

Duck club baseball jumps back after loss

By Matt Bender
Emerald Contributor

The Oregon club baseball team bounced back from losing the first game of a doubleheader against Western Baptist Community College 11-6 to win the second game 3-0 Tuesday afternoon at Lane Community College.

The game was supposed to be played at Sheldon High School but was moved at the last second, Duck manager Steven Seki said.

The Ducks won the second game with good team defense and a tremendous pitching performance by hard-throwing, right-hander Chris Conway. Conway allowed just one hit and no runs in six innings of work.

The game was called because of darkness after the top of the seventh inning, in which Conway was roughed up for four

runs, so the top of the seventh inning was erased, leaving Conway with an impressive one-hit shutout.

Conway was quick to credit his defense for the win.

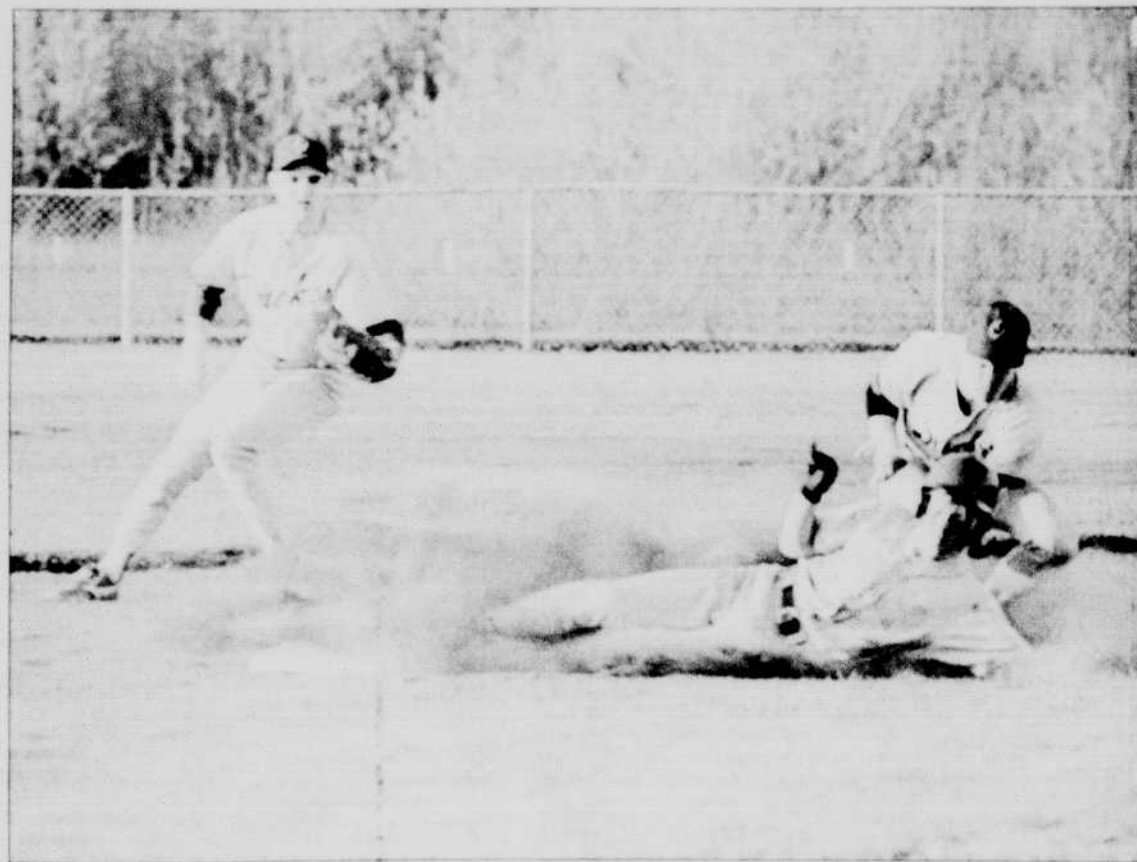
"They hit me pretty hard," he said, "but the balls never got out of the infield."

The Ducks took advantage of some wild pitching from WBCC in the second game to jump out to an early lead. The Ducks got RBI singles from third baseman Craig Boling and second baseman Doug Brasket. The other run was scored when center fielder Tim Mooney scored on a wild pitch.

The victory was especially sweet for the Ducks' manager.

"We felt they were rubbing our faces in it the first game," Seki said.

"I was glad to see us come back to win after what happened in the first game," he said.



Duck second baseman Travis Gover tags an opponent during Tuesday's doubleheader.

Photo by Michael Bender

Ducks strive for championship with victories

By Steve Mims
Emerald Contributor

The Oregon rugby team jumped back in the race for a berth in the West Coast Championship with a 24-4 victory over Western Washington on Saturday.

"This is a very satisfying win," Oregon head coach Bob Snyder said. "We're right back in the hunt."

The Ducks are now 1-2 in league play with two games left. They must win both of them to have a chance at qualifying for the tournament in Los Angeles.

Saturday's game got off to a slow start as both teams had trouble moving and controlling the ball. The first break of the game went to Oregon when Dick Dunn stole an in-bounds pass on the one-yard line and dove across the goal, giving the Ducks a 4-0 lead.

The Duck forwards overpowered Western Washington on almost every scrum, and it paid off with 10 minutes left in the half when Rich Miller followed a line of blockers into the goal. After the conversion, the lead was up to 10-0.

"Our forwards played well," assistant coach Clive Smith said. "They're one of the best units in the league."

Western Washington's only score of the day came about five minutes later when Derok Bernard took a pitch down the sidelines 45 yards, cutting the lead to 10-4.

The turning point of the match came when Oregon's Bob Pierre ran three yards for a try on the last play of the first half. The play gave Oregon all the momentum it would need for the second half and seemed to take the wind out of Western Washington's sails.

The Ducks put the game away 15 minutes into the second half when Western Washington fumbled in their own goal and Oregon's Yoshiaki Koike fell on it, stretching the lead to 18-4. Mark Rolland added two field goals late for the final margin of victory, and the Ducks had their first league win.

Snyder credited the team's maturity and togetherness for the victory. "When they scored, we didn't let down," he said. "That has a lot to do with communication."

Oregon's final home match of the year kicks off at noon Saturday against Central Washington at Southbank Field. The Ducks conclude the season two weeks later at Washington State.



Photo by Sean Postor

The Ducks' maturity, togetherness and communication on the field helped the team to a 24-4 victory over Western Washington Saturday.

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