

Women hammer away, sweep OSU

By Jayson Jacoby
Emerald Sports Reporter

The bad news Friday for the Oregon softball team was that it only scored in one inning of each game of a doubleheader against Oregon State.

The good news was that Rachelle Taylor and Natasha Dumoski combined to shut-out the Beavers for both games as the Ducks ended a 10-game losing streak with a 3-0, 5-0 sweep at Howe field.

Taylor (8-10) won both games, picking up a complete game, four-hit shutout in the first and keeping the Beavers off the scoreboard for four innings of the second before Dumoski came in to pitch three scoreless innings and earn her third save.

Oregon State actually outthit the Ducks 10-9 for the two games, but Tracey Simmons' two-out, three-run homer in the bottom of the sixth inning broke up a scoreless tie in the first game. In the second — again with two outs — the Ducks exploded for five runs in the third inning.

Oregon (15-17 overall, 3-3 in the Pacific-10 Conference) had seen its 11-5 record and No. 16 national ranking end as the Ducks dropped 10 straight and 12 of 14 during a two-week road trip.

Oregon coach Tami Brown said the wins couldn't have come soon enough for the Ducks.

"They turned it around pretty well," Brown said. "I'm glad."

Oregon State dropped to 9-14 and 1-5.

Although the outcomes of both games look decisive, through five-and-a-half innings of the first game nothing had been decided.

Taylor was locked in a pitchers' duel with the Beavers' top hurler, Cheryl Reeder.

And after Taylor sent Oregon State down in order in the top of the sixth, the Ducks picked up two quick outs after Patty Pyles reached on an error.

'This can be a turning point in our season.'

— Tami Brown,
Oregon softball coach

But Jennifer Piper singled to keep Oregon's scoring threat alive, moving pinch runner Lynn Kinnaman to third and bringing Simmons, the Ducks' senior catcher, to the plate.

Simmons worked Turner for a full count, and after fouling off two straight pitches, lined the next delivery over the left field fence for her first home run of the season.

Taylor had no trouble sealing the 3-0 win, allowing a lead-off walk in the seventh inning before closing out the game by throwing out Oregon State's Missy Smith on a grounder back to the mound.

"I was just looking for a good strike to hit," Simmons said of her game-winning blast. "With two outs and two strikes a big hit is nice, but I was just looking for a base hit."

"Every time you go to the plate you're looking to break the game open. In the sixth inning, it's just a little more crunch time."

Oregon State actually matched Oregon's offense with four hits, but Taylor got out of a one-out jam with a runner on third base in the second inning by striking out Kim Duckett and getting Smith to pop out.

The Beavers came out in the second game trying to quickly end any thoughts Oregon may have had about a second shut-out.

The Beavers used two singles and a sacrifice hit in the first inning to move Raquel Trujillo to third base with two outs. But Taylor defused the threat by getting Angel Miller to ground out to third base.

In the second inning, the Beavers loaded the bases on an error, a base hit and an intentional walk, but Taylor again

trujillo unscathed by getting Trujillo to line out to second base.

Oregon State again had two baserunners in the top of the third but was unable to score.

Oregon, however, was more than able.

When it was all over, the Ducks had sent 10 hitters to the plate and scored five runs on six hits.

All that offense came, ironically, with two outs.

After Laurie Fleischauer and Amy Godwin had been retired, Oregon's leading hitter, Marnie McCall, singled down the third base line.

Pyles followed with another single, moving McCall down to second.

Then Oregon's senior shortstop, Kim Manning, scored both runners with a drive off the center field wall that was nearly the Ducks' second home run of the day. Manning led Oregon in the second game with a three-for-three, two RBI performance.

Simmons followed Manning with a run-scoring double of her own, and the rout was on.

Jennifer Smith replaced Turner on the mound for the Beavers, but she didn't fare any better against the suddenly awakened Oregon bats.

Simmons stole third base, and Piper walked. Then Laura Schmidt and Anna Poore closed out the two-out rally with consecutive run-scoring singles.

Dumoski replaced Taylor to start the fifth inning, and the Beavers managed just two hits the rest of the way.

"This can be a turning point in our season," Brown said of Friday's sweep.

Oregon State coach Vickie Dugan said she was happy with the way the Beavers played, despite the two losses.

"We had certain goals for these games," Dugan said. "One of them was hitting, and we had solid contact almost all of the time. I'm real happy with our hitting."

Ducks on right track with big Husky win

The only thing typical about the Oregon women's track and field team's dual meet at Washington was the weather.

It was wet and cold, ordinary conditions for early spring in the Northwest.

What wasn't run-of-the-mill was the women's team's 98-38 blasting of Washington, tying Oregon's biggest margin of victory ever over the Huskies and avenging the Ducks' loss at Husky Stadium two years ago.

For the Oregon men's team, though, it was business as usual. In their first scoring meet since placing third at the NCAA Championships last spring, the Ducks held off the Huskies, 89-73.

Ronnie Harris was twice a winner for Oregon, taking first in both the 100 and 200. Fellow senior Bob Gray also won two events, pulling out victories in both the 100 and 400 hurdles.

Other keys to the Oregon wins included a surprise win in the 800 and a sweep in the 1,500.

Oregon's Randy Lamm sneaked by the competition on the final stretch of the 800 and won a tight race with his 1:52.60 time. Washington's Dwight Wheaton finished second in 1:52.76.

The 1,500 proved to be all Oregon's, as Shannon Lemora led the charge with a winning effort of 3:55.39. Alan Foster was second in 3:56.09, and Duck freshman Tracy Hollister took third with a 3:57.96.

Javelin thrower Art Skipper easily outdistanced his competition with a 232-10 throw. Washington's Tony Parsley was second with a 201-8.

Other Oregon winners included Pat Haller in the

5,000, the Duck 1,600-meter relay team, and Todd Bleakney in the triple jump. Pedro daSilva and Muhammad Oliver were first and second in the high jump.

Heath Howington finished second in the discus throw and hammer throw and was third in the shot put.

The women's team was nothing but dominant in their dual meet, winning all but one of Saturday's events. Of the events, 15 of 16 belonged to Oregon athletes.

Two of those were all-Laurie Roberts, as the senior won both the high jump and long jump. Roberts led a 1-2 Oregon finish in the high jump with Amo Olson and won the long jump by one-half inch.

Sophomore Julie Beck won a pair of events, too, taking first in the discus and shot put.

In another field event, javelin thrower Kim Hyatt was better than 20 feet ahead of her nearest competition with her winning 166-2 hurl.

Nicole Woodward ran to a first in the 3,000, and teammate Lucy Nusrala finished second in the race.

Erika Klein, who is still recovering from an injury during the cross country season, led an Oregon sweep in the 800. Kim Hutson and Tyrza Hunt finished second and third, respectively, behind Klein.

Other Oregon winners included Kim Carlisle in the triple jump, freshman Regina Warren in the 100, Camara Jones in the 200, Lisa Bedwell in the 400, Sally Maier in the 1,500, Jennifer Neitling in the 400 hurdles, and both relay teams.

Claudine Robinson was Washington's only winner, taking first in the 100 hurdles.



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