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Sports



Photo by Andre Kanier

Coach Marc Distefano and the Club Sports baseball team have put the past behind them as they gear up for the 1990 season and what they hope will be a memorable spring.

Baseball team looks to experience

By Ashley Conklin
 Emerald Sports Reporter

It might not be the Pacific-10 Conference, and the home games might not be at Howe

Field, but the Oregon baseball team should offer plenty of excitement this season.

The Ducks are the only Pac-10 school without a varsity baseball program, as the sport was discontinued in the early 1980s because of budgetary problems. But after years of being a downtrodden team, Oregon will be a team to watch this season.

For the first time since the program was a Club Sport, the baseball team had tryouts and had to actually make cuts to get down to their current 25-man roster.

Adding to the enthusiasm is a veteran infield, a solid pitching staff and an early season schedule that makes the Ducks competitive with every team they play.

Marc Distefano and Jeff Eberhart return for their second season at the helm, and both coaches can't wait for the season to start and see if everything will be as good as it seems in winter practices.

"We have a much improved hitting team," Eberhart said. "But probably our biggest strength is our depth."

"We have at least two people at every position who I feel confident with putting in the game, which wasn't the case last season," he said. "The same goes for our pitching."

With Distefano and Eberhart returning at second base and shortstop, respectively, as well as veterans Erik Anderson (first base) and Jeremy Delich (third

base), Distefano said he likes the look of the infield.

"With me, Jeremy and Jeff playing together for the third straight year, and with Erik Anderson back, we are strong in the infield," Distefano said.

"Our pitching looks real solid," he added. "We have 11 pitchers who are all good pitchers."

Although the Ducks hit only .240 as a team last season on their way to a 7-9 record, down from a .286 mark the year before, Anderson hit .349 while Eberhart was right behind at .333. Eberhart also led the team in nearly every other statistical category, including runs scored, runs batted in and stolen bases.

Leading the way on the mound for the Ducks will be veterans Tom Ferris, Jeff Ginsberg, Brad Hanel and Harley Tierheimer who will be counted on heavily in the starting rotation as well as newcomer Paul Fulwiler. Both Ginsberg and Fulwiler played for Oregon two years ago, but sat out last season.

Veterans Dan O'Callaghan and Hidenori Sueyoshi will be heavily counted on in middle relief and veteran catcher Paul Meyer will be back to handle the pitching staff.

"Last year we had maybe four or five pitchers we would have to rely on for the full nine innings and they would go the full nine innings unless they

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