## Oregon Daily Emerald Sports

# Softball goes 6-4 in California

#### By Steve Mims

The Oregon softball team started strong but finished slow during a 10-day trip to California for spring break

The Ducks won five of their first six games on the trip before beginning their current four-game losing streak.

Oregon began its trip with a 1-0 victory over eighth-ranked California in extra innings. The Ducks beat the Golden Bears in 12 innings despite an NCAArecord 26 strikeouts from California pitcher Michele Granger. The two teams went scoreless for 11 innings before the Ducks took advantage of the NCAA tiebreaker rule for the win.

The tiebreaker rule allowed Oregon to start the 12th inning with a runner on second base. and the Ducks broke the tie quickly. Lisa Preston was Oregon's runner and sophomore Leanne Brooks doubled her home to give Oregon a 1-0 lead that held up for the victory

Rachelle Taylor pitched 12 scoreless innings and allowed only three hits for the victory, her fourth win in five games. The Ducks also had only three hits, but those were enough to beat Granger, who dropped to 11-4.

Oregon started quickly in the second game of the doubleheader when Jennifer Piper singled in Kathy Stahl to give the Ducks a 1-0 lead in the first inning. California came back with three runs in the third inning and went on to win the game 3-1. Taylor pitched her second game of the day and allowed six hits and only one earned run in picking up the loss

The Ducks raised their record to 3-1 in the Pacific-10 Conference when they swept Stanford in a doubleheader March 21. Oregon followed the wins over Stanford with a non-conference doubleheader sweep over St Mary's March 22.

Oregon catcher Laura Schmidt was named Pac-10 Player of the Week for her play in the Ducks' victories. Schmidt raised her batting average to .385 with her third home run of the year against Stanford.

The Ducks finished the Pony Invitational Sunday morning. winning their only game of the tournament, 2-1 over Cal Poly Pomona

Oregon lost the first game of the tournament 4-3 against Utah, followed by a 5-2 loss against Oklahoma State. The Ducks lost 7-5 against 12th-ranked UNLV. their second loss to the Rebels this year. Oregon (11-9, 3-1) lost its fourth game of the tournament 2-1 against Fresno State.

### **Record-holder to compete at meet**

Sergei Bubka, the world-record holder in the pole vault, has announced he will compete in the June 5 Prefontaine Classic at Hayward Field.

Bubka will be making his first-ever outdoor appearance in the United States

Bubka, who is from Donetsk, Ukraine, has set a total of 34 world records and is the only man in history to clear the 20-foot barrier in the pole vault. His current world record stands at 20-2, which he set in his hometown at the Nike Pole Vault AllStars meet earlier this year.

'Sergei intends to be in top form for the Prefontaine Classic," said Andezej Kulikowski, Bubka's manager. "We have heard many good reports about historic Hayward Field and the people of Eugene, and look forward to putting on a good show for the crowd."

Bubka set four world records in 1992 but failed to clear a height at the 1992 Olympics. He still finished as the top pole vaulter in the world last year.

# Women's basketball coach gets the boot

Elwin Heiny was fired March 15 after 17 years as head coach of the Oregon women's basketball team.

The firing came only two days after the Ducks lost to California, finishing the 1992-93 season 3-15 in the Pacific-10 Conference and 9-18 overall.

Oregon had high hopes after winning six of its first eight non-conference games and was ranked 27th in the country. The season turned sour quickly when the Ducks lost their first 10 Pac-10 games en route to their worst conference record ever.

Heiny was one of Oregon's most successful coaches, as he entered last season with a .679 winning percentage, but he failed to win more than half of his conference games for the last four seasons. The Ducks had identical 6-12 records in the Pac-10 during the 1990-91 and 1991-92 seasons before this year's disaster

Only Oregon's third women's coach ever. Heiny took control of the team in 1976, the Ducks' fourth season of women's basketball. Oregon had a record of only 10-33 during the three sea-sons before Heiny was hired, but he led the team to winning records during his first six seasons

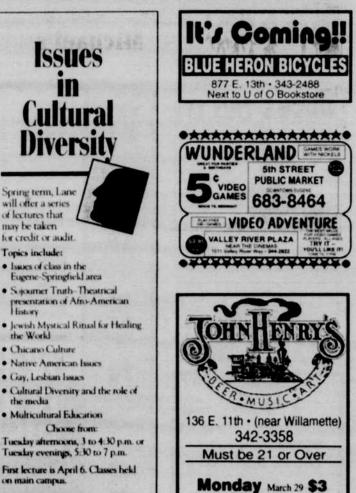
Heiny advanced his teams to the NCAA Championships three times and won the National Women's Invitational Tournament in 1988-89. He leaves Oregon with a career record of 310-150.

Heiny led the Ducks in 20-win seasons eight times, and this season was only the second time Oregon has finished under .500 with Heiny at the helm.

Oregon athletic director Rich Brooks is currently in the process of selecting a replacement.

The firing is the first of Brooks' tenure, which began in the fall. Men's basketball coach Don Monson was fired at the end of the 1991-92 season after his team finished at 2-16 in the Pac-10 and 6-21 overall.





Swim Meet-open International Aerobics Golf Tourn. <u>TWO/THREE DAY EVENT</u> Spring Tennis Classic 3x3 Basketball • M=Men, W=Women, C + Inframural sport-under I Cost for Activity-chec	M-W 1 M-W-C 2 M IS M-W-C 1-2 A M-W 3 1 C=Coed er IM regulations (See	May 10 May 10 May 6 May 6 Mandbook)	April 23 - April 29 - May 16 - April 23 May 8 & 9	\$15/team NC I	Registration required. For costs and additional information, call Vicki Levine at 747-4501, ext. 2074 or 345-8344. See Human Development offerings, in the Spring Term Class Schedule.	Monday March 29 \$3 The Mudwimmin Huevos Rancheros Ro-Sham-Bo Tuesday March 30 \$3
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