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UO: Smith pitches well in Game 2

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to second baseman Melinda Walton, who threw an Oregon State runner out at home. Following a lazy pop out to Jill Robinson at shortstop, Cook (21-14) got Kelli Kranz to foul out behind third base to preserve the shut out.

Oregon tacked on four more runs in the bottom of the inning to seal the victory and even its season series with the Beavers at three wins each.

"This is a team we should be getting wins against," designated player Triawn Custer said. "We did a good job of adjusting to Beyster's high pitch in the second game. We waited for the ball down in the zone and we had better results."

Beyster (21-12) struck out four and allowed just three earned runs in Oregon State's Game-1 win. But Oregon was able to knock Beyster out of the game in the third inning of Game 2, which lead to an onslaught of Duck runs.

Brooke Hofstetter allowed four runs on four hits in the crucial three-inning stretch that knocked the Beavers (26-21, 7-13) from contention and into sixth place in the Pac-10.

"We're in good shape, but we need to come out Saturday and Sunday and win as many ball games as we can," Gamez said, assessing Oregon's playoff chances. "I don't think the split really hurt us, as long as we come out ready to play this weekend."

Oregon hosts doubleheaders with UCLA and No. 4 Washington at Howe Field this weekend, making the conference win against Oregon State all the more important for regional seeding that will determine whether the Ducks will have postseason play.

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