

# Sports

## Wilson likes being Duck mentor

By Jeff Lutzky

Of the Emerald

Although first-year Oregon softball coach Teresa Wilson may have had to adjust to losing, it definitely has paid dividends in the long run.

"It's been hard, but it's probably good that it started out that way," Wilson says of her first season at the Ducks helm in which they have compiled and 18-30 record. "I learned more in one year than I ever thought possible."

For Wilson losing had to be an unknown quantity. After all, when you play on winning teams all your life, you become accustomed to the thrill of victory.

Winning started early for the 24-year-old Wilson, who started pitching the summer before her junior year in high school. That year her summer team in Missouri won nationals, and she has been on the winning side as a player ever since.

"My high school coach thought I could be a pitcher so I started messing around with it," Wilson says. "I asked a guy (Marvin Murphy) in Maryville, Mo., where the summer team was, to help me out so he came to practice and we've been working together ever since. We'd work together after practice for a couple of hours each day. He's probably caught a few million hours for me."

After that Wilson returned to high school at Northeast Nodaway in Missouri, which had 117 students among its student body, often leading to a problem when they reached the state tournament.

Both times when her team reached state they were paired up with teams from St. Louis, which was way out of Nodaway's league. Wilson's team finished tied for third in state both years.

After high school, Wilson was faced with the decision of whether to attend the University of Minnesota or the University of Missouri. Eventually she decided on Missouri because it

was closer to home.

"I had already turned down a scholarship from Missouri, but then I decided that Minnesota was too far from home, so they dug up another one for me," Wilson says. "It probably was the smartest move I ever made. I don't think I ever would have survived at Minnesota."

At Missouri, Wilson picked up where her high school career left off winning All-Conference her freshman and junior years, All-Regional her sophomore and senior years, to go along with an All-American honor her senior year.

"When I got there my freshman year there was another girl who was pitcher, and I heard how good she was, and that made me try harder," Wilson says. "Essentially I became the number one pitcher my final three years. I would do most of the pitching, but that's how I like it. I'd like to pitch every game."

Her team was also successful, finishing fifth her sophomore year in the NAAs, followed by a ninth-place finish her junior year, to go along with a seventh-place finish her senior year.

Following her senior year, Wilson stayed on at Missouri as a pitching coach for a year, before hearing about the opening at Oregon.

"I had been getting itchy to have my own team and see what I can do," Wilson says. "My coach kept telling me to be patient and then I found out about the job opening here."

Figuring it was time to move on, Wilson applied to Oregon, and after a telephone conversation with Associate Athletic Director Chris Volez, she decided to come to Eugene.

"I had heard how pretty Oregon was, and I like trees and wildlife," Wilson says. "I had also gotten an offer from a small school closer to home, but I figured I might as well give this one a shot."

Since she's been here, Wilson has had to cope with losing five



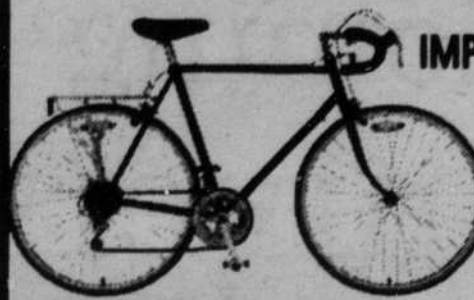
Teresa Wilson

players for various reasons during the season, making the Ducks play without any substitutes for a portion of the season. She has been impressed with the possibilities for the future Eugene has.

"Eugene is really a hotbed for softball," Wilson says.

"If we had had those five people all year, we would probably have been over .500," Wilson says. "I'm excited in a way. If this team gets a chance, they can build something here."

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## Sports Shorts

The Oregon lacrosse team will play Lewis and Clark College Saturday at 1 p.m. at the Southbank Field in a game that will determine the Oregon state championship.

Oregon currently boasts a 5-2 league record and a win Satur-

day would assure the team of the championship.

The game will also be the final home game for the lacrosse team, that is perennially one of the strongest in the Northwest.

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