Ducks finish with wins

By Paul Danzer
Of the Emerald

Third baseman Katie Hickie stung Lewis & Clark with a game winning single in the first game, and then rubbed it in with a triple in the second, as the Oregon women's softball team ended its season on an up beat Saturday.

The Ducks came from behind with a dramatic two-out rally in the opener to post a 3-2 win, then buried the Pioneers in the second game 12-2. Saturday's sweep, coupled with a 4-0 shutout of Chemekata Community College on Friday, enabled the Ducks to finish 9-13 to match last year's win total.

It looked like the Ducks would never get a shot at win No. 9, as Lewis & Clark scored two runs on a bases-loaded two-out single by Mary Hull in the sixth inning of Saturday's opener to take a 2-1 lead.

The score was still 2-1 with two outs in the bottom of the seventh when June Liu and Stephanie Heisler drew back-to-back walks off LC pitcher Pam Ramsey. Hickey then stepped up and drove a 1-1 pitch past the third baseman which the left fielder misplayed allowing two runs.

"I was looking for the outside pitch the whole game and they kept throwing them inside," said Hickey, who scored the Ducks' first run in the third. "So, I got a heavier bat and just tried to hit it past the third baseman."

The Ducks didn't mess around in the second game. Oregon pounded LC pitcher Ev Harding for eight runs on four hits and three errors in the home half of the first to take an 8-1 lead.

The Ducks coasted after that, adding two runs in the third and one each in the fourth and fifth. Hickie rang out the season with a blast over the left fielder's head for the Ducks' last hit, and Liu, a senior, made the last putout of the season and her career to end the game.

Janet Wright got the win on the mound and fellow freshman Kallyn Storz got a save for a birthday present, pitching the last two innings. Also getting a chance to show her stuff was assistant coach Jackie Brown who ran the team as head coach Charles Sylvester played spectator Saturday.

The Ducks' other senior, shortstop Vicki Hogan, ended her career Friday by going 2-for-2 at the plate with a single, triple, and a third inning RBI as Oregon scored three runs to put the Chiefs away.

Heisler was never really in trouble on the mound Friday as she shutout Chemekata, collecting the first of her two weekend wins. The second game with Chemekata was cancelled because the Chiefs other pitcher was injured.

Berkeley Invitational boosts Ducks' marks

Leann Warren showed she is recovering her form after an early season virus, as she and the rest of her teammates came up with some good marks Friday in the Pacific Coast Invitational in Berkeley, California.

The Ducks did well in the non-team scoring meet as they garnered three victories with Warren leading the way. The Oregon all-American won the 800 handily with a time of 2:03.9.

Claudette Groenendaal won the 1,500 in 4:20.1, with Karen Drake finishing third, setting her own lifetime best of 4:25.

Lynda Hughes led a strong Oregon contingent in the javelin as she won it with a throw of 181-3. Roz Rouse finished third at 162-9, and Sally Harmon nailed fourth with a toss of 158-2.

Eryn Forbes set a school record in the 3,000 against a class field that saw Cathie Twomey of Athletics West win in a time of 8:58. Forbes time of 9:07.5 was good for only sixth place against the star-studded field.

Quenna Beasley set a life-time best in the shot put with a heave of 48-1½ for a second-place finish. She also placed sixth in the discus, an event in which Karen McDonald captured second place with a mark of 171-3 and Andrea Heilman set a personal best of 156-7.

Oregon also got fourth-place finishes from Ranza Clark in the 800, and Rhonda Massey in the 400. Chris Costello placed fifth in the 200 and Lisa Nicholson got a sixth in the 100 hurdles.

Linda Drake's time in the 1,500 qualified her for the NCAA meet in Provo, Utah, June 1-5. Drake brings the number of Ducks who have qualified for the NCAA meet's 19 events to 17.

Several Duck men post lifetime bests

After watching the Oregon track team this weekend, head coach Bill Dellinger must have felt like he had just been through a nine-course Chinese dinner.

Except somebody forgot to tell the chef to serve the courses one at a time.

It was a weekend of lifetime bests for many of the Ducks, something that had happened during the dual-meet season on only rare occasions.

Down in Modesto, Calif., Dean Crouser was knocking off two of the heavyweights in United States shotputting circles — American record-holder Brian Oldfield and Olympian Al Feuerbach, both 70-foot throwers — with a toss of 67-4.

In Eugene, junior Jim Hill was continuing the long tradition of sub-four minute miles posted in the Twilight Meet's mile run. Hill clocked a lifetime best of 3:56.41, in the process adding an impressive win to what has been an undefeated season thus far.

Then there was junior-college transfer George Walcott, known more for his abilities in the 100 and 200 meters. He looked impressive winning the 100 in 10.49, a Twilight meet record, but he was stunning in taking the 400 in a quick 46.8

Oregon crew surprises Cal in Pac-10 race

San Francisco — The Oregon crew team edged out the University of California at Berkeley in the men's heavy four race to provide the biggest upset at the Pacific 10 Conference Regatta in the Bay Area Saturday.

The Oregon squad was coming off winning the Pacific Northwest Cahmpionships in Seattle with an upset victory over the University of Washington.

Oregon, under the club sport program and receiving only minimal funding, is the only Pac-10 conference crew not funded by its university.

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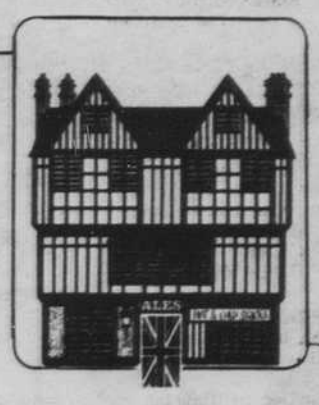

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