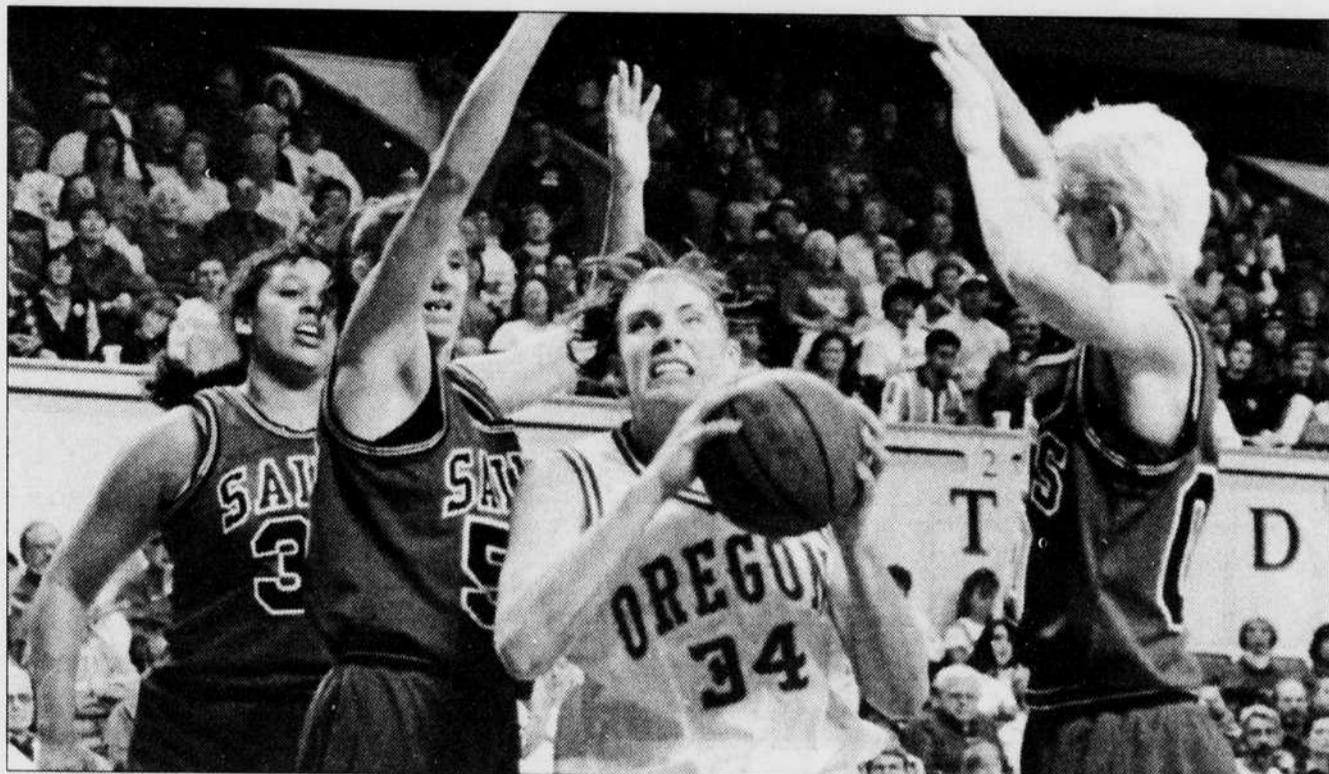


OFFSEASON REPORT



EMERALD

Oregon's Jenny Mowe in exhibition action against the Portland Saints last season, which she redshirted after a knee injury.

Women poised for sixth NCAA trip

Jenny Mowe and the rest of the Oregon women's basketball team are poised to enter the national spotlight in 1998-99

By Mirjam Swanson
Freelance Reporter

In her five seasons as head coach of the Oregon women's basketball team, Jody Runge has enjoyed unprecedented success. She's led the Ducks to five straight NCAA tournament appearances, an overall record of 96-47, and a 61-29 mark in the Pacific-10 Conference.

At McArthur Court, her teams are 65-13 and playing before consistently increasing crowds. Last year's average attendance of 4,169, was the 17th-largest figure in the nation, and 730 more than what it was in Oregon's 1996-97 season.

Perhaps unfortunately for Duck fans, the coach's accomplishments have not gone unnoticed. She was named the 1998 women's basketball collegiate coach of the year by the Women's Basketball News Service, and was also one of seven coaches considered for the head coach position at Texas A&M, which was

offering a reported \$1.5 million contract. Runge, who is in the last year of her four-year, \$360,000 contract at Oregon, withdrew from contention for the Texas A&M job before the decision was made, opting to stay with the Ducks for a sixth season.

"I just think her passing up \$1.5 million and coming back to this program says a lot for what she's expecting for us next year," sophomore Jenny Mowe said. "I personally love playing for Coach Runge. She's just a great person and a great coach, and she just makes you want to play for her."

With a strong nucleus of talent rehabilitated and returning from last year's 17-10 team, which survived its share of adversity to finish fourth in the Pac-10, the 1998-99 team could turn out to be Runge's most successful yet.

"I think we'll definitely be up there," Mowe said. "Our goal next year is to reach the Sweet Sixteen or the Elite Eight. That's a good goal for next year."

Mowe will be part of a young and tal-

ented front court that may be the best in the Pac-10. The 6-foot-5 center, who was voted onto the Pac-10 all-freshman team two years ago, redshirted last season because of tendonitis in her right knee.

"I just sat there," Mowe said. "It was so frustrating, and now I'm ready to just knock some heads."

Also back is Brianne Meharry, who herself was part of the 1998 Pac-10 all-freshman team despite not having played in the final 12 games of the season. The 6-foot-1 forward's campaign was shortened when she suffered a torn anterior cruciate ligament during a game against Arizona State. At the time of her injury, Meharry was scoring 13.1 points and grabbing six rebounds a game to lead the Ducks in both departments.

Angelina Wolvert, a 6-foot-3 sophomore, will also return after having recently tried out for the 1998 USA Basketball Women's Jones Cup and Select teams with some of the top collegiate players in the nation. Wolvert looks to take her game from the low post, where she averaged more than nine points and five boards a

Turn to **WOMEN**, Page 6

Ems scorch Salem with 6-run inning

The Emeralds clinched their first win of a three game series with Salem-Keizer in a 9-3 win on Monday night at Civic Stadium

By Allison Ross
Freelance Reporter

Thank heavens for the seventh-inning stretch.

After allowing Salem-Keizer to remain within one run through seven-and-a-half innings on Monday, the Eugene Emeralds scored six times in their half of the seventh to put the Volcanoes away and win 9-3 in front of 2,329 fans at Civic Stadium.

The victory served as revenge for the Ems, who had suffered disheartening defeats the past two nights, and for the first time in the three-game series, no Ems players or coaches were ejected.

The night proved to be double trouble for the Volcanoes. The Ems' first inning was highlighted by back-to-back doubles by center fielder Brian Cox and right fielder Jerry Simmons. Cox scored from second off Simmons' double just after left fielder Greg Strickland was thrown out at the plate on Cox's own two-base hit. It was one of three instances in which an Emerald player was picked off.

When asked if he told his team to be more aggressive on the base path, Emerald's manager Jim Saul said, "We've got speed, but we run at times when we shouldn't and I'm trying to control that. I wanted [Strickland] to go in that situation, but the fact is we've got to execute on those situations."

Although Eugene may have lost a run or two from failing to execute on those attempts, it didn't matter. The Emeralds seventh-inning beating of the Volcanoes' pitching staff erased any missed opportunities and clinched the game.

Salem-Keizer starter Randy Goodrich opened the inning by walking first baseman Gregg Maluchnik and catcher Tye Hanseen. A bunt by Strickland loaded the bases and began the rally. Volcanoes third baseman John Summers thought the bunt was foul and held on long enough for Strick-



Turn to **EMS**, Page 8

Sosa homers twice to pull even with McGwire in Maris chase

Both Sammy Sosa and Mark McGwire are now just 15 homers shy of Maris' record 61 in 1961

By Rob Gloster
Associated Press

SAN FRANCISCO — Sammy Sosa hit his 45th and 46th homers to tie Mark McGwire for the major league lead as the Chicago Cubs beat the San Francisco Giants 8-5 Monday night.

Sosa's first homer of the night, a towering blast into the first row of the left-field bleachers, was the first of three consecutive solo shots by the Cubs.

His second one, a solo blast over the center-field bleachers estimated at 480 feet, pulled him even for the first time this season with McGwire — who went homerless in St. Louis' loss to the New York Mets on

Monday.

Tyler Houston added a two-run shot as the Cubs hit five homers on a balmy night with the wind blowing out at 20 m.p.h. Chicago broke a four-game losing streak.

With the lead, the Cubs held on to their half-game win over the Mets in the race for the NL wild-card spot. The Giants, who have lost five straight to match their worst skid of the season, fell three games behind the Cubs.

Sosa's first homer began a streak of three straight homers in a span of eight pitches. Mark Grace followed with his 13th homer and Henry Rodriguez added his 28th.

It was the sixth time in Cubs history the club had three consecutive homers.

Sosa went 2-for-5 while increasing his NL-leading RBI total to 116. He struck out in the first and third innings, and popped to second in the ninth.

Barry Bonds hit his third homer in two games, a controversial three-run blast, and Jeff Kent added a solo shot, his 17th, two pitches later for the Giants in the third inning.

Bonds' 398th homer tied him with Dale Murphy for 28th on the career list and moved him within two homers of becoming the first major leaguer with 400 homers and 400 stolen bases.

The shot bounced off the wall just above the yellow home run line and just beyond the reach of center fielder Brant Brown. A fan reached for the ball and appeared to touch it, leading to a short argument from the Cubs.

Bonds, who has 24 home runs this season, had homered twice Sunday night in a

loss to Atlanta.

Kevin Tapani (14-7) allowed five runs on 10 hits in 5 2-3 innings for the Cubs. He has won six of his last seven decisions.

Former Giant Rod Beck, returning for the first time to the ballpark he called home from 1991-1997, pitched the ninth for his 34th save. He retired Bonds on a fly ball to the wall in right for the final out.

Giants starter Russ Ortiz (1-2), allowed six runs and six hits in five innings. The Giants have allowed 20 homers in their last five games.

Notes: The Cubs' previous back-to-back homers were by Brian McRae, Ryne Sandberg and Grace on April 19, 1996, at Wrigley Field against the Giants. ... The Giants have hit back-to-back homers five times this year. ... The Cubs have hit 104 homers in their last 70 games. ... The Giants are 10-20 since the All-Star break.

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