

Baseball deserves forgiveness

It is obvious that baseball is the sport of the gods. Just look outside. The last week or so the weather has been warm. The sun, for the most part, has been shining, and the smell of spring training is in the air. It is a heavenly feeling for sure.

By the end of the week, all teams will have officially reported to their spring training home for a month of preparation before the season starts on April 1.

For baseball fans, this is catch-up time. Team rosters become familiarized after an off-season of transactions and



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player movements; rotisserie leagues are formed, and Peter Gammons turns into E.F. Hutton; When he talks, people listen.

Now is also the time to forgive.

After two years of turmoil, threats of a strike turning into a strike, threats of a lockout turning into a lockout, two labor-related shortened seasons and, most devastating of all, a canceled World Series, baseball is finally getting back to the business of being a game.

Gone are Michael Jordan and Deion Sanders back to the sports that they rule. A new strike zone will most likely be in effect. It will now be a called strike if the ball crosses the plate just below the knee. This will also be the last year of non-interleague play. And, most important, for the first time in the last two years, baseball is slated to start on time and go the distance.

Amen.

With these changes, Major League Baseball hopes to lure back some of the fan base which, fed up with the sport, abandoned them last year. I am one of those fans. Or I should say, I was one of those fans.

Over the past five months I have come to the conclusion that I need baseball just as much as baseball needs me.

Last year I was one of the thousands of fans who rejected baseball. The strike left me scarred with a wound that would not heal. I felt trampled over by players and owners who seemingly couldn't care less about me. So in turn I did not care about them.

I watched maybe a half

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Oregon's club crew team to 'erg' for funds

■ **CLUB SPORTS:** Lacrosse, soccer, skiing, rugby and volleyball have played

By Ryan Frank
and Jason Lewis-Berry
Freelance Sports Reporters

Oregon crew will begin its annual "Ergathon" fund-raiser today in front of the University Bookstore.

Crew rowers will row for 24 hours straight on stationary rowing machines called "ergs." For a small donation, a student can have a rower erg just for him or her. For example, a one-dollar donation earns ten power-pulls from the on-duty rower. Rowers' shifts will last for one hour. Together, the event will feature non-stop rowing from 9:00 a.m. Wednesday to 9:00 a.m. Thursday.

The crew team will use the money raised from this event to fund trips to competitions up and down the West Coast. The spring season begins Mar. 30 and 31 at the Crew Classic in San Diego.

Oregon's men's lacrosse club team kicked off its league season Sunday with a 9-7 win over Linfield College.

Two sophomores, midfielder Jeff Erickson and attack man Craig Baggot led the Ducks' offensive barrage as each collected three goals. In his first game ever, freshman Jerry Baglien also had a strong performance, scoring twice.

Team coordinator Schuyler Harrison said Oregon has high expectations for this season following the win over Linfield.

"Linfield was one of the best teams in the league last year ... we expect to be a big contender for the title this year," Harrison said.

The lacrosse team's next home game is Mar. 2 at 1:00 p.m. on the South Bank Field.

Oregon men's soccer club

team ended a three-game losing streak Monday, but the Ducks' 6-6 tie against Thrash of Salem was less than satisfying.

Oregon led 6-2 with just 10 minutes remaining in the game, but could not hold the lead. Defensive breakdowns once again plagued the Ducks, as fatigued players failed to get back on defense.

"Our stamina isn't up to par," goalkeeper Greg Labavitch said. "We need more practice and conditioning time."

Ryan Aanderud led a balanced Oregon offensive attack with two goals.

The 0-3-1 Ducks have four games left on the indoor schedule, so they can still salvage a winning season.

Oregon's Nordic skiing club team competed in a 10-kilometer citizens race on Feb. 17 at Mount Bachelor.

Oregon's Emil Ostberg and Phil Austin finished fourth and fifth in the men's division respectively. In the women's division, Oregon's Cécile Suhre placed second.

Rolin Lemmens scored twice and Jeff Wampler scored once as Oregon's rugby club team fell to the University of Victoria's traveling law school team 22-17.

"It was the best game we have played since last term," Oregon's Keith Heger said. "They had more size, and they won with size and experience."

The Victoria game was an exhibition, but this weekend the Ducks will play their first conference game of the term when they host Evergreen State College at 11:00 a.m. on South Bank Field.

Six teams competed in a women's volleyball tournament in Longview, Wash. during the weekend. Oregon's women's volleyball club team was one of the teams that made the trip.

The Ducks played five matches during the weekend, including two matches in tournament play. Oregon defeated Ele Mekule in the first round of the tournament, then was downed by Miller Paint in the semi-finals.

Testimony shows Moon's wife didn't speak up about incident

■ **TRIAL:** The lawyers for the former Houston Oiler question Felicia Moon on why she did not file charges

RICHMOND, Texas (AP) — Prosecutors rested their assault case Tuesday against Warren Moon after the quarterback's wife acknowledged she passed up several chances to tell her side of the story.

Felicia Moon in earlier testimony repeatedly characterized the Fort Bend County district attorney's office as overzealous and not interested in her version of the July 18 argument that resulted in scratches and bruises along her neck and shoulders.

She admitted she ignored chances to volunteer the complete story to investigators who came to the couple's suburban Houston home, to the media who showed up at the house for a news conference she called three days after the argument, and later when she met with prosecutors.

"I had an opportunity," said Felicia Moon, 39, who returned to the stand Tuesday.

Under repeated questioning by prosecutor Mike Elliott, she conceded she did not try to correct the publicized version of events detailed in a four-page statement she made to police and in an indictment against her 39-year-old husband.

Moon, who spent 10 years with the Houston Oilers and is now with the Minnesota Vikings, faces up to a year in jail and a \$4,000 fine if convicted of the misdemeanor assault charge.

Elliott tried to have Felicia Moon's four-page statement submitted as evidence Tuesday. But County Court-at-Law Judge Larry Wagenbach agreed with defense attorney Rusty Hardin, who said it was inadmissible.

According to Texas law, unless a person who gave the statement refuses to acknowledge the contents, the entire written version cannot be admitted as evidence. Felicia Moon never has denied giving the statement, but has said it is incomplete.

One of the most hotly contested portions of the statement is over the words "choked"

and "choked." Felicia Moon's statement uses the word "choked" twice and "choked" once, according to portions read to jurors.

She has said her husband "choked" her, explaining he wedged his hands behind her shoulders while holding her down because of her excited state during the argument.

Missouri City Police Detective Andi Wiltse contended Tuesday the word "choked" is a misspelling of the word "choked."

Felicia Moon has testified her husband "choked" her while trying to calm her. She said he quickly released his grip once she started coughing and has insisted he did not mean to harm her.

She also said he had never hit her since 1986, when she filed a divorce petition alleging he had assaulted her on three occasions.

But in a portion of her statement read Tuesday to jurors, Felicia Moon told police: "Warren has assaulted me before. The last time was about a year ago, about the MasterCard. He thought I was lying about the bill."

She also told the jury that prosecutors offered a plea bargain of six months probation to her husband, but she insisted it be rejected.

Felicia Moon, who has wanted the case dropped, has testified the couple's marriage was rocky at the time of the incident, triggered by Moon's insistence that she surrender credit cards, and that Moon had not been living at their Missouri City home.

His multimillion-dollar signing with the Oilers in 1984, after a successful stint with the Canadian Football League, made him pro football's highest paid player at the time.

Felicia Moon said their marriage began to deteriorate because she chose to raise their then three young children while her husband was gone. To combat depression, she went to shopping malls, racking up \$160,000 in credit card expenses and bank withdrawals and angering her husband.

The July argument included her throwing a candle holder at Moon, hitting him the back. She said she was aiming at his head.

Ducks fall prey to Huskies and Cal Poly team

■ **MEN'S TENNIS:** Oregon comes home match against Idaho

By Ryan Frank
Freelance Sports Reporter

In its only Pacific-10 Conference match of the weekend, Oregon's men's tennis team was swept by Washington 7-0. In a non-league match the Ducks were swept again by Cal Poly San Luis Obispo 7-0. The losses move the Ducks to 7-9 overall and 0-6 in the Pac-10. They now have lost seven straight matches and eight of their last ten.

Oregon's No. 1 doubles team of Dougal Williams and Hans Forsberg won the only match for the Ducks with a win over Omello Ariati and Nick Williams of Washington. But Oregon needed to win two out of the three doubles matches to score a point.

Forsberg, Oregon's No. 2 singles player, was able to push the first set of his match to a tie breaker, but the Huskies won all the singles matches in straight sets.

On Monday Oregon took on Cal Poly in Seattle, and was able to push four matches into three sets. No. 1 Dougal Williams, No. 2 Hans Forsberg, No. 5 Mike Goldstein and No. 6 Jeff Strong all went three sets before dropping their match.

On the doubles side, No. 3 Michael Williams and Carlos Navarro won their match, but the Ducks could not win in the other two doubles matches.

This weekend Oregon will play only its second home match of the year against Idaho. The Ducks will take on the Vandals on Saturday at 10:00 a.m. Oregon has completed its Pac-10 dual-meet schedule and will not compete against any Pac-10 schools until the individual championship at the end of April.