

Tuesday
June 22, 1999

Oregon Emerald SPORTS

Best Bet
Major League Baseball
Anaheim vs. Seattle
7 p.m., FoxSports Northwest



When plans 'shared,' fun snared

The Outdoor Program affords students the opportunity to sign up for or initiate their own trips

By Victor Runyan
Oregon Daily Emerald

Students who are interested in enjoying the outdoors this summer can get a good start at the Outdoor Program.

Students can get help on everything from planning a trip with the program's library and personnel to signing up for a "common adventure" trip on the center's bulletin board.

The program does not run any of the trips on its bulletin board, said Daniel Geiger, associate coordinator of the Outdoor Program. Instead, it offers a forum for people to post their own trips and sign up for others. People going on a trip through the program can also rent its equipment for reduced rates.

"I think it's by far the best program the University offers. I've gotten to go places I wouldn't normally have gotten to go."

Angelique Orman
Junior

The trips facilitated by the program cannot have a paid leader, so all the people share trip expenses equally and decisions are made collectively by the group.

"It's very much like a group of friends would organize a trip," Geiger said. "We help them make it happen."

Geiger said the money the program gets from student incidental fees pays for its staff and offices, but equipment the programs lends out is paid for by rentals.

The Outdoor Program has grown from a small office with few resources and a "handful" of trips per year in 1970, two years after its founding, to its current large office with many resources and about 275 trips per year, said Bruce Mason, director of the Outdoor Program. He joined the program in 1970 and has been its director for the last 19 years. He plans to officially retire as soon as a new director is named.

Mason also said the program's philosophy of "shared adventure," whereby all the people on a trip contribute to group decisions, has helped make the program so popular.

Geiger said because the trips are planned by the people going on them, the trips change to match the desires of the participants.

"Every trip through the program is different," he said. "It is one of the things that keeps things interesting around here."

The program offers out-of-state students a chance to enjoy Oregon, said Angelique Orman, a junior sociology major. She initiated a trip for mid-June that will look at tide pools on the coast.

She got involved with the center this term and looks forward to going on and starting more trips. She said the program helped make trips affordable and introduced her to "dynamic individuals."

"I think it's by far the best program the University offers," she said. "I've gotten to go places I wouldn't normally have gotten to go."

New look, same old results



Catharine Kendall/Emerald

First-year manager Danny Sheaffer will tap his 17 years of pro experience as he leads the Ems this season.

After being swept in the season-opening homestand, the Ems hope success is ahead

By Mirjam Swanson
Oregon Daily Emerald

None of the Eugene Emerald's 30 major-league hopefuls introduced to the 5,732 loyal fans at Friday's season opener had anything to do with last season's 24-52, last-place finish.

Because Eugene changed major league affiliation in the off-season, every member of 1999 team and staff donned Ems pinstripes for the first time last weekend.

Unfortunately for the Ems and their fans, the result of their season-opening homestand at Civic Stadium was reminiscent of last season.



Due in large part to the Ems' untimely miscues, Southern Oregon swept Eugene in three games, winning 6-5 Sunday, 11-9 Saturday and 7-4 Friday.

In each game, the Ems had the winning or tying run at the plate in their last at-bat.

Still, Eugene took an 0-3 record to Spokane on Monday, hoping to get back on track in their quest to win a Northwest League title.

Despite the shaky start, the Ems may have the talent to do it. But what they don't have is a lot of experience.

"We've got a pretty good team," outfielder Charles Shipp said after Saturday's loss. "The thing is, we have a lot of new guys straight from college, and we've only had a week to prepare for the season. But we'll be all right."

One of the new college arrivals is Ryan Gripp.

The most heralded prospect on the Ems roster, Gripp was the Chicago Cubs' third-round draft choice this season. At Creighton he was named first-team all-conference after setting a school record with 44 career home runs.

On Sunday, he walloped a two-run

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Big-league stars visit Eugene for opener — sort of

Amid a festive atmosphere, three seasoned big-leaguers stole the show during the Eugene Emeralds' season opener Friday evening at Civic Stadium.

And new Ems manager Danny Sheaffer, a former major league player himself, was not part of the ticklesome trio.

Instead, Sosa, McGwire and Canary — as in Caray — lured the loudest cheers, heartiest laughs and biggest smiles from an enthusiastic crowd of 5,732 fans.

That's Clammy Sosa, Shark McGwire and Harry Canary, the three gigantic balloon mascots that entertained throughout the night.

Sosa and Canary welcomed Eugene to the Chicago Cubs organization, which the Ems switched their affiliation to from the Atlanta Braves this season, by parading along the third-base line prior to the first pitch.

Perhaps spurred by the electricity emitted by Sosa and Canary, Ems' starting pitcher Jeremy Gomer began the season in style, striking out the first four batters he faced.

And Eugene gave the crowd more reason to cheer offensively with a run in the bottom of the first, thanks to Tony Gsell's double

and Ryan Gripp's run-scoring sacrifice fly.

For the Ems, things went downhill from there, as Southern Oregon built a 5-1 lead en route to a 7-4 victory.

But Sosa, Canary and McGwire were just getting warmed up.

McGwire took advantage of the break between the top and bottom of the second inning to prey upon a seemingly innocent, Eugene uniformed bystander outside the Ems dugout.

First, McGwire sauntered up behind his victim and dropped him with a quick blow to the head. Not to be outdone, the victim, wearing No. 53 but not listed on the Ems roster, engaged in a dance challenge with McGwire along the first-base line.

At the routine's conclusion, McGwire, apparently dismayed with his opponent's dance prowess, belly-flopped upon No. 53 from behind. The vocal crowd voiced its howling approval.

In the fourth inning, Sosa got his chance at a solo. After repeatedly gobbling a base-

ball and coughing it back at an uniformed bat boy, Sosa decided he needed a main course and gobbled the hapless bat boy.

Fittingly, the seventh-inning stretch was Canary's time to shine. He invaded the press overflow table — pushing me aside in the process — for his famous rendition of "Take Me Out to the Ballgame." Kids and adults alike joined in the singing.

Once the song was complete, Canary did something unique from his namesake. Energized by Will Smith, Canary proceeded to get jiggy with the table. Luckily, my soda and notes were unharmed.

Following the game, Sheaffer was appreciative of the crowd's enthusiastic support, which was probably due in no small part to the costumed trio's antics.

"It was exciting," Sheaffer said after just completing his first professional game as a manager. "If these guys are supported by the fans like this all year, it's gonna be very fun for them."

As for the loss, Sheaffer said, in the evening's typically high spirits, with a smile, "There goes a perfect year."

But for one night, at least, the sideshows were perfectly entertaining.

Opinion



Tim
Pyle