

Softball takes to the home field

■ **OPENER:** Oregon attempts to kick-off its conference season on the right foot against the highly ranked Washington Huskies

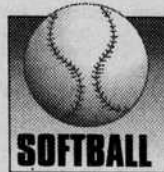
By Chris Hansen
Sports Reporter

Oregon softball, weather permitting, will open its 1997 Pacific-10 Conference season Saturday with a doubleheader against the No. 4 Washington Huskies at Howe Field starting at 12 p.m.

The Ducks (8-10 overall, 0-0 Pac-10) come into the game a little banged up mentally and physically. Second baseman Angie LeRoy (left ankle sprain) and rightfielder Lindsey Welch (right shoulder) both saw limited action during last weekend's San Diego State Tournament due to injuries.

Welch, who is listed as questionable for Saturday's games, is

one of Oregon's top offensive performers, batting .396 with four home runs and leading the team in walks (six) and on-base percentage (.455). The freshman has already earned Pac-10 Co-Player of the Week honors after going 10-for-15 with seven runs, seven hits,



SOFTBALL

three home runs and seven RBI two weeks ago at a tournament in Las Vegas.

In addition to the possibility of being short-handed in the field, the Ducks are also feeling somewhat mentally beaten up after going 1-6 in San Diego last weekend.

"We've got some girls that are really down right now," head coach Rick Gamez said. "We've got to get them back into the right frame of mind, break it down and get after it again."

"(Last weekend) we weren't focused mentally and didn't ex-

cute. There was no one thing that didn't happen; it was a combination of things. We're going to go right back to the basics and talk fundamentals."

Washington (16-5, 0-0) comes to Eugene as the defending Pac-10 champion and the 1996 College World Series runner-up to Arizona. The Huskies are led offensively by Becky Newbry (.441 batting average), Sara Pickering (.419) and Shelly Brown (.418), with Newbry and Pickering combining for 10 home runs.

"Washington is a great club," Gamez said. "They've been successful and have some postseason experience. But we've got to focus on what we do well; we're not going to do anything different."

Petrina Martinez and Jennie Cook are expected to share the pitching duties for Oregon. Martinez has been a work horse for Oregon, pitching six complete games so far this year compared to just one all of last season.

Ducks to host two-day tourney next week

■ **GOLF:** Four of the nation's top 25 teams will be in town for this week's tournament

By Ryan Halvorsen
Sports Reporter

The Oregon men's golf team will be the host of this week's tournament, the Oregon Duck Invitational, on Monday and Tuesday at the Eugene Country Club. Thirty-six holes will be played the first day, finishing up with 18 on Tuesday. Competition starts at 8 a.m. on both days.

The 14-team field will feature four teams ranked in the top 25 in the nation including Arizona (4th), Southern California (9th), Arizona State (11th) and Brigham Young (21st). Other teams competing in the tournament will be Oregon State, Pepperdine, Fresno State, San Jose State, Washington, Washington State, Stanford, Nevada and California.

The format for the tournament will have six players competing for each team with four of those scores counting as the team score. Competing for the Ducks will be Jeff Barney, J. J. Astorquia, Chris Cone, Ben Crane and Derek Croskrey.

The Ducks' sixth man will be decided among Adrian Burtner, Ryan Lavoie and Joel Stock, with the other two playing as individuals detached from the squad along with Jason Mattaini, Blake Parrish

and Ryan Chackel.

Most recently the Ducks finished in eighth place at the Taylor Made Waikaloa Invitational in a nationally competitive field. In the latest poll, Oregon moved up to 35th in the nation with two players, Astorquia and Lavoie, ranked in the top 100 individually.



GOLF

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Saturday, March 8
7:00 p.m. Tip-off

Students, show up dressed in green and yellow for the men's basketball game this weekend against the Beavers and qualify for a chance to participate in a half-time Tricycle relay contest. The 6 most spirited fans will be chosen to compete, and each will be given a prize. Balloons, tattoos, and face paints will be passed out while you wait before the game. Doors open at 6:00 p.m. with music from a Live D.J. starting at 4:30 p.m.

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UO Students admitted free with ticket and valid student I.D. For more info, call the Duck Ticket Office at 346-4461 or 346-5418 (hearing impaired).

Go Ducks!

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