

Voeller hits stride in final season

By Gary Henley
Emerald Sports Reporter

She's what you would call a "career player." Having played softball since the age of eight, Oregon pitcher Sue Voeller is currently heading into the stretch run in the final season of a long and storied career.

Voeller is making the best of her exit

from college softball, having her best season since graduating from Portland's Rex Putnam High School in 1984.

Going into next week's games at Arizona and Arizona State, Voeller (12-9 overall) already has eight complete-game shutouts, surpassing her seven shutouts of a year ago.

"I'm happy with the success we've had this year," Voeller said. "This team has a lot of potential. I've always felt we had the players, and this year it just seems there's more drive in everybody. The players are all serious."

Taking into account the tribulations of her freshman and sophomore seasons, it's a wonder Voeller made it this far. Not only has she survived three semi-disasterous Oregon seasons, but the senior right-hander is now looked upon as a team leader — and a vocal one.

The "rally, rally, rally!" chant you hear from time to time coming from the Oregon dugout is Voeller. Dennise Jones, the Oregon state high school player of the year in 1986, turned to Voeller for advice when she arrived at

Oregon. Coach Teresa Wilson said Voeller is now one of the most feared pitchers in the Pacific-10 Conference and getting better each time out.

Voeller's had trouble starting a rally, rally, rally because she hasn't had many hit, hit, hits lately, as she struggled at the plate on a recent road trip to California.

"Sue has a lot going on in her life right now," Wilson said. "She'll be graduating in June, and she's had a lot of job interviews lately. Sue's had an up and down season. She's excellent at times, but she's had a few slip-ups that have cost her."

Number 13 has had her share of bad luck since arriving at Oregon.

"Sue's first two years were rough," Wilson said. "Her freshman coach (P.J. Harlin) changed everything about her pitching that she had in high school. When I got here, I noticed almost everything she was doing was incorrect."

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Photo by Bobbie Lo

Sue Voeller, the University softball team's pitcher, has emerged as a vocal team leader in her fourth and final season. Voeller is in the midst of her best college season yet, notching eight shutouts so far.

Tennis match today

The Oregon men's tennis team's meet with Willamette University will be played today instead of Thursday, as was originally scheduled.

The meet will be held at the 15th Avenue courts beginning at 2:30 p.m. Inclement weather will move play to the covered courts.

Coach Buzz Summers' squad concludes its regular season at home April 20, when Southern Oregon State College visits the Ducks.

The team defeated Portland State 5-4 on Tuesday, bringing the team's record to 5-16.

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