

Sports

Ducks set for first World Series

By Ashley Conklin
Emerald Sports Reporter

Only one challenge remains in a season full of challenges for Oregon's softball team.

However, the one remaining challenge is the biggest obstacle as the Ducks play their first game in the eight-team Softball College World Series Wednesday at 8 p.m. against Cal Poly-Pomona. The Softball World Series will be held at the Twin Sports Complex in Sunnyvale, Calif.

Oregon, 53-16, opens the double-elimination tournament against the 42-21 Broncos after defeating Massachusetts and Connecticut to win the Northeast Regional last weekend. Cal Poly-Pomona, despite being ranked eighth in the final poll, was not expected to advance to Sunnyvale, but upset Cal State-Fullerton to win the West Regional.

The Ducks are happy to be headed to Sunnyvale after surviving a huge scare in the regional playoffs.

"It means a lot to me," Kathy Gray, the squad's only senior, said. "We've worked hard all year and put it together. Connecticut really wanted to go to California. I'm just glad we're going."

For head coach Teresa Wilson, who played in the Softball World Series as a Missouri pitcher and will become the first person to both play and coach there, it's a special time.

"It brings back a lot of memories," Wilson said. "I wish I

could play again. It was real special last time because I got to hand my mom and dad an All-American certificate."

Oregon appears to be heading into the Softball World Series relatively injury-free. Starting right fielder Sandy Scott didn't play in the Northeast Regional due to an ankle injury,

but Wilson said she has been receiving "as much as 18 hours of treatment a day," and should be ready to go on Wednesday.

Ces Coulson took over for Scott in the regional playoffs and led the team with a .400

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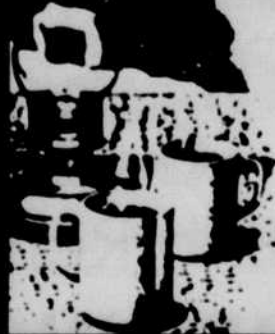
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