

Baseball catches up with times

The world is constantly changing and finally baseball is changing with it.

The baseball owners voted last week to implement interleague play for the first time since there has been two leagues, and I am all for it.

Baseball is considered the national pastime, but has recently become the national pisstime — meaning nobody cares who wins the World Series or who is voted MVP.

With the whole strike ordeal and the owners versus players battle, baseball is not fun anymore for some people.

But it still is fun, especially now that it is changing. There will always be those "purists" who believe that the sport shouldn't be changed, that it should stay the same as it was when Babe Ruth and Mickey Mantle were playing.

But why should it? The fans have changed, the players have changed and the media has changed. So why should baseball stay the same?

There is so much competition between the professional sports for fans and media coverage.

The Super Bowl gets a much bigger audience than any baseball game will ever get. I'm sure that most people can name more players on the Chicago Bulls than on the Chicago Cubs. Even hockey is being covered more extensively than ever before. How can baseball compete?

There is a simple answer, and it looks like the baseball owners have discovered it already: Change the game to reflect the changing times.

It started last season with the expansion of the two leagues into three divisions each. This made the game much more competitive and gave more fans the chance to be rooting for their team in October.

The two wild card spots gave way to two very exciting races at the end of the season.

Hey, without the wild card, who would have ever expected to see the Seattle Mariners in the playoffs?

Despite an idiotic decision to only televise the playoff games to a regional audience, the post season went well. It was definitely

OPINION



Andrea DeYoung

On the move



Sophomore Jeff Erickson, a member of the club sports Lacrosse team, practices for the team's upcoming game against Pacific Lutheran University on Feb. 17.

Buccaneers hire former Vikings defensive coach

■ **NFL:** Tampa Bay chooses the former Minnesota Vikings defensive coordinator

TAMPA, Fla. (AP) — Tony Dungy's long and frustrating journey from the NFL's youngest defensive coordinator to a head coach ended today.

The long-time assistant, interviewed but passed over by four other teams in the last 10 years, will get a shot at trying to turn the Tampa Bay Buccaneers into a winner.

"I feel that they are very, very close," the 40-year-old Dungy said at a mid-afternoon news conference announcing his six-year contract as the sixth coach of the NFL club.

The Buccaneers have young players and a nucleus ready to take off. The building blocks are there, he said, all the team needs is consistency.

He became the fourth black head coach in NFL history, behind Art Shell, Dennis Green and Ray Rhodes.

Dungy said his first goal is to build a sense of family and togetherness with everybody striving for the same end — a winning team.

The Buccaneers haven't made the playoffs or finished above .500 since 1982.

He described himself as a teacher and said Buccaneers linebacker Hardy Nickerson is a key to what he wants to do defensively.

Dungy explained his hiring as a two week process and noted the interest it generated.

"The people in Tampa made me feel so welcome. All the calls to a number I thought was a private number," he said. "While it was nerve-racking it made me feel good about the interest in football."

He described himself as "fortunate and blessed by God that he's given me this opportunity." He credited football figures in his background who were mentors.

He talked about how General Manager Rich McKay caught him at the office in Pittsburgh and said: "You're the guy that we want." Dungy said he didn't want to get too excited at first because a lot can happen before contracts are signed.

"You will grow to like him and you will certainly grow to respect him," McKay said in introductory remarks.

Dungy, the Minnesota Vikings' defensive coordinator since 1992, flew to town Sunday for his first face-to-face meeting with Buccaneers owner Malcolm Glazer.

He was laughing and smiling as he left a popu-

Turn to **NFL**, Page 12

Grapplers rebound from Cal Poly loss with tie

■ **WRESTLING:** The Ducks lose to the Mustangs but salvage a tie in Civil War wrestling on Sunday

By **Trevor Kearney**
Sports Editor

The Oregon wrestling team ended a nerve-racking weekend of Pacific-10 Conference dual meets in dramatic fashion Sunday by tying 17th-ranked Oregon State with a win in the final match of the afternoon.

The Ducks (2-2-1 overall in dual meets, 0-2-1 in the Pac-10) were up by as much as 13-7 in team scoring after 118-pound senior Kevin Roberts, 126-pound sophomore John Taylor and 134-pound sophomore Jeremy Ensrud — wrestling up one weight class — won their matches.

But the Beavers staged a comeback and took the lead when defending 177-pound national

champion Les Gutches, who was wrestling in the 190-pound weight class, pinned Oregon senior Nathan Sullivan.

But Oregon heavyweight Rich Polkinghorn escaped from the grasp of Oregon State's Mat Orndorff seven seconds into a fourth-round tie-breaker to keep the Ducks from losing their third straight Pac-10 match.

It was only the second time the two schools' have ever ended a meet in a tie.

Against Cal Poly San Luis Obispo on Saturday, the Ducks started out strong, winning their first three matches. But junior Rob Tanner injured his ribs against Cal Poly's 142-pound junior Bobby Bellamy, giving the Mustangs six points due to injury default.

After junior Scott Norton won the 150-pound match, Cal Poly won four of the five remaining weight classes, including three straight after Norton's win, to take the meet.

"Cal Poly is a tough team," head coach Ron Finley said. "I think Tanner getting hurt was unfortunate because that was six points. If we had won that it would have been a 9-point [Oregon] swing. We just didn't wrestle that intense tonight."

The Ducks nearly came back, however. In the 190-pound weight class, Sullivan took Cal Poly junior Scott Adams to an overtime period. Neither wrestler scored in the overtime, but in the tie-breaker period, Sullivan scored an escape with one second remaining to win the match.

But in the final match — the match that would have won the meet for the Ducks — Polkingham fell to Cal Poly heavyweight Eric Rodriguez and the Mustangs iced their win.

Finley said that coming into the weekend the team needed to record more pins, and they didn't get enough high-scoring wins to

beat the Mustangs.

"We would have had to win the last one to win (the meet)," Finley said. "But we didn't get any falls and we didn't get the major decisions that we needed and we didn't win all the matches we needed to."

Sophomore Royce Repenn figured in prominently in both meets, as the 177-pounder lost to the Mustang's Jeremiah Miller after Miller took Repenn down with three seconds in the third period. But on Sunday against Oregon State, Repenn got revenge by scoring a reversal against the Beavers' Sanders Freed in the final five seconds of the match, giving the Ducks back the lead before Gutches pinned Sullivan.

Next up for the Ducks is Fresno State on Friday at 7:30 p.m. at McArthur Court. The meet will be a delayed broadcast on Prime Sports.

Turn to **DeYOUNG**, Page 10