Sports

Arizona wins pair over Oregon

By Tracy Sumner Emerald Sports Editor

There's an old philosophy in baseball and softball about hitting that goes something like this: Hit it where they ain't.

There were times Saturday in Oregon's softball doubleheader with third-ranked Arizona when it seemed there wasn't anywhere the Wildcats weren't, and the result was a pair of 3-0 Arizona wins at Oregon's Howe Field.

Arizona, which leads the Pacific-10 Conference in hitting, also shelled Oregon's all-American pitcher Katie Wiese for a combined 22 hits to drop the 10th-ranked Ducks to 21-19 overall, 2-8 in the Pac-10.

Arizona improved its record to 42-5 and 9-1 to pull into a first place tie with UCLA in conference standings.

"It seemed like we'd hit the ball well and they had magnets in their gloves," said Oregon coach Tami Brown. "They're sound all the way around. They just don't make mistakes."

Arizona coach Mike Candrea, whose team hasn't been scored on in eight games, said his team's defense has been the key to its success this year.

"We don't have the kind of pitchers who get eight or 10 strikeouts per game, but we have a great defense out there that's playing superbly." Candrea said.

"I think today was a good example. We just didn't make any mistakes," he said.

For Oregon, mistakes are what cost the Ducks a chance





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Up 1-0. Arizona started the inning with a hit to center field by third baseman Nicki Dennis. First baseman Catherine Stedman followed with what would have been a groundout, but an error on second baseman Kristl Okuhara gave the Wildcats runners at first and second with no outs.

Outfielder Lisa Guise followed with a hit to left to load the bases. The Ducks got two outs. but shortstop Julie Standering singled to center to bring in two runs to make it 3-0, Arizona.

"We need our defense to be

more sound. We'll be working on that," Brown said.

Oregon came close to tying it up in the seventh when, with two on and no outs. Oregon's Tracey Simmons blasted a shot over the left-field fence — 15 feet outside the foul pole.

Okuhara lined to center and pinch hitter Anna Poore grounded to pitcher Julie Jones to end it

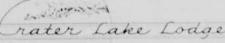
lones, who pitched the fourhit shutout to run her record to 16-2, was nearly perfect for Arizona, going past a two-ball count only once in the game.

"Julie's just been phenomenal." Candrea said. "You'll never see her throw the same pitch twice when you're at the plate. She is throwing really well."

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