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If you have had an excellent teacher this year in an English-Composition class (any class with a "WR" prefix), nominate him or her for an Outstanding Composition Teacher Award. Leave a note or a detailed letter with the English Department or mail it to Anne Laskaya, Department of English, University of Oregon, Eugene, OR 97403.

Nomination must be post marked or submitted by Monday, April 27, 1998.

For more information, call 346-3911.

Washington silences Ducks' bats in sweep

By Joel Hood
Sports Reporter

The Oregon softball team sure picked the wrong time of the year to go silent at the plate.

Through the first three months of the 1998 season, Oregon trailed just No. 1 Arizona in team batting average and runs scored in the Pacific-10 Conference.

But in the No. 23 Ducks have scored just 14 runs in their last six conference games — translating into a 1-5 Pac-10 record over the last two weeks.

Not the way head coach Rick Gamez had hoped his team would prepare for a possible postseason invitation.

"It's time to regroup," Gamez said in a released statement. "We need to begin to understand the importance of this time of year."

The latest Duck debacle, a 7-1 and 7-0 sweep at the hands of No. 4 Washington in Seattle on Sunday and a disappointing split with unranked UCLA in Los Angeles on Saturday.

Disappointing because the Bruins are the only Pac-10 team not ranked in the top 25. Also disappointing because Oregon's players had expected three or four victories this weekend to ready themselves for postseason play.

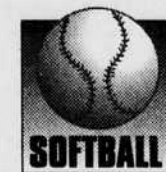
But that was easier said than done.

The Ducks (33-20 overall, 5-9 Pac-10) could manage just four hits and one run off Washington's Jamie Graves in Game 1. And shortstop Jill Robinson recorded Oregon's only hit in Game 2, while Huskie pitcher Jennifer Spediacci extended her

scoreless-innings streak to 22.

"Just a tough day for us against Washington," Gamez said in a released statement. "We just couldn't get the bats going against their solid pitching."

Oregon countered with its pitching ace in both games of the double-header, but Jennie Cook surrendered a total of 12 runs in 10 innings and suffered her 11th and 12th losses of the season.



Washington scored runs in the bottom of the second, third, fourth, fifth and sixth innings to cruise to the easy Game-1 victory. With the wins, the Huskies (35-17, 11-3) moved into second place in the Pac-10.

Against UCLA on Saturday, Duck pitchers Bethany Smith and Christine Birnbaum allowed a combined 12 hits and 10 runs to the Bruins, while Oregon's struggling defense committed three errors in a 10-4 route in Game 2.

UCLA scored four runs in the third inning, then five more in the bottom of the fourth to counter a four-run Duck rally that closed the Bruins lead to just one run. Jennifer Apfelbaum and Melinda Walton each contributed a pair of hits in the Oregon rally, while Welch hit her sixth home run of the season.

Cook held the Bruins to just seven hits and five runs in the Ducks' 6-5 Game-1 victory.

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SPORTS1/2PAGE

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20 WOMEN'S GOLF/V PAC-10 CHAMPIONSHIPS LOS ANGELES, CA ALL DAY	21 WOMEN'S GOLF/V PAC-10 CHAMPIONSHIPS LOS ANGELES, CA ALL DAY SOCCER/IM LEAGUE PLAY BEGINS 102 ESSLINGER	22 WOMEN'S GOLF/V PAC-10 CHAMPIONSHIPS LOS ANGELES, CA, ALL DAY WON'T FIT ON 23RD... ULTIMATE FRISBEE/IM ENTRY DEADLINE 102 ESSLINGER, 5:00 PM	23 MEN'S TENNIS/V PAC-10 CHAMPIONSHIPS OJAI, CA ALL DAY WOMEN'S TENNIS/V PAC-10 CHAMPIONSHIPS OJAI, CA ALL DAY	24 SOFTBALL/V AT ARIZONA, 5:00 PM MEN'S TENNIS/V PAC-10 CHAMPIONSHIPS OJAI, CA, ALL DAY WOMEN'S TENNIS/V PAC-10 CHAMPIONSHIPS OJAI, CA, ALL DAY	25 CREW/C CASCADE SPIRITS AMERICAN LAKE TACOMA, WA 7:00 AM - 12:00 PM MEN'S TENNIS/V PAC-10 CHAMPIONSHIPS OJAI, CA, ALL DAY WOMEN'S TENNIS/V PAC-10 CHAMPIONSHIPS OJAI, CA, ALL DAY
26 MEN'S TENNIS/V PAC-10 CHAMPIONSHIPS OJAI, CA ALL DAY WOMEN'S TENNIS/V PAC-10 CHAMPIONSHIPS OJAI, CA ALL DAY	27 MEN'S GOLF/V PAC-10 TOURNAMENT ORINDA, CA ALL DAY ULTIMATE FRISBEE/IM LEAGUE PLAY BEGINS 102 ESSLINGER	28 MEN'S GOLF/V PAC-10 TOURNAMENT ORINDA, CA ALL DAY	29 MEN'S GOLF/V PAC-10 TOURNAMENT ORINDA, CA ALL DAY SOFTBALL/V VS. OREGON STATE HOWE FIELD 1:00 PM WON'T FIT ON 29TH... 4 ON 4 GRASS VOLLEYBALL/IM LEAGUE PLAY BEGINS 102 ESSLINGER	WON'T FIT ON 24TH... TRACK & FIELD/V DRAKE RELAYS DES MOINES, IOWA, ALL DAY 4 ON 4 GRASS VOLLEYBALL/IM ENTRY DEADLINE 102 ESSLINGER, 5:00 PM	



Hi, I'm **Megan Thayer**, your NIKE student rep. Check out **Sports1/2Page** every two weeks for the latest scoop on sports and NIKE events at the **University of Oregon**. Are you or your team setting any records? Breaking any new ground? If so, I want to hear from you—especially if you're a Club or Intramural athlete. Email me at megan.thayer@nike.com. You just might end up featured in the next issue. To reach NIKE HQ directly, try: sports.halfpage@nike.com... **It's never too early to start spring cleaning!** Bring your old shoes to the **Oregon Invitational Track Meet** on May 2nd at Hayward Field and contribute to NIKE's **Reuse-A-Shoe** program. Your grubby old shoes will be ground up and used to construct track surfaces, basketball courts and fields for inner-city youth across the country. If your club or organization **donates the most shoes**, one member of your group may be eligible to **win a free pair of new kicks from NIKE!** The meet begins at 10:15 a.m. **See you there!**

Co=Corecreational / V=Varsity / C=Club / I=Intramural



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