

SPORTS

Ducks sweep Beavers behind freshmen arms

By Robert Weber
Emerald Sports Reporter

Oregon showed Oregon State and the rest of the softball teams in the Pacific-10 Conference how tough they can be when they combine solid hitting with near-flawless fielding by sweeping a non-conference doubleheader from the Beavers 4-1 and 7-1 at Howe Field Tuesday.

Oregon evened its season record at 19-19 and ended a four-game losing streak behind solid pitching performances from freshmen Racheile Taylor and Natasha Dumoski. After struggling defensively most of the season, the Ducks only committed one error for the afternoon.

"The pitchers did a great job," Oregon Coach Tami Brown said. "The defense is coming around and we did a wonderful job hitting. (We did a) much better job communicating."

Taylor struck out five and spun a five-hitter in the first game to even her season record at 9-9 as the Ducks gave her all the support she would need with two runs in the first.

First baseman Julie Cavanaugh led off the bottom of the first with a single and later scored on Kim Manning's RBI triple. Manning scored minutes later on an Anna Poore ground out.

Taylor cruised into the seventh inning with a shutout before the Beavers scored an unearned run on two hits and a Duck error.

Dumoski kept the OSU players guessing in the second game with an assortment of off-speed pitches, carrying a no-hitter into the sixth inning and finishing with a four-hitter.

Oregon scored an unearned run in the third before exploding for six runs on five hits in the fifth inning capped off by Laura Schmidt's triple that scored Poore and Tracey Simmons.

Cavanaugh led the Ducks' attack for the afternoon with five hits, three runs scored, three stolen bases and a RBI while Manning collected a couple of hits, scored twice and knocked in two runs.

After starting the season 0-17 at the plate, freshman Jennifer Topham broke out of her slump and collected her first hits as a Duck, going 1-3 in each game.

"She totally turned it around," Brown said, "and drove the ball."

Top-ranked UCLA comes to town for two games on Sunday, and Brown believes the Ducks can play with the mighty Bruins.

"They are very, very good," she said, "but if we play solid and make them beat us, we have a chance."

First Game	
Oregon St.	0 0 0 0 0 1 — 1 5 4
Oregon	2 0 0 0 2 x — 4 8 1
<small>Howard and Stippay, Taylor and Simmons. W. Taylor (9-9). L. - Howard (3-12).</small>	
Second Game	
Oregon St.	0 0 0 0 1 0 — 1 4 4
Oregon	0 0 1 0 6 0 x — 7 9 0
<small>Reeder and Stippay, Dumoski and Simmons. W. Dumoski (3-3). L. - Reeder (6-10).</small>	

Cycling competition draws 175 participants

By Chris Nelson
Emerald Contributor

High-tech racing bicycles worth \$140,000 powered by 22,000 pounds of muscle and bone raced around a half-mile circuit on campus last Sunday in the annual Club Sports Spring Campus Criterium.

One hundred seventy five racers from throughout the Northwest competed for \$2,000 in cash and prizes, the highest total purse for a race in Oregon so far this year, thanks to sponsorship from Domino's Pizza and Pedal Power Bicycle Shops.

"They didn't draw any superstars," said 12-year racing veteran Bill Randleman, "but the normal, good-quality local field was here."

Bicycle races in the United States Cycling Federation are ranked in order of increasing skill, from category IV (beginner) to category I (professional). The most difficult race Sunday was the category II and III race, with Oregon's Club cycling team placing only one person among the top eight places

with Jon Bridenbaugh at fifth.

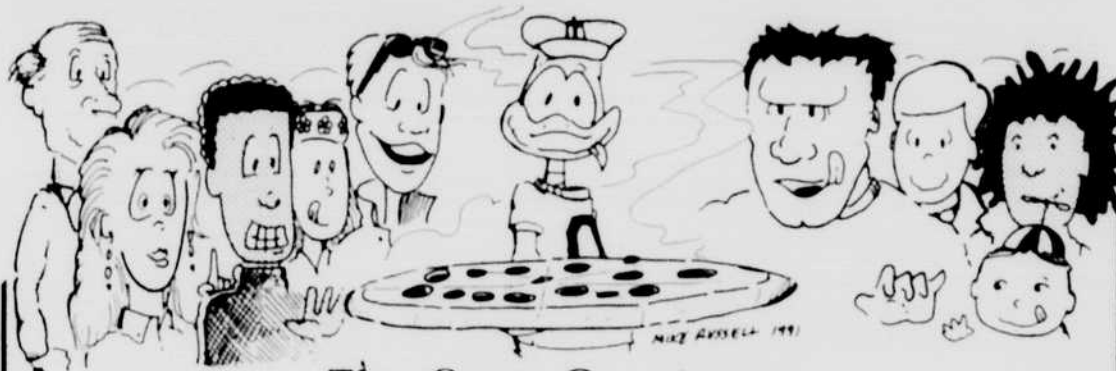
However, of the top eight finishers in the category II and III races, three had previously raced with the Club cycling team, including Michael Keep, the top finisher, Kelly Wieber, in fourth place, and Steve Marcy, in eighth place.

In the other categories, Oregon riders scored impressive victories. In the collegiate "A" race, where the best college racers square off, Oregon fielded five of the six competitors and captured the top four places. Bridenbaugh, also competing in this category also, finished more than a 30 seconds ahead of the field. He was followed by Club racers Luke Pingel, William Hall, and Ben Kaplan.

In the Category IV race, Oregon teammates Dave Strothers and Krishna Muirhead broke from the pack in the last three laps, finishing 1-2, respectively, taking home \$160 between them. In the women's race, University student Lynn Lachman-Ritzow took third place, winning \$40.



Photo by Mark Ylen
Kim Manning (4) is congratulated by teammates Julie Cavanaugh (left) and Patty Pyles after scoring on a Laura Schmidt sacrifice fly during the first game of Oregon's Civil War sweep.



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