

Ducks break nine-game losing streak, win 1-0

By Jeff Lutzky
Of the Emerald

Rain dampened what could have been a very successful weekend for the Oregon softball team, as the Ducks were able to play only one of four scheduled games. But that was a big one for coach Teresa Wilson and her beleaguered troops.

"I wish we could play the second game," Wilson said after her team's 1-0 victory over Portland State University in the first game of a scheduled doubleheader. "If there was even a hint of clearing we would have tried to play."

The Ducks had to settle for the single game victory over the Vikings, their first win since a 2-0 decision over PSU on April 8. The victory broke a nine-game losing streak, and the Ducks improved to 14-28 on the season, while remaining at 1-7 in NorPac Conference play.

The victory was very much needed for the Ducks who have been playing with only nine players since April 18, when

junior Kim Hedding broke her finger.

"We're adjusting to having only nine players available," Wilson said. "Sometimes in practice, people are still in classes, so we have to start with only six or seven players, so we have to do batting practice first. You just have to kind of junk it and go on."

The Ducks did just that against PSU behind the strong pitching of junior Sony Schroeder, and a bizarre play to score their only run.

Oregon scored when sophomore Sue Voeller opened the second inning with an in-field single. Voeller was sacrificed to second base by junior Christy Long.

The next batter, sophomore Paige Maks, hit a slow dribbler in front of the mound and was able to beat the throw to first when Viking first baseman Bambi Heup juggled the ball. Seeing the ball loose, Voeller

was able to score all the way from second as the throw to home arrived late.

Meanwhile Schroeder was holding the Vikings to only three hits in the game, allowing just one runner to advance as far as third base. The Ducks played solid defense behind her, including a nifty double play in the fifth inning.

"Sony threw real well," Wilson said. "We also played well as a team. We played as good a defense as we've played in a long time."

The Ducks were poised and ready to go, but the rain squelched any hopes for a second game at Oregon Field.

"The grass was slick, the bases were slick, and with only nine players you can't play in dangerous conditions," Wilson said. "I really wanted to play since they were starting the pitcher we had hit well earlier this year."

The second PSU game wasn't

the only one affected by the weather as a doubleheader with Oregon State University was also called on account of rain Sunday. No makeup date has been set for the rainouts, but the Ducks play the Beavers Tuesday at 1 p.m. in a doubleheader at Oregon Field.

"We have the potential to

beat them," Wilson said of OSU. "We lost to them 4-3 in 12 innings earlier in the year, but that was the game where (sophomore) Capi Lynn broke her thumb. We were up at that time 3-0, but the injury kind of deflated the team. It will just be a matter of who gets the breaks and who makes the errors."

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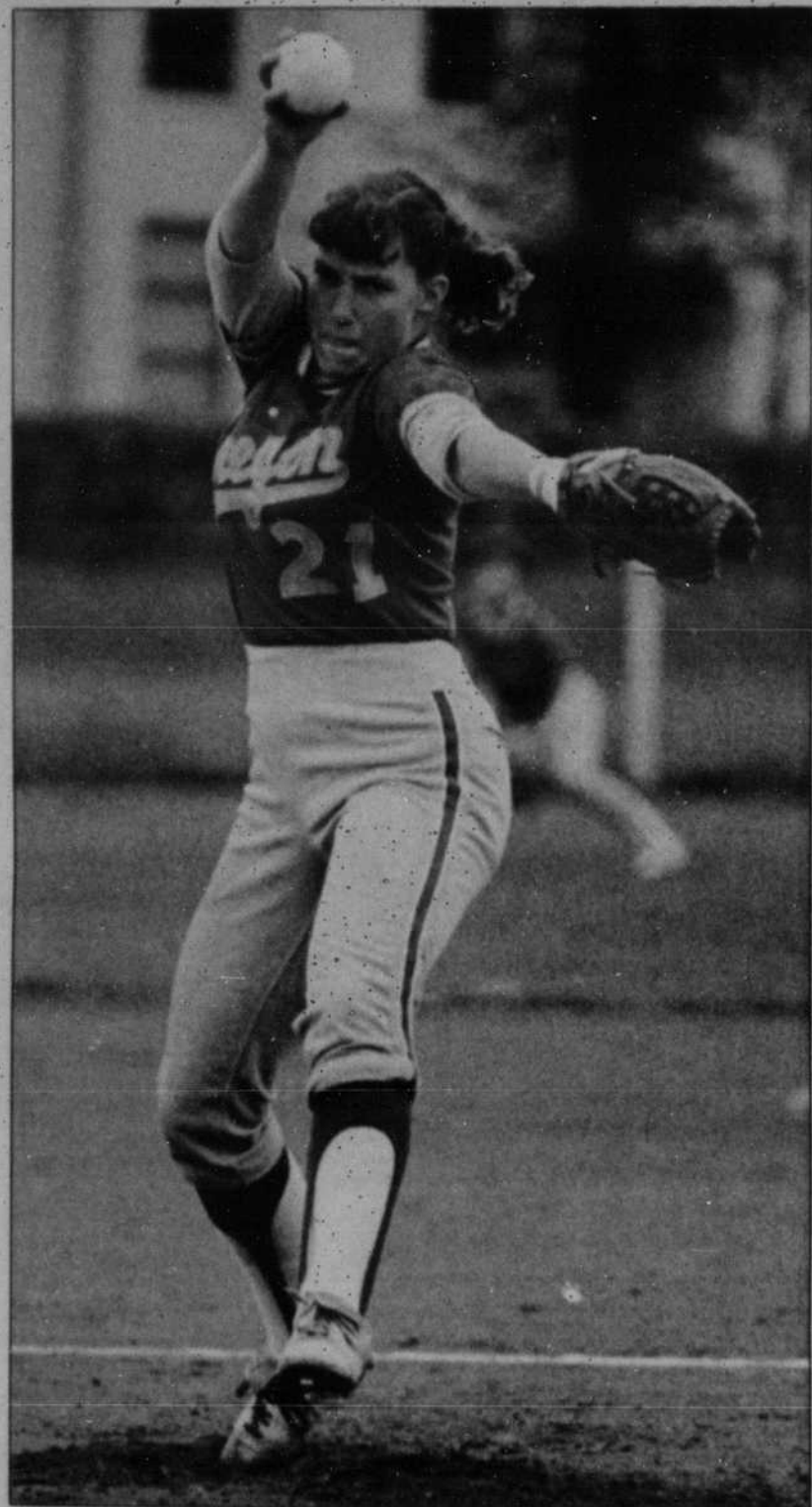


Photo by Shu-Shing Chen

Oregon's Sony Schroeder hurled a 3-hit, 1-0 win over the Portland State University Vikings Saturday at Oregon Field.

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