



Stephanie Heisler Photo by Bob Baker
"She doesn't just pitch hard, she pitches smart."

Waiting for the sunshine

By Paul Danzer
Of the Emerald

Had Mother Nature cooperated and supplied the state of Oregon with drier softball diamonds this week, Oregon's Stephanie Heisler would have pitched her first game as a collegiate player before the hometown crowd this Saturday.

But wet grounds have postponed the contest at Lewis and Clark this weekend, so the sophomore from Lake Oswego will have to wait for her homecoming appearance.

Waiting is nothing new to Heisler, though. The Ducks mound ace spent her entire freshman season waiting for her knee to heal after she tore ligaments in a skiing accident in February of last year.

While Heisler admits it has been frustrating having to wait through last year's injury and this year's weather, she is not one to dwell on past rainy days.

"I don't even think about it," she said of the injury's effect on her play this year. "It's fine now, but I'm still trying to make it stronger," she added.

She was referring to her knee, but she could have been referring to her pitching.

Although she is the ace of this year's squad on the mound, sharing the pitching duties with sophomore Marcy Sowa, Heisler is not satisfied with where she is right now. "I'd like to be a little higher up than I am now in terms of strength and accuracy," she said of her level of performance.

In her only performance so far she mounted the hill for the Ducks a week ago and came away with a solid three-hit performance and a 1-0 victory in Oregon's opener against Portland State.

Ironically, it was PSU hurler Deb Fitzhugh, a teammate of Heisler at Lake Oswego High School, who provided the Ducks with the victory by walking four straight Oregon batters. Fitzhugh, who is a junior,

wound up with a no hitter, but Heisler came up with the win.

While at Lake Oswego, Heisler played on two state tournament teams. During her junior year, Heisler shared the pitching duties with Fitzhugh, but she said that it never caused problems between the two. "Sure we were competitive (with each other), but it was never that big of a deal," she said.

Not making too big of a deal out of softball is one of Heisler's strengths according to Duck coach Charles Sylvester. "She doesn't live and die the game of softball," he said. "She is mature enough to go out and pitch with a fierce competitiveness, but is also mature enough to see the humor in it."

"I agree with it to a point," she said of her coach's assessment. "I can forget about it when I leave the field, but when I'm on the field I do live and die softball because I want to win. I hate to lose."

That is one reason that Sylvester describes his front line pitcher as a veteran even though she has pitched only one game at Oregon. Another reason is that Heisler has seen top notch competition while playing summer league softball.

After graduating from high school, Heisler spent the summer playing for the Eugene Chicks, a team which won state and regional championships to earn a berth at nationals. The only game the Chicks won at the national tourney that year was the only game Heisler pitched.

"She just doesn't pitch hard, she pitches smart," said Sylvester, who feels that what Heisler needs now is to pitch against some good competition, a chance she should get when the Ducks travel to the Berkeley tournament next week.

Right now, Heisler would be happy to test her 1-0 record against anyone with a dry field. "I just need to get into the swing of things again."

et al.

SPEAKERS

"Creative Relinquishment" is the topic of a lecture by Graham Kerr, former "Galloping Gourmet" and current director of Project LORD - Youth With a Mission Ministry, today at noon at the Koinonia Center, 1414 Kincaid St.

"Diamond Craters of Oregon - Rocks, Flowers, and Birds" is the topic of a lecture by Dr. Ellen Benedict, a Portland naturalist who teaches at Pacific University, today at 8 p.m. in Room 123, Science I. For more information, contact Ben Ross at 485-0857.

WORKSHOPS

"The Fly Fishing Festival" will offer a free day-long series of workshops and demonstrations Saturday from 10-4 p.m. at South Eugene High School. The festival in the high school cafeteria will include fly tying, fly casting, fishing strategies and much more.

MISCELLANEOUS

A benefit auction for the Lane County Republican Party will be held today from 7-10 p.m. at the Black Angus Restaurant, 2133 Franklin Boulevard. The cost is \$7.50 per person. Among the items to be auctioned off are: a Barry Goldwater letter opener (with his signature), a paperweight from vice-president George Bush, an autographed photograph of David Stockman, and much, much more. For more information call the Lane County Republican Central Committee at 484-1872.

A benefit breakfast for the Natural Earth Foundation will be held Monday from 8-11:30 a.m. at the Homefried Truckstop, 790 E. 14th Ave. Music provided by Cecilia Ostrow. Proceeds will help fund Naturesource, a public-access television show, and the Portrait Petition Drive for Wilderness.

Individuals and organizations interested in helping with the maintenance and future development of Alton

Baker Park are encouraged to attend a brown bag work party Saturday at 10 a.m. at the park picnic shelters. For more information, contact the Lane County Parks Division at 687-4231.

Food for under \$2 a day is the topic of a four-week class, offered by the Lane Community College Home Economics Department, beginning Wednesday at the Lane County Fairgrounds OSU Extension Auditorium. The class schedule will include: Week 1: April 21, 7-9 p.m., Using Herbs and Spices; Week 2: April 28, 7-9 p.m., Low Cost Snacks; Week 3: May 5, 7-9 p.m., Vegetarian Cooking; Week 4: May 12, 7-9 p.m., Making Your Own Convenience Foods. Preregistration is required by calling Beth Naylor at 747-4501, ext. 2533.

The University Hawaii Club presents its annual lusu, "Aloha Aina" (Love of the Land), on Sunday in the EMU Ballroom. There will be a 2 p.m. show with refreshments and a 5 p.m. dinner and show. Tickets are available at the

EMU Main Desk, in front of the University Bookstore, at Lei Hawaiian Fashions in Center Court, and at Meier & Frank in the Valley River Center. The prices are: show only - \$3, dinner and show - \$7.50 for adults, \$6.50 for students, and \$5.50 for senior citizens and children under 12. For more information call the EMU Main Desk at 686-4362.

The Baha'i Campus Association will have an information table in the EMU lobby today from 9 a.m. to 3 p.m. Your questions are welcome.

Holy Eucharist will be celebrated at 4 p.m. Sunday at the Koinonia Center, 1414 Kincaid St., by the Rev. J. Jon Bruno, vicar of St. Matthews Episcopal Church.

Sister Mary Sharon of the Episcopal Community of the Holy Spirit will be on campus Sunday to speak with people about the religious life and her life in the community. Sharon will be at the Koinonia Center, 1414 Kincaid St., at 3 p.m.

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