

Spring Sports **RUNDOWN**

Softball starts charging admission

Prices set to offset costs

For the first time since its inception in 1974, the Oregon women's softball team has become an event with an admission charge.

Saturday's double header with Arizona was the first for the admission charge, which is \$3 for adults and \$2 for children and senior citizens. University students and children under five are admitted free.

The decision to charge admission to Oregon softball games was a departmental one, assistant Athletic Director Barbara Walker said. She said admission charges are to offset the costs of things like Howe Field upkeep and pay for umpires.

Walker said Oregon softball fans will be happy to offset the costs of running a softball program at the University.

"People want to support the program and I don't think they mind chipping in the \$3 to help out," Walker said. "I think people are glad to help out."

Oregon first-year softball coach Tami Brown said the entertainment her team provides is well worth the small price of admission.

"I don't think \$3 is too much to ask to see a quality team, especially when you pay \$8-9 to see a track meet," Brown said. "This team deserves to be showcased."

Even with the admission charge, about 750 softball fans came out to Saturday's doubleheader loss to the third-ranked Wildcats. That, said Walker, is a good crowd.

"From what I've been told, attendance Saturday was similar to last year's," Walker said.



Photo by Martin Thiel

Despite admission charges of up to \$3 for women's softball, about 750 fans showed up last Saturday to see the Ducks' double header with third-ranked Arizona.

The softball team last year attracted quite a local following as it was 54-18 overall and went on to finish fifth in the NCAA College World Series. Despite that, Walker said the Athletic Department isn't trying to cash in on the team's

success.

Even with big attendance, Oregon athletics wouldn't make a lot on softball, Walker said.

"We're not going to make a lot on softball like football or basketball," Walker said.

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