



File photo

Sophomore Katie Wiese has shouldered Oregon's pitching burdens this season with a conference-leading 30 appearances.

Ducks fly home after 38-game road swing

By Tracy Sumner
Emerald Sports Editor

After a pair of 19-game road trips and a 21-17 start, the road-weary Oregon softball team will make its home debut Saturday in a Pacific-10 Conference double header with third-ranked Arizona.

After 38 straight on the road, Oregon coach Tami Brown said she and her team are more than ready for some home games.

"It's about time," Brown said. "We're excited to be here. We're really looking forward to playing at home and excited about the home crowds."

All 18 of the Ducks' remaining regularly scheduled games will be played in the state of Oregon with 14 of those slated for Oregon's Howe Field. Double headers at Portland State and Oregon State are the Ducks' only regular season away games left.

Life on the road in 1990 has been less than kind at times to the Ducks, ranked 10th in the nation after falling from fifth to 20th.

Oregon played no fewer than 14 games against top-20 teams, including a double header split with No. 1 UCLA two weeks ago. That, combined with lack of early-season practice, has hurt the Ducks most, Brown said.

"Not being able to practice outside early on and playing so many ranked teams early on hasn't helped," she said. "We played the No. 1, No. 2 and No. 3 teams in the nation already. Everybody we play is really ready for us after what this

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team did last year."
The Ducks finished 54-18 in 1989, including a 13-7 record

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