

Painful split hurts Duck softball

By Cam Sivesind
Emerald Sports Reporter

Things went from great to bad to worse for the Oregon women's softball team Wednesday against Portland State at Howe Field.

The Ducks jumped all over the Vikings in the first game taking a 7-1 win behind the pitching of Katie Wiese. Wiese upped her record to 19-10.

Game two had the crowd of 228 wondering if the Ducks they just saw were around. The Vikings took advantage of Oregon errors and held on for a 3-2 victory.

Oregon, now 27-21, led off game one by shelling PSU pitcher Kristin Jacobs. Julie Cavanaugh and Jeanna King singled to load first and second base for the Ducks. Kim Manning, who was filling in for a

benched Danny Senner, cranked a hit off the first baseman that bounced down the right foul line to drive in Cavanaugh.

Tracey Simmons lined the ball over third to drive in King, and Manning came around to score on a missed throw to second. The inning ended when Simmons was caught stealing third.

The Vikings, who own a 35-11 record, got their only run in the fourth inning when third baseman Apollonia Boccuzzi hit a double to left that probably should have been caught.

The Ducks retaliated in the fifth with King cranking a double to center that drove in Cavanaugh who had stolen second earlier. Manning then hit a sacrifice to right center to score King.

Catcher Joely Eilers punched

a double over the left fielder's head to score Simmons. Outfielder Monica Hull hit a blooper in front of the right fielder to score Eilers making the score 7-1.

Wiese held the Vikings to one hit in the final two stanzas to notch the win.

Oregon pitcher Anna Poore had a rough go in game two. The Vikings rattled six hits off the sophomore and Oregon fielding was no help either.

The Ducks committed two errors with the second, a poor throw to third base, allowing a run to score. After five innings, the score was knotted at 2-2.

The Vikings broke the tie in the sixth when Boccuzzi lined a single over second base to score Michele Hughes.

The Ducks play at Oregon State today in a make-up game from last weekend's rainout.



Photo by Steve Card

Junior first baseman Julie Cavanaugh bounces a hit off her ankle against Portland State. The Ducks split a doubleheader with the Vikings.

Track Continued from Page 8

and van Rensburg owns a PR of 3:41.31. Those two, and Frank Graham — lifetime PR of 3:46.06 — will match up with Oregon's Eric Peterson who clocked 3:44.06 last week and owns a PR of 3:41.79.

Then there's the 5,000 where Kirby will be taking on the Ducks' Brad Hudson and Peter Fonseca.

Kirby, the Big Eight Conference's trackster of the month for April, ran a school record 13:51.35 in a dual meet two weeks ago. Hudson owns a lifetime best of 13:54.14, 14:02.15 this year, and Fonseca ran a 14:04.59 PR last week.

Without a doubt, Dellinger sees the 1,500, steeplechase and 5,000 as crucial events for both teams.

"Right from the beginning we need to do well in the 1,500, steeplechase and 5,000," he said.

Besides having their distance strengths in common, both teams have faced a common foe this year — Washington.

The Huskies ended Oregon's dual meet victory at 26 earlier this year with a 84-79 victory and beat Nebraska 95-67 two weeks ago.

However, Kwizera and several other Cornhuskers were at the Mt. SAC Relays that day, and Dellinger knows the team he will face Saturday is a different team than the one the Huskies clobbered.

"They're a better team than they were against Washington," he said. "This is a meet that will be very competitive." Oregon is still struggling from injuries which could play a key part in the meet.

Dellinger said Latin Berry (bruised heel) will long jump but won't triple jump "unless it's absolutely necessary."

Spencer Williams (groin injury) will compete in both horizontal jumps, but sprinter Klaus Weigeldt (hamstring) won't run the relays and might not be able to go at all. Jimmy Howarth, returning from the chicken pox, will be in the 800

meters, but likely won't be a factor.

Injuries have plagued the Ducks all season, and it hasn't made things easy for Dellinger.

"We've had our share of bad luck," he said. "I think the biggest factor was before the season when the NCAA dealt us a blow by declaring Jose deSouza ineligible, which was an injustice to the young man."

"All in all we've stumbled through the season, but other than stumbling in our first meet, we've won all the rest," Dellinger said. "We have not been overpowering, but we've managed to win."

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