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# Only batters 'strike' in minors

By DONALD COULTER  
Of the Emerald

The current players' strike may have postponed baseball in major league cities, but the national pastime is alive and thriving in Eugene.

The Eugene Emeralds are playing professional baseball — unaltered by the strike that has ground the major league season to a halt.

The Ems, a Class A minor league affiliate of the Cincinnati Reds, play against clubs from Oregon and Washington in the six-team Northwest League.

And strike or no strike, the Ems are a success story at the gate.

## Baseball fans flock to see Eugene team

According to figures compiled by "The Sporting News," only 10 of 133 minor league teams drew more fans per game in 1980 than Eugene — teams from cities like Denver, Salt Lake City and Nashville, all with substantially larger populations and stadium capacities.

This year, the statistics picked up where 1980 left off. On opening night the Ems set an all-time attendance record of 6,189 — almost 700 beyond capacity.

"We could have had 300 to 400 more in here that night but the fire marshall closed us down," says Ems business manager Jim Brasher.

Crowds such as opening night's are an exception, but Brasher says there is a core of 2,200 to 2,300 fans that come to see the Ems every time they play.

"People come out here because it is good, inexpensive entertainment," he says. "We fill a void in the summer



Graphic by Max DeRungs

between University sports seasons."

For the players, Class A baseball isn't all fun and games. Overnight bus rides to Walla Walla, hours of extra batting and fielding practice, and other rigors of minor league life take their toll. After three to four years only a handful will climb from the lowest rung of the minor leagues to the high-paying jobs in the majors.

Until players reach the big

## Olum sets admission deadlines

With a record enrollment predicted for fall term, University administrators are limiting enrollment for the first time through an early application deadline for incoming students.

New freshmen applications must be postmarked by Aug. 15 to be considered for fall term admission, said University Pres. Paul Olum Wednesday. Potential graduate students must meet a Sept. 1 deadline. No deadline has been set for transfer students.

Enrollment predictions for fall term range from 17,400 to 17,900. The University's record

for enrollment was 17,384 in 1975. Olum said 17,500 is about the maximum number of students the campus could handle without affecting academic quality.

Although funding from the Legislature may fall far short of what the University needs to support the predicted student increase, Olum said enrollment will not be cut in the fall to ease budget pressure.

"We're not about to cut students out at this stage of the game."

If the Legislature does underfund the University severely,

time, six-figure contracts are just a dream. According to Brasher, salaries of Class A players average approximately \$700 a month.

Consequently, the names on the roster change so dramatically from year to year that fans need a scorecard to figure out who's on first. Only four players remain from last year's Ems squad.

Brasher says Ems manager Greg Riddoch, in his fourth straight season as a coach here, bridges the gap.

"Riddoch provides continuity. It's hard for people to acquaint themselves with new faces on the field every year. They identify with Riddoch."

Because of the heavy spring rains in this region, the Northwest League plays a "short season" of 70 games that begin in late June and end in early September. By comparison, most minor league teams play 140 games.

Ems games are played at Civic Stadium (20th Avenue and Oak Street) and start at 7:30 p.m. Box seats cost \$3.25, general admission tickets cost \$2.25. For more information, contact the Ems ticket office at 342-5367.

academic programs would be cut which would naturally limit enrollment, Olum added.

The enrollment deadline also will give University administrators more time to prepare for the incoming students, said admissions director Jim Buch.

The leap in enrollment was attributed to increased awareness of the quality of the University and economic pressures on the job market.

"I think the word has gotten out about the academic quality of this institution," Olum said.

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## Classifieds

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