

# Ducks find wins on the road

Oregon improved to 11-5 with five wins in six games in California

By Tim Pyle  
Oregon Daily Emerald

With games on three consecutive days during the weekend, the Oregon softball team's schedule looked like the NBA's hectic, shortened season.

Only the Ducks, despite emptier pockets, played double headers each day.

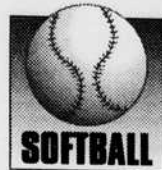
And the wear and tear of six games in three days did not seem to phase No. 25 Oregon, as it won its first five games before dropping the sixth Sunday afternoon.

The Ducks (11-5 overall) were rude visitors in Los Angeles on Friday, as they cruised to a pair of victories over host Loyola Marymount.

Freshman pitcher Connie McMurren sparked Oregon in the first game, allowing just two runs on two hits while striking out eight Lions vs. four walks. Offensively, Kelly Planche and Andrea Gustafson each had two runs bat-

ted in to boost the Ducks to a 7-2 victory.

Junior transfer Danielle Haag provided more sparkling pitching in the second game, as she permitted no runs and just two hits



while striking out five in five innings. Gustafson went three-for-three with a double to lead the Oregon offense, and the Ducks cruised to a 7-0 win.

In Saturday's first game at the Matador Invitational, senior Katie Mackey played the hero for Oregon.

Trailing 5-3 with two outs and two Ducks on base in the bottom of the seventh, Mackey smashed a three-run home run to hand Oregon a 6-5 win over host Cal-State Northridge in Northridge, Calif.

Triawn Custer also provided offensive fireworks for the Ducks as she blasted her fifth home run in the fifth inning.

In game two, Oregon — in what is quickly becoming its signature

fashion — shut out San Diego State, 4-0, behind the strong work of senior pitcher Jennie Cook. By allowing only three hits in six innings, Cook improved to 4-1.

Gustafson's two-run home run highlighted the Ducks' four-run second inning.

Sunday, Oregon concluded its weekend slate with another win over San Diego State and an eight-inning loss to Cal-State Northridge.

In the morning game, the Ducks scored in each of the first four innings to grab an 8-1 lead. Freshman Missy Coe went two-for-two with a RBI, and Custer launched yet another homer in Oregon's 9-3 win.

In the afternoon, Cal-State Northridge was able to hand the Ducks their first loss of the weekend by tying the game at six in the seventh inning on Veronica Lopez's second home run of the game. Marisa Ornelas scored the winning run in the eighth.

Despite the loss, Oregon was crowned the Matador Invitational champion because of its 3-1 record.

# Rambis still undefeated as L.A. coach

By John Nadel  
The Associated Press

INGLEWOOD, Calif. — Michael, Scottie and Dennis showed up at the Forum, and it sure wasn't like old times.

With Michael Jordan watching from courtside, Dennis Rodman's energy and Rick Fox's big fourth quarter helped Los Angeles beat Scottie Pippen and the Houston Rockets 106-90 for the Lakers' first win in four nationally televised Sunday games this season.

Rodman, playing 26 minutes in his second game for the Lakers, had two points, 10 rebounds and two assists in addition to playing effective defense as Los Angeles raised its record to 2-0 since Kurt Rambis was appointed head coach.

Fox, who didn't play in the first half, scored 15 of his 21 points in the first 6:55 of the fourth quarter to spark a 19-8 run that gave the Lakers a 96-80 lead — the biggest of the game for either team to that stage.

Fox, who played 19 minutes, made all seven of his field goal attempts — including four from 3-point range.

Shaquille O'Neal led the Lakers with 22 points and seven rebounds, and Kobe Bryant added

18 points.

Hakeem Olajuwon led the Rockets with 22 points and eight rebounds. Pippen had 16 points, six rebounds, eight assists and five steals along with five turnovers, and Charles Barkley had 14 points and six assists in his first game since undergoing knee surgery.

The Rockets trailed by two points at halftime, but went on a 14-4 run to start the third quarter for a 62-54 lead.

O'Neal then spearheaded a 15-2 spurt by scoring seven points to give the Lakers a 69-64 advantage, and they were on top the rest of the way. It was 77-72 entering the final period.

Jordan, who announced his retirement shortly after the lockout was settled, took his seat next to Jack Nicholson just before the opening tipoff. Only five minutes earlier, Nicholson seemed uncertain as to whether Jordan would join him.

Suddenly, several photographers appeared to snap pictures of Jordan, resplendent in a dapper gray suit and silver-rimmed glasses. He continued to wear a bandage on the right index finger he sliced open with a cigar-cutter a week before he retired, an injury

that required surgery.

Finally, with a break in the action and 2:01 left before halftime, Jordan was shown on the video scoreboard and stood to acknowledge the roaring fans.

Jordan and Pippen led the Chicago Bulls to six championships in an eight-year span including the last three, when Rodman was also a key member of the mix.

After Jordan retired in January, the Bulls traded Pippen to the Rockets and made it clear that without coach Phil Jackson and Jordan, they couldn't invite Rodman back.

After three weeks of uncertainty, Rodman finally signed with the Lakers and played his first game with them Friday night, getting 11 rebounds and six assists in 26 minutes of a 99-83 win over the Los Angeles Clippers.

The game also marked the return of Barkley, who underwent arthroscopic surgery to repair a tear of the medial meniscus in his left knee on Feb. 14.

Barkley, who averaged 19.2 points and 17.0 rebounds in five games before sitting out the last eight, played 19 minutes. He said beforehand he hoped to play 30 minutes, but would settle for 25.

## Sports Brief

### Ducks add second NCAA qualifier

The Oregon men's track and field team added its second automatic entry to the upcoming NCAA Indoor Championships on Friday, thanks to a season-best effort in the distance medley relay at the Cyclone National Track and Field Qualifier in Ames, Iowa.

The quartet of senior Greg James (1,200 meters), junior Nat Johnson (400), senior Richard Girvan (800) and junior Steve Fein (1,600) finished second overall in a time of nine minutes, 37.25 seconds, losing in the finishing kick to Oklahoma State (9:36.67). Both the Sooner and the Duck squads dipped under the 9:39.75 automatic mark.

The NCAA Indoor Championships will be held March 5th and 6th at the RCA Dome in Indianapolis.

"It's a wonderful step for the guys, and also our program," Oregon men's head coach Martin Smith said. "The most important thing is that four young men, working as a team, were able to step up. It's not always easy to get four guys to run well at the same time, so this was a real nice step, and in a direction that is obviously new to us."

The Ducks entered Friday's meet ranked No. 10 nationally with their prior NCAA provisional time of 9:46.31 from three weeks earlier at Iowa State.

With this being the last weekend for NCAA qualifying, the Ducks settled the issue thanks to solid efforts on all four legs. James ran a 2:59 in the opening 1,200 meters, followed by a 47.1-second 400 meters by Johnson, a 1:51 800 meters by Girvan and a 4:00.9 1,600 meters by Fein.

Friday's effort means Fein could have double duty next weekend because he has also automatically qualified in the 3,000 meters.

On the women's side, Oregon senior Kaarin Knudson competed in the mile at the Alex Wilson Invitational in South Bend, Ind.

While the rest of her team took a week off from racing, Knudson climbed the NCAA qualifying list in the indoor mile, finishing second on Saturday with a season-best of 4:47.4 behind Valparaiso's Collette Liss.

"Today's mark gets her into the NCAA meet," Oregon women's coach Tom Heinonen said. "The experience from [the] race will help her at the NCAA meet. She was in control early, moved up in the middle and then helped force the pace in the second half and finished strong."

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- Mon. OREGON VOCAL JAZZ ENSEMBLES**  
3/1 *UO Ensembles* 8 p.m., Beall Hall  
\$5 General Admission, \$3 students & senior citizens
- Tue. FRITZ GEARHART, Violin**  
3/2 **KATHRYN LUCKTENBERG, Violin**  
*UO Faculty Artist Series* 8 p.m., Beall Hall  
\$7 General Admission, \$4 students & senior citizens
- Thu. BERLIN PHILHARMONIC WOODWIND QUINTET**  
3/4 *UO Chamber Music Series* 8 p.m., Beall Hall  
Reserved seats \$8, \$18, \$22, available at the Hult Center (682-5000); student rush \$9, \$5 at the door.
- Sat. THE MAGIC OF DANCE**  
3/6 *Children's Concert Series* 10:30 a.m., Beall Hall  
\$3 adults, \$2 children & students, or \$5 for a family
- Sat. FUTURE MUSIC OREGON**  
3/6 *UO Computer Music Center* 8 p.m., Room 198 Music  
\$5 General Admission, \$3 students & senior citizens
- Sun. OREGON WIND ENSEMBLE**  
3/7 *UO Ensemble* 2:30 p.m., Beall Hall  
\$5 General Admission, \$3 students & senior citizens
- Sun. UNIVERSITY SINGERS & COLLEGIUM MUSICUM**  
3/7 *UO Choral Ensembles* 7 p.m., Beall Hall  
\$5 General Admission, \$3 students & senior citizens
- Mon. BHARATA NATYAM: Lecture-Demonstration**  
3/8 Classical dance form of India 1 p.m., Beall Hall  
FREE Admission
- Mon. BHARATA NATYAM: Master Class**  
3/8 Featuring guest artist Kay Poursine; public welcome.  
7 p.m., Room 353 Gerlinger Annex FREE Admission
- Mon. OREGON PERCUSSION ENSEMBLE**  
3/8 *UO Ensemble* 8 p.m., Beall Hall  
\$5 General Admission, \$3 students & senior citizens
- Tue. COSTA RICAN TROMBONE QUARTET**  
3/9 *Guest Ensemble* 8 p.m., Beall Hall  
FREE Admission, donations accepted
- Thu. UO MEN'S CHORUS & WOMEN'S CHORUS**  
3/11 *UO Choral Ensembles* 8 p.m., Beall Hall  
FREE Admission
- Fri. OREGON JAZZ ENSEMBLE & LAB BANDS**  
3/12 *UO Ensembles* 8 p.m., Beall Hall  
\$5 General Admission, \$3 students & senior citizens
- Sun. UNIVERSITY PERCUSSION ENSEMBLE**  
3/14 *UO Ensemble* 1 p.m., Room 198 Music  
\$5 General Admission, \$3 students & senior citizens
- Sun. CHAMBER MUSICALE**  
3/14 *UO Chamber Ensembles* 7 p.m., Beall Hall  
\$5 General Admission, \$3 students & senior citizens

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