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University Theatre Productions
 1991-1992 Season

The Injustice Done To DOUERH,
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 an original work by Denise Chuk
May 28, 29 and 30

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 by Timothy Baxter-Ferguson
June 4, 5 and 6

8 p.m. Curtain • Arena Theatre
 Reservations (503) 346-4191

University Theatre Productions are funded in part from revenue of ticket sales and the IFC of ASUO which partly subsidizes U of O student ticket prices.



Photo courtesy of The Register-Guard
 Howard Hobson (center), University baseball manager from 1936 to 1947, saw the Ducks win division titles in 1939, 1941-43 and 1946.

Baseball glory thing of the past

□ Budget cuts 11 years ago ended campus' oldest, award-winning sports program

By Matt Bender
 Emerald Contributor

On May 14, 1981, the Oregon varsity baseball team lost more than a doubleheader to Washington — the Ducks lost their program.

The doubleheader was bitter-sweet for Duck left fielder Steve Crum. The sophomore hit his 14th home run of the season — tying a school record — on his last day in a Duck uniform.

"I loved UO, and I loved baseball," Crum said. "I didn't want to leave Oregon. I had to."

At the time, the athletic department was in the red and looking for a way to trim its budget. Baseball, men's gymnastics, women's soccer and women's golf were all cut in the spring of 1981.

Since the cut, the only baseball team on campus has been a club team. Instead of playing Pacific-10 Conference teams like Washington and Oregon State, the club team faces the likes of Lane Community College and Western Baptist and has to car pool to games.

When the varsity baseball program was cut, it was the oldest sport on campus. It is unclear when the first game was played, but old photographs and school yearbooks trace the sport back to the late 19th century.

In 1916, Oregon was among the founding members of the Pacific Coast Conference, which is now the Pac-10. The Ducks were later put into the Northern Division in 1923 with rivals Washington, Washington State and Oregon State.

Oregon won its first Northern Division title in 1928 and would go on to win it again in 1934, 1935, 1937 and 1939.

In 1934 and 1935 the Ducks were led by one of the greatest athletes to ever attend Oregon, second baseman Joe Gordon.

After starring for Oregon, Gordon went on the play for the New York Yankees and Cleveland Indians. Gordon was an all-star in nine of his 11 big league seasons and played on seven world championship

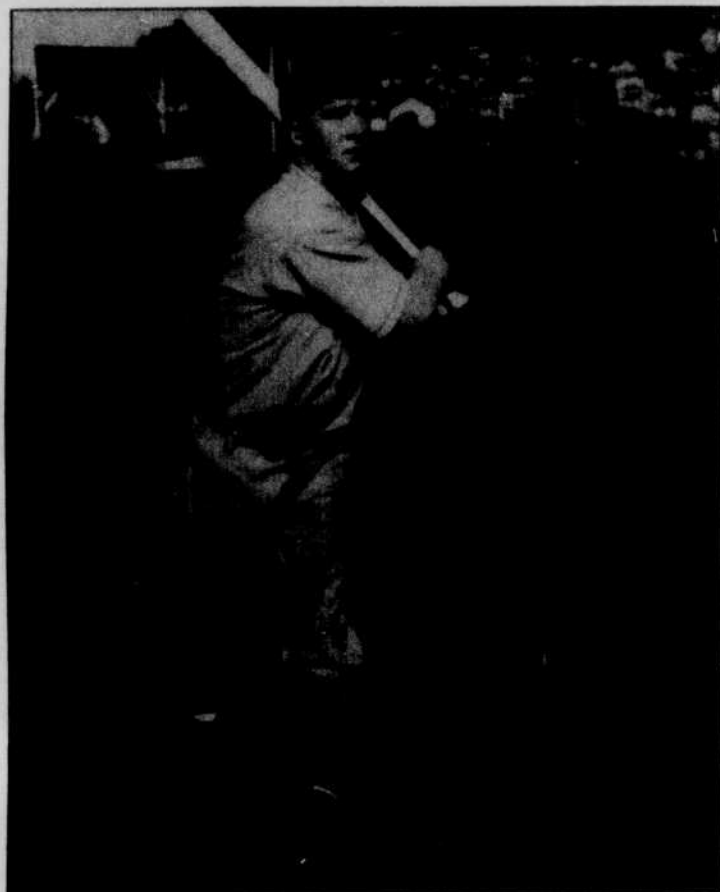


Photo courtesy of The Register-Guard
 In 1934 and 1935, the Ducks were led by one of the greatest athletes to ever attend Oregon, second baseman Joe Gordon.

teams.

In 1942, Gordon had his finest season, hitting .322 with 18 home runs and 103 RBIs. That year Gordon beat out Ted Williams for the American League's MVP award, quite a feat, considering Williams won the triple crown that year.

Although Gordon's numbers are impressive — a .268 average with 253 home runs and 975 RBIs for a career — he is not in the Baseball Hall of Fame. Gordon still has a chance to make the hall if he is voted in off the old-timers list.

After Gordon left in 1935, the baseball team was led by another legend, coach Howard Hobson. Most fans know Hobson as the man who coached the 1939 Oregon basketball team in its NCAA championship season, but Hobson also was the baseball manager from 1936 to 1947.

Under Hobson the Ducks won division titles in 1939, 1941-43 and 1946.

In 1948 Don Kirsh took over as the coach of the Ducks. In

the 1950s, Kirsh put together some very good teams, which featured All-Americans Earl Averill and George Shaw.

Shaw played on the 1954 club that won the NCAA District 8 championship and went on to take seventh place at the College World Series.

After the strong clubs of the 1950s, the Ducks won only three more Northern Division championships under Kirsh. The last division champion Kirsh coached was the 1964 squad, which won a school record of 31 games.

Mel Krause then took over the program in 1971 and won division titles in 1972 and 1974.

In 1972, Duck All-American shortstop Dave Roberts was selected as the collegiate player of the year. After the season, Roberts was picked in the first round of the draft by the San Diego Padres.

Roberts also played with Tex-

Turn to **BASEBALL**, Page 9