

Cavanaugh keeps it lively; knows when to get serious

By Ashley Conklin
Emerald Sports Reporter

Julie Cavanaugh "knows when to have fun and when to be serious."

Judging by her success on the softball diamond, as well as the Oregon team's, Cavanaugh certainly must be enjoying herself.

Cavanaugh, the Ducks' sophomore catcher, was recently named to the first team Pacific-10 Conference all-star team after hitting .325 — good for eighth in the conference — and placing fifth in the Pac-10 with 12 stolen bases. To cap it all off, Cavanaugh and her teammates will open NCAA tournament play for the first time in school history Friday in Amherst, Mass.

Cavanaugh is one of those players who likes to keep things lively and have a good time. Having fun is important, but according to Cavanaugh, she knows where to draw the line.

"Some see it as work, I see it has having fun," she said. "I can't play if I'm not having fun, having a good time and enjoying things."

"I've learned a little more this year when to have fun and when to be serious," she added. "There's a time to have fun and there's a time to play the game and be serious."

It's been a different season in many respects for Cavanaugh this season. Instead of suffering from the sophomore jinx, she has been relatively injury-free, unlike last year. Oregon went out and signed two catchers during the off-season, to help fill any void behind the plate.

Cavanaugh appreciates the extra help head coach Teresa Wilson gave the squad.

"I was kind of relieved and pretty excited," Cavanaugh said. "Last year Cheryl (Coryell) was hurt and it was difficult for me because I had to play hurt. This year we have some other options instead of bringing in Kristl (Okuhara) from second or third base in an emergency situation."

"The big factor is that she



File Photo

Oregon's Julie Cavanaugh knows when to put on her game face, but when the mask is off, the sophomore catcher knows how to keep the team loose.

has stayed healthy all year," Wilson added. "Last year she had to play on an injured ankle all year. She's hung in there this year. Last season she was slowed down a bit, but she's healthy now and a lot faster."

Cavanaugh has started to master the finer points of the game this season — slapping and bunting. However, there

seems to be some disagreement between Cavanaugh and Wilson on her ability to lay one down for a base hit. In softball parlance, one bunting technique is called a slap.

"I basically just bunt," Cavanaugh said. "John (Rittman, assistant coach) has worked a

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