



ON THE TUBE
Major League Baseball
Colorado vs. Atlanta,
TBS (3), 4:35 p.m.

SPORTS

Oregon Daily
Emerald

Piatt's grand slam leads Timberjacks to 12-4 rout

EMERALDS:
A six-run sixth inning gave the Timberjacks an insurmountable 10-0 lead and their first win in the three-game series at Civic Stadium

By Ryan Frank
Associate Editor

Eugene's Mark Burke touched Southern Oregon's Adam Piatt for luck Tuesday night.

Apparently Burke and the Ems didn't steal any of his luck Wednesday.

The Timberjacks' third baseman hit a grand slam in sixth inning for his fifth home run in as many games against Ems' pitching as Southern Oregon routed Eugene 12-4 Wednesday night at Civic Stadium in front of 6,841.

The Timberjacks' (15-13) win came one night after they gave up four runs in the ninth inning to lose 5-4.

Trailing 4-0 after five innings on Wednesday, Eugene's Rodney Allen allowed the Timberjacks to load the bases before Brad Gorrie hit a two-run double off the center-

field fence to make the score 6-0.

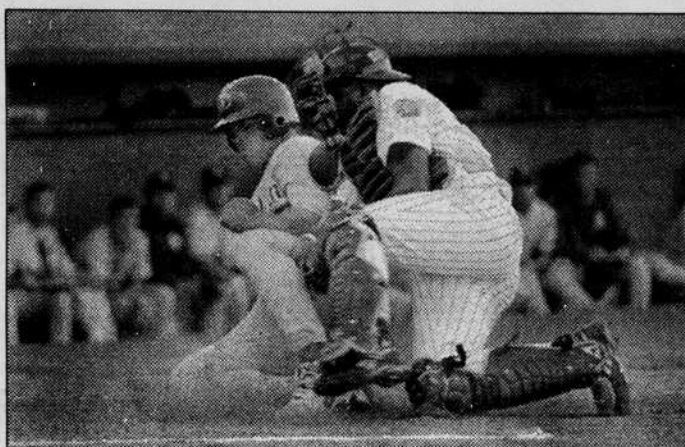
After Allen threw three straight balls to the next hitter, Eugene manager Jim Saul intentionally walked him to load the bases, which sent the hot-hitting Piatt to the plate.

And he made the Ems pay. Piatt continued his dominance of Ems' pitching by clearing the bases with a grand slam, which gave Southern Oregon a 10-0 lead.

"The guy's a good pitcher," Piatt said. "He just made a mistake and made a pitch out of the zone for me and I was able to hit it pretty good."

Two innings later, Ems pitcher Jacob Shumate threw a pitch behind Piatt and was promptly thrown out by home plate umpire Stephen Cox.

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MIKE BARKIN/Emerald
Ron Tegland is tagged out by the Ems' John Arnold in the fourth inning of the Timberjacks' win Wednesday night at Civic Stadium.

Saints hope Ditka has the answers

NFL: New head coach Mike Ditka said a trip to the Super Bowl is not unrealistic

The Associated Press

LA CROSSE, Wis. — Mike Ditka believes fate sent him to coach the New Orleans Saints. The team hopes fate will be kinder now than it has been in the first 30 years of the NFL's worst franchise.

"I think I'm here because I'm supposed to be here," Ditka said. "And there's only one reason for being here; that's winning. It's why we're doing everything we're doing."

New Orleans did not have a winning season during its first 21 years and has had only five of them in 30 years. The Saints' flirtation with respectability under Jim Mora ended in 1992 when they made the last of four trips to the playoffs without a single postseason victory.

"I was brought in to make changes. If they wanted things to stay the same, they shouldn't have hired me."

Mike Ditka
Head Coach
New Orleans Saints

The team that reports to training camp Thursday bears little resemblance to the one that went 3-13 last year. Nine starters from 1996, including quarterback Jim Everett, are gone. At least four more positions will likely have new starters.

A third of last year's team is gone. By the time the Saints head home from La Crosse, that number will probably be even higher.

"I was brought in to make changes," Ditka said. "If they wanted things to stay the same, they shouldn't have hired me."

"I don't know if I'm right or wrong, but I do know that I'll have a group of guys you can go to war with. I'll have the kind of people who'll fight to the end."

The players are scheduled to take the field Friday. Ditka planned practices for twice a day, in pads, during training camp. It's the only way to prepare for the tough hitting that takes place during the season, he said.

Preparations for those physical demands began this spring. Nearly 50 players were at the suburban New Orleans training facility in early April; by the time the final mini-camp was held in June, that number increased to between 70 and 80. They partici-

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SUMMER RECREATION



CHAD PATTESON/Emerald

This is the fourth part of a Summer Recreation series that will appear every Thursday in the Emerald.

Andrew Lardinois (left) and Jim Hartman climb the final hill on the east end of the Ridgeline Mountain Bike Trail. The trail is about a 15-20 minute ride through a scenic forest setting.

Riding on the Ridge

Ridgeline Mountain Bike Trail offers a beautiful ride for even the most novice mountain bike rider

By Ryan Frank
Associate Editor

For the mountain biker without a car, there are but few options for off-road experiences.

However, that does not mean those options are not quality ones.

About a 30 minute ride south of campus is one of the areas better single-track trails, Ridgeline Mountain Bike Trial.

While the trail does not offer the experienced rider much of a challenge with its relatively flat surface and short trail ride, it is a quick, easy ride through a scenic area of south Eugene.

The trail itself is about a mile long, a 15 to 20 minute ride, with few roots or large

rocks to impede even first-time off-road riders.

To get to the trailhead, take Alder Street south, turn right on 39th Place, then left on East Amazon until you reach Dillard Street, which is where the fun begins.

For the next two miles, you follow the winding road uphill until you reach the trailhead on the right-hand side of the road.

The two-mile incline is enough to turn back riders not ready for an endurance climb. So be prepared.

Once on the trail, you ride parallel to Dillard for 100 feet.

The trail then turns left and begins a steep incline for about 150 feet before you begin descending the hill for the rest of the ride.

There are three or four tricky turns to begin the ride, but once you pass those, the rest of the ride is flat and easy to navi-

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HOW TO GET TO RIDGELINE

