

# Softballers look for confidence

By Jeff Lutzky  
Of the Emerald

The Oregon softball team will attempt to boost its self-image for next season as it travels to California to take part in the University of Pacific tournament in Stockton starting today.

"We had a team meeting to decide on our goals for the rest of the year and we decided to try and take the rest of the year one step at a time," Oregon coach Teresa Wilson says. "We want to just play well against some nationally ranked teams and get some confidence for next season."

The Ducks, 13-23 overall and 1-7 in NorPac Conference play, will get their chance in their first game of the tournament as they will take on the University of Arizona at 1 p.m.

"Arizona probably has as

much speed on one team as anybody else," Wilson says. "You'd swear they were a track team in the off-season. A track team made up of only sprinters."

The Ducks will be faced with other strong teams during the tournament besides the Wildcats, however. Also in Oregon's pool is Pacific and the University of California at Santa Barbara.

"We're in one of the toughest pools, but you just have to put up with it," Wilson says. "Realistically we just want to play competitive ball. With Arizona and Pacific in your pool, and only the top two coming out, you have to knock one of them off or don't come out."

Beating Pacific, who Oregon plays Friday, may be as difficult as beating Arizona however,

making the Ducks task that much more difficult.

"I haven't seen them play, but they have a tough program," Wilson says. "There's a lot of talent in that part of California, and they've always been there in the past. They'll be tough."

The Ducks will also meet UCSB Friday, but Wilson is unsure of the Ducks' chances against the Gauchos.

"I don't know much about UCSB," Wilson says. "What I do know is that of the three, they would be the team we have the best chance of beating."

Wilson says the Ducks' biggest problem might be themselves and not the teams Oregon is playing.

"The kids are putting a lot of pressure on themselves," Wilson says.

# Sports shorts

The Oregon basketball team has signed Leonard Jackson, a 6-3 guard from Central Arizona College, to a letter-of-intent, coach Don Monson announced Wednesday.

Jackson is touted as one of the top junior college players in the nation as he averaged 19.7 points, 5.2 rebounds, and 4.3 assists during the past season and was named Most Valuable Player of NJCAA Region One. He was selected NJCAA second team all-American and was one of 10 junior college sophomores from around the country picked to play in the Odessa Classic in Midland, Texas, matching the 10 top sophomores in the state of Texas against Jackson's national squad.

Jackson is a product of Lafayette High School in Buffalo, New York, where his 28.3 scoring average landed him first team all-city honors as a senior. He attended Jamestown College in Jamestown, New York his freshman year.

The Oregon women's basketball team also announced the signings of four new prospects to letters-of-intent Wednesday.

Brooke Allen, a 5-7 guard from Columbia Falls, Mont., was that state's leading scorer with a 25 point-per-game average this past season.

Michelle Eble, from Helena, Mont., averaged 15 points and 3.5 rebounds per game this past season.

Jacque Semeniuk is a 5-9 guard from Kolowne, British Columbia, and a member of Canada's national junior team.

Kim Giguire, rounds out the list of signees. She is 6-1, and averaged 18 points and 16 rebounds for Placer High School in Auburn, Calif., last season.



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