

## Oregon softball ends season on a sour note



Photo by Mark Ylen

Impressive pitching on the arm of Katie Wiese couldn't carry the Ducks as they ended their season 35-23 with a loss to Ohio State, 2-0, and to Kent State, 3-0.

## Ohio State, Kent State shut out Ducks

By Tracy Sumner  
Emerald Sports Editor

The eighth-ranked Oregon softball team's quest for a second straight NCAA Softball World Series appearance came to an abrupt end Friday as Ohio State and Kent State handed the Ducks consecutive losses in the NCAA Midwest Regional at the North Athletic Facility in Columbus, Ohio.

Ohio State, which lost earlier in the day to Kent State 4-0, got a three-hit pitching performance from Freshman Belinda Cernava to shut the Ducks out 2-0 in the first game.

Oregon bats were even more silent in the second game, a 3-0

Kent State win. Sophomore pitcher Darby Seegrist ran her personal record to 29-5 with a two-hitter to send the Ducks home early.

"Oregon didn't play as Oregon is capable of playing today," said softball coach Tami Brown. "We beat ourselves."

If defensive statistics are any indication, "beat ourselves" is an understatement. For the day, Oregon committed an inexcusable seven errors in the two games.

Ohio State struck early in Oregon's first game, scoring two unearned runs in the first inning. Catcher Kathy Boettcher scored from second on a hit by third baseman Shauna Bowman to give the Buckeyes a 1-0 lead.

Bowman moved to second on an error by Oregon first baseman Julie Cavanaugh, and scored later on a single by Ohio State first baseman Colleen Kennedy to give the Buckeyes all the offense they would need.

The Ducks had an opportunity to tie in the second inning when they had runners at second and third with one out. But Cernava and Ohio State's defense rose to the occasion to stop the threat.

Oregon pitcher Katie Wiese went the distance for the Ducks, giving up five hits and striking out three. Cernava struck out five in her 12th complete game of the year to run her record to 8-9.

Oregon's defense, which had played well during the latter part of the regular season after struggling early, reverted to previous form, committing five errors for the game.

In the second game, Kent State shortstop Gina Ruggiero delivered the knockout punch for the Ducks' season by tripling in the seventh inning over the head of Oregon center fielder Jeanna King to drive in two runs.

One out later, right fielder Lisa Spetelson drove a single through Wiese's legs to score Ruggiero and give Kent State

the 3-0 lead.

Oregon blew a golden scoring opportunity in the fourth when catcher Tracey Simmons walked and moved to third on designated player Joely Eilers' double to center with one out. But the two runners were stranded when right fielder Anna Poore and third baseman Kristl Okuhara both grounded out to end the threat.

Seegrist went the distance for the Golden Flashes, striking out one and walking three for the shutout that improved her already-stingy ERA of 0.65. Wiese took the loss, striking out five and giving up one earned run to finish the season with a 24-12 record.

"Katie threw well today," Brown said. "We just couldn't get consecutive hits behind her to help her out with some runs."

The teams in the regional had to battle winds gusting as high as 35 mph, a factor that certainly didn't help the Ducks. But Brown wouldn't use the weather as an excuse for her team.

"I think the wind may have been a factor in the first game, but we adjusted to it in the second game," Brown said. "Poor play takes most of the blame for today's losses."

The losses snapped Oregon's eight-game winning streak and dropped the Ducks to a 35-23 finish. That, Brown noted, is no way for the eighth-ranked team in the nation to finish its season.

"We are a much better team than we showed today," Brown said.

Unfortunately for the Ducks, they will have to wait another nine months to prove it.

**Tournament notes:** Kent State went on to beat Ohio State Saturday to advance to the College World Series in Oklahoma City, Okla. The Golden Flashes will meet UCLA, 4-0 winners over Northern Iowa Saturday, in a first-round game Wednesday.

## Cavanaugh named to all-Northwest squad

Oregon's Julie Cavanaugh was a repeat selection on the all-Northwest Region softball team announced Thursday.

The junior first baseman from Salem was on the team as a catcher a year ago. Cavanaugh finished tied for second in the Pacific-10 Conference batting race with a .357 average and ranks among the league leaders in hits, runs and triples.

Oregon sophomore pitcher Katie Wiese was named to the second team. Last year's conference player of the year and all-American led the conference in wins (24), appearances (43) and innings pitched (271.3) while ranking among the leaders in strikeouts and complete games.

First team selections included pitchers Michele Granger

(California), Lisa Longaker (UCLA), catcher Christy Seritella (Arizona State), second baseman Michelle Hagen (U.S. International), third baseman Nicki Dennis (Arizona), shortstop Ann Rowan (ASU), outfielders Shanna Flynn (UCLA), Yvonne Gutierrez (UCLA) and Vivian Holm (Arizona) and utility player Lisa Fernandez (UCLA).

Named to the second team were pitcher Heather Compton (UCLA), catcher Jody Miller (Arizona), first baseman Kerry Kienelt (UCLA), second baseman Liz Phillips (ASU), third baseman Stephanie May (ASU), shortstop Sue Jacques (Cal), outfielders Becky Davis (ASU), Kristin Gauthier (Arizona) and Tina Montoya (Cal) and utility player Julie Jones (Arizona).

Monday, May 21, 1990

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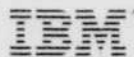
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