

Emeralds



The Ems' Tony Gsell slides safely home past the tag of Salem-Keizer catcher Michael Wright in the second inning of Eugene's 9-4 win.

Catharine Kendall/Emerald

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row. As the occupants of the Salem dugout watched dumbstruck, Gomer struck out the side in the seventh inning before being pulled to be given a well-deserved rest.

"As the game started to go on, I started to feel better and more into my game," said Gomer, who improved his record to 2-4 with the victory. "I was throwing mostly my fastball. I noticed early in the game that I had more control over it than I usually do."

Francis Beltran, a tall righty who joined the club Monday from Mesa, relieved Gomer and gave up two runs in the eighth. It was too little too late for the Volcanoes, however, as the Ems scored two more runs in the bottom of the eighth to round out the score to a final of 9-4 on this warm summer night.

This win puts the Ems at two games below .500. Reaching .500 is the next big step for the Ems, ac-

Emeralds Schedule

July 20	Salem-Keiz. at Ems, 7:05
July 21	Salem-Keiz. at Ems, 7:05
July 22	Ems at Salem-Keiz., 7:05
July 23	Ems at Salem-Keiz., 7:05
July 23	Ems at Salem-Keiz., 7:05
July 24	Ems at Salem-Keiz., 7:05
July 25	Everett at Ems, 6:05
July 26	Everett at Ems, 7:05

cording to manager Danny Sheaffer.

"If you look at our competition, .500 seems to be our magic number. I don't think there's ever been anyone below .500 to ever win a division," Sheaffer said. "We've got six weeks left, this is equivalent to stretch time."

Juan Cruz, 2-0, takes the mound for Eugene as the Ems face the Volcanoes again tonight at Civic Stadium at 7:05 p.m.

McNown linked to UCLA investigation

By Melissa Isaacson
College Press Exchange

CHICAGO — Chicago Bears rookie quarterback Cade McNown applied for and received a handicapped parking pass while a student at UCLA in 1997, the Los Angeles Times has reported, though he was not named in an investigation that recently resulted in misdemeanor charges against 14 of his Bruins teammates.

The former and current players were named in a probe by school officials that determined they had submitted falsified applications to the Department of Motor Vehicles. They are scheduled to be arraigned July 28 on charges that carry a maximum penalty of six months in jail and a \$1,000 fine.

A statement by UCLA officials

said the investigation did not go back as far as 1997, the year, said the Times, that McNown possessed the placard from February through mid-June.

Temporary placards are often issued to people recovering from surgery or restricted by a short-term illness, neither of which apparently was the case with McNown, the Bears' top draft pick this past spring. During the time he possessed the handicapped pass, McNown played spring football for UCLA and played exceptionally well, completing 18 of 21 passes in one scrimmage of note.

Records showed that McNown did not renew his application for the placard. The paper reported that the DMV records did not indicate why McNown's pass was granted.

Droughns

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Now, after months of rehabilitation, Droughns, a 6-foot, 210-pound senior, is eager to help the Ducks "make it to the top."

"I want to stay healthy and work hard, just try to win," Droughns said. "I'm happy to get started. I can't wait until I hit my first guy."

Since undergoing surgery Oct. 19, Droughns has completed an extensive rehabilitation regimen to get him back running like he should.

After his cast was removed Droughns did a lot of work in the swimming pool to begin regaining his muscle strength. He underwent ultrasound treatment. He received plenty of massages. He jumped rope.

He also went to work in the weight room, doing squats and calf-raises among other exercises.

All the work has only made him better, Droughns said.

"Hopefully, I'll be faster," he said.

And although he didn't participate in contact drills this spring, Droughns' teammates are impressed by what they've seen of his rapid progress.

"From seeing a couple other guys come back from the same injury the past few years, Reuben has come back faster than those guys have," defensive back Justin Wilcox said. "Going through that rehab stuff is not easy. It's a long process he went through, but he looks good."

Oregon will also gladly welcome back inside linebacker Peter Sirmon, who was the Pac-10's leading tackler in 1997 but then missed all of last season with a ruptured pectoralis muscle near his right shoulder.

"[Sirmon] looks real good," Droughns said. "He looks like he's going to be real strong, and he's going to come back 110 percent. Both of us are going to be happy to come back and be part of this team again."

The Ducks' defense will also benefit from the return of inside linebacker Dietrich Moore. The 6-1, 221-pound senior was one of the Ducks' leading tacklers last season, but he missed all of spring practice because of injury.

That they have successful returns is even more crucial because Oregon lost several of its other top defensive players during the spring.

Junior cornerback Rashad Bauman tore his anterior cruciate ligament. And sophomore defensive tackle Zack Freiter, who missed all of 1997 with a knee injury, tore his medial collateral ligament.

"Rashad was a big loss for us," Droughns said. "I wish he did have a shot at playing this year, it being my final year, but things happen. And Zack Freiter, I feel so bad for him because every time he gets there, something takes him out."

Also unavailable when the season begins are middle linebacker Aaron Cheuvront, who quit the team because of chronic migraine headaches, and Wesley Mallard, a promising sophomore linebacker who also suffered a torn ACL. Freshman offensive lineman Mike Belisle became the fourth Oregon player to tear his ACL during a pick-up basketball game in May.

The Ducks' spring injuries leave key holes to be filled. But the players seem certain that there's adequate talent to step into those spots — especially with Droughns and Sirmon back on the field.

"We're glad to have them back," Wilcox said. "And I'd tell the people out there who are worrying that we have people here who can play. We're gonna be OK."

Reuben Droughns

- Tailback
- 6-feet, 205 pounds
- Senior, transfer from Merced College
- 1998 Stats: 5 games, 112 carries, 844 yards, 7.4 yards/carry, 164.8 yards/game, 9 TD
- Rushed for more than 200 yards 3 times
- Most yards ever (202) in Oregon debut
- 217 yards at Washington State is 4th all-time on Oregon single game list
- Named second-team all-Pac-10 despite playing in only three conference games

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