coach Feeny told me to warm up."

"I couldn't believe it, I had never pitched before and here I was in some real good competition."

With the loss of Parent, Oregon's pitching staff was down to just Sowa and starter Anderson. With only two pitchers, it was inevitable that Sowa would eventually start.

On April 28, Sowa earned her first start on the mound against Oregon College of Education. And again, it was a semi-surprise to her.

"The coach didn't even tell me I was going to pitch until about a half-hour before the game even started," Sowa says. "I was kind of nervous, but once I got in there and got going, I felt pretty comfortable."

Sowa, a graduate of Sunset High School in Beaverton, is only one of four Duck freshman from Sunset — Ruth House,

Tami Caldwell and Karen Vipond round out the list.

"I think it's real neat that we are all down here," says Sowa. "We have all been good friends since the eighth grade. We all wanted to go to school together and here we are."

Ever since her first trip to the mound, she has been enthusiastic about the job, Sowa says.

"But when I began pitching, it was really a matter of trying to help the team. I really feel bad when I have an off day because I feel that I have let the team down."

"But I really shouldn't worry about it all that much because I am really just starting to pitch."

Sowa's willingness to step in and pitch has been a boon, says Feeney. "We didn't want her to pitch very much — but Terri Anderson has been hurting."

"It's been a tough situation for Marcy but she has done a good job."

A good job this year will

probably translate into a relief pitching spot next season when the Duck pitching crew returns to full force, Sowa says.

"I would like to keep pitching, even with the pitchers we have coming back," she says. "I will probably be just be a reliever, but that's okay."

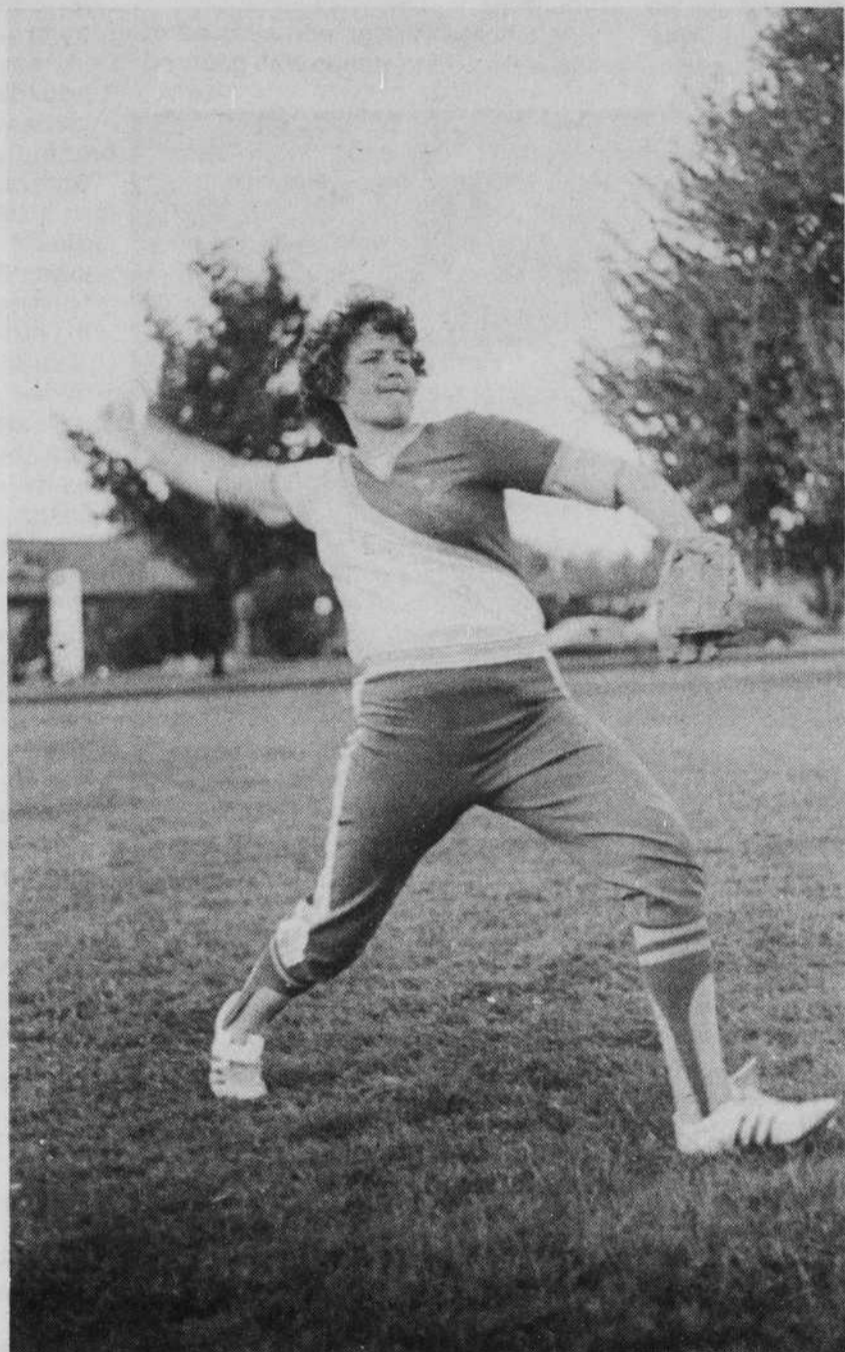
Sowa as a relief pitcher would be an another plus for the team, Feeney says. "We would like her to continue on with her pitching even with the others coming back."

"We may have to move her to the outfield. I can see her as a right fielder because of her throwing arm. But we would still want her for relief purposes."


Relief purposes or not, Sowa is enthused about the prospect. "I really enjoy pitching," she says.

With that attitude it could be hard to keep her off the mound.

By Steve Turcotte
Photo by Jody Murray



Freshman Marcy Sowa hadn't pitched before she arrived at Oregon, but as injuries decimated the Duck softball squad she stepped to the mound.

PRO SOCCER 

If professional soccer interests you, and you want to be part of the growing number of fans following the teams of the NASL, here's a great opportunity.

Take the TIMBER EXPRESS!

Sat. May 16: Portland Timbers -vs- Calgary Boomers

Bus package: \$15
(includes Gen. Adm. ticket and Trailways roundtrip ticket.)

de Frisco's **484-2263**

For more information and reservations call

10% DISCOUNT

To U. of O. Students, Faculty and Staff On Service and Repairs*

- No matter where you bought your car, we'd be happy to do your warranty work or other customer service work.
- Lowest hourly labor rate of any authorized Volkswagen dealer in Western Oregon.
- Largest parts inventory south of Portland.
- Service Department is open six full days every week. Mon.-Fri.: 7:30-5:30, Sat.: 8:00-5:00.

*With current full-time student or staff University I.D. card.

1570 South A, Springfield 746-8241

SIEGRIST VOLKSWAGEN



Hawkeye's Cycle Week
May 9th - 16th

Cycle Week Specials

- Every bike sold this week will include a free cable, lock, rear rack, and light.
- 25% off Eclipse bike bags.
- 10% off Cannondale bike bags.
- Plus special prices on lots of great bike accessories.
- Limited to stock on hand

Win a cycle touring outfit!

Stop in during Cycle Week and enter. Win a \$100 set of Cannondale front and rear touring bags. Drawing May 16. No purchase necessary.



HAWKEYE'S THE GOOD LIFE

On the corner of 13th & Oak in Eugene, 343-5722