

# Civil War opens softball season

By Jayson Jacoby  
Emerald Sports Reporter

The Oregon softball team will open its 1992 season with a bang Saturday afternoon, taking on Oregon State in a Civil War contest scheduled for 1 p.m. at Howe Field.

The Ducks, tied for 20th in the preseason NCAA rankings, return 10 letterwinners from last year's 29-29 team than finished fifth in the Pacific-10 Conference with a 4-16 record.

Oregon coach Tami Brown will be counting on four returning seniors to provide offensive punch as well as leadership. The Ducks are a young team, with seven freshmen and seven sophomores joining the four seniors.

Oregon's top returnee is senior shortstop Kim Manning, who set a school record with six home runs a year ago. The

academic All-American also hit at a solid .309 clip.

Tracey Simmons, another returning senior and an all-conference pick last season at catcher, hit .256 with 42 hits and 11 doubles in 1991, and joins first baseman Anna Poore (.359, 44 RBI) and outfielder Marnie McCall (.337, 56 hits) as the team's other most experienced players.

Oregon also has some excellent young players who have extensive intercollegiate experience.

Sophomore catcher and outfielder Laura Schmidt, an all-league player last year, hit .312 with 32 RBI. And fellow sophomore Rachelle Taylor, who compiled a 12-13 pitching record with a 1.15 ERA last year, will be looked upon to provide a lot of the hurling duties.

Another returning sopho-

more pitcher is Natasha Dumoski, who was 9-8 in 1991 with a 1.79 ERA.

Brown, who has a 64-52 record entering her third season at Oregon, said the 1992 Ducks need to avoid some of the unforced mistakes of last year's team.

"We need to play as a team and not beat ourselves like we did last year," Brown said. "Teams are going to have to beat us. If we play to our potential, we're going to be a tough team."

After Saturday's home game, the Ducks start more than two weeks of road games with an appearance at the UNLV tournament in Las Vegas, Nev. Oregon's first game in the 11-team tournament — which includes five ranked squads — will be against the host Rebels at 10 a.m. Friday, Nov. 28.

# Cold Ducks take on Huskies this weekend

By Doug Carter  
Emerald Contributor

A lot can happen in a short time, and although the Oregon club hockey team has not played for long, the players have decided to change their philosophy concerning ice time.

The decision, made Monday night during a team meeting, will go into effect this weekend when the Cold Ducks host league rival Washington for two games at Lane County Ice on Saturday at 6 p.m. and Sunday at 10 a.m.

But Oregon's new philosophy is actually not new at all. Rather, it is a reversion back to the policy installed at the beginning of this year.

When head coach Mike Sobol stepped aside in January, his philosophy of playing a limited number of lines was changed by new coach Shane Peters.

Peters' policy was to skate everybody an equal amount of ice time every game. The Ducks responded positively in his coaching debut, impressively sweeping the California Golden Bears in two games.

But the following weekend, Oregon welcomed San Jose State to town and played more like a gracious host than a determined hockey team. The Ducks were outplayed and didn't lead during the

two games.

Subpar performances such as these tend to magnify themselves when a given group of individuals is given a lot of time to think about them. And during the last three weeks of idleness, the Ducks have hung up their ice skates and dusted off their thinking tuques.

It was Monday night that the Ducks decided to return to the discriminating ice time philosophy. Oregon will play three lines of forwards for most of the game rather than the four lines that have shared ice time since Peters took the helm.

"When Peters came in, the players kind of let it go, to ease the transition a little," captain Scott Brown said. "Everybody who spoke up was in favor of the change. But at the same time, it gets difficult to revert back. (Some guys) can't help but have some hard feelings (about the decision)."

The Ducks are going to have play focused hockey if they want to have fun against the Huskies, a team that has already beat them twice this year and has a 10-2 record, second best in the Hockey West League.

Brown says fans can expect a physical game on Saturday.

"They come out to intimidate," Brown said of the Huskies. "Last time we played I got hit before the puck was even dropped."

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