

Softball

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two Duck errors to manufacture five third-inning runs off Oregon starter Connie McMurren.

That rally shifted the momentum in Washington's favor.

Jennifer Spediacci made sure it stayed that way.

With one ace, Graves, unable to quiet the Ducks' raucous bats, Huskies head coach Theresa Wilson simply turned to her other pitching gem, Spediacci.

And Spediacci delivered, striking out 11 of the 16 batters she faced, including the first six. Gustafson's fifth-inning single was the only blemish in Spediacci's five innings of majesty.

"We didn't make the adjustment when Spediacci came in," Gamez said. "She just threw the ball up on us, and we chased it."

Washington took the lead for good with two runs in the top of the fourth inning.

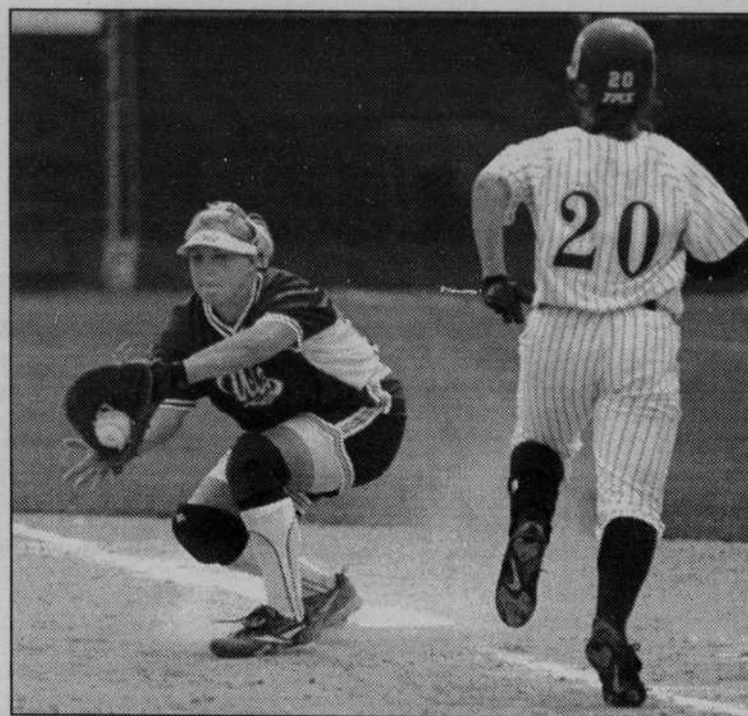
After Rosie Leutzinger reached base on a bunt single and Kelly Hauxhurst found first because of third baseman Christi Shelton's error, Becky Newbry, the Pac-10's leading hitter with a .467 average, doubled over Jill Robinson's head in center field.

Both Leutzinger and Hauxhurst scored to give the Huskies a 7-5 edge, and Washington added a run on Melissa Downs' homer in the fifth for the final 8-5 margin in front of 518 fans.

In game two, Spediacci pitched again, this time starting — and ultimately ending Oregon's hopes for a split.

But Danielle Haag's pitching performance for the Ducks kept them close.

The Huskies used Kim DePaul's first-inning home run to grab a 1-0 advantage, and the scoreboard stayed that way until the bottom of the fourth inning when Gustafson answered with a solo shot of her



UCLA's Julie Marshall nips Oregon's Andrea Gustafson during the Bruins' sweep.

own to tie the game.

However, Washington did not waste any time in regaining the lead. Spediacci's single to center field allowed Leutzinger to slide safely home just before Lindsey Welch's throw arrived, boosting the Huskies to a 2-1 edge.

In the bottom of that inning, Robinson brought Oregon back again with a sharp single to left field that scored a sliding Welch, who had reached on a double to left.

But Washington again responded with an RBI single from Leutzinger in the top of the sixth to claim a 3-2 lead.

And after Spediacci struck out two Ducks in a scoreless bottom of the sixth, the Huskies greeted new Oregon pitcher Bethany Smith rudely in the seventh. Spediacci's double down the right-field line drove in two runs.

Fittingly, Spediacci ended the game and completed the sweep

by striking out two of three Ducks in the bottom of the seventh.

"I thought that we were going to come out and win a couple ballgames today," Gamez said. "We had a chance, but the mental approach that we had in the first two innings of the first ballgame we just lost when Spediacci came in."

Saturday, the Bruins (44-2, 12-2) showed 827 fans at Howe Field why they are ranked No. 1.

In game one, Courtney Dale's pitching prowess highlighted UCLA's 6-1 victory. Oregon managed just three hits off Dale, who struck out nine and improved to 22-0 with the win.

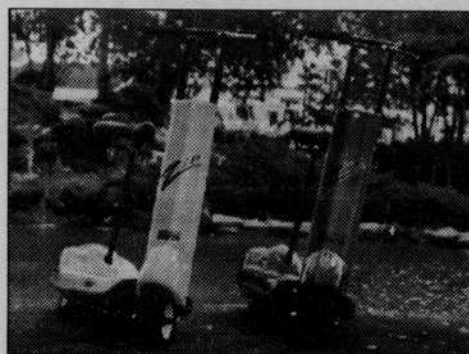
In game two, Bruins first baseman Julie Marshall launched two home runs to push her season total to 15 and recorded seven RBIs in a 16-1 desolation of the Ducks. Oregon did not help its own cause, as it made five errors, which led to six unearned runs.

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