

UO softball team cools off in desert

■ Oregon's usually stellar offense slumps at the Troy Cox Classic in New Mexico

By Matt O'Neill
Oregon Daily Emerald

The bats cooled off in the desert.

Oregon softball saw a drop-off in run production at the Troy Cox Classic in Las Cruces, NM.

With the exception of catcher Missy Coe, the Ducks couldn't find the stroke they exhibited in both Texas and Nevada during the past two weekends.

Coe, a sophomore, hit five home runs and was named to the all-tournament team.

The Ducks dropped their first contest to Florida, 5-2. The Gators were led by a pair of home runs: Nicole Kriepel hit a solo homer in the top of the fourth, while Jennifer Lutsi hit a two-run job to cap the scoring.

The Ducks were led by Jill Robinson's and Lindsey Welch-home's runs.

Oregon then bounced back to pummel Wichita State, 13-0. The Ducks were carried by Coe's

three home runs, giving her four on the season.

In the second day of competition, the Ducks were trounced twice. They fell to No. 6 California and New Mexico State by the scores of 12-1 and 5-1, respectively.

Lisa Lanci and Veronica Nelson led the Bears with three homers between them. Coe scored the Ducks only run on her fifth home run of the season.



The Ducks were also beaten in their second game of the day by host New Mexico State. The Roadrunners cruised to a 5-1 win after jumping to a 4-0 lead on a grand slam by Christine Stevens.

Sunday Oregon faced Texas Tech in the morning, beating the Red Raiders, 3-1. Then in the afternoon's consolation semifinal game, the Ducks lost to Illinois-Chicago.

Oregon battled hard before falling to 6-5. Coe, Robinson, and Holly Ray all homered.

Ducks pick up momentum at home

■ The Oregon tennis teams close out winter with dominating non-conference wins

By Robbie McCallum
for the Emerald

With two convincing wins, the Oregon men's tennis team moved one game above the .500 mark.

The Ducks easily defeated Big West opponents St. Mary's and Loyola Marymount on Saturday and Sunday. The nonconference wins give Oregon a 5-4 record heading into spring break.

On Saturday, No. 51 Oregon caught St. Mary's on a road trip through the Northwest. The match was played at Portland's Mountain Park Recreation Center. The Gaels (2-6) proved to be no match for the Ducks, as Oregon won every match.

Freshmen Oded Teig and Jason Menke were both impressive as each gave up only one game in straight-set wins. Senior Guillermo Carter and freshman Leslie Eisinga improved their doubles record to 4-3 as they defeated the Gaels' Richard Thompson and Rex Calaunan, 8-3.

The closest St. Mary's got to a win was a three-set match between Arturo Planelle and Eisinga. The first two matches were split, but Planelle retired after an injury.

On Sunday, the Ducks received more of a challenge from winless Loyola Marymount, but Oregon prevailed, 6-1.

"It's always nice to play one at home with some friends watching," head coach Chris Russell said.

"These were matches that get the guys some confidence and make the guys feel good."

The Lions' Carsten Eisenbarth and Oregon sophomore Thomas Schneider provided the most exciting match of the weekend as the two battled for three sets. Eisenbarth prevailed in a tight finish, giving Loyola Marymount its lone point.

The men take a breather after concluding the first portion of the season. Their next match will be a nonconference contest at Cal Poly-SLO in three weeks.

"I think we're performing well," Russell said. "I would say

“I would say that our progress report is a ‘B’—with the prospect of getting a lot better.”

Chris Russell
head coach

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The Oregon women also were in action this weekend. Oregon evened its season record at 4-4 with a dominating 8-0 win over St. Mary's.

The match utilized a new Intercollegiate Tennis Association's experimental format. Under the format, two points are awarded if a team sweeps all three doubles matches.

Doubles are then followed by six singles matches. If a match splits sets, a ten-point tiebreaker is played instead of a third set.

The win gave the Ducks some much-needed momentum for next weekend's matches against the Washington schools.

The No. 41 Ducks take on Washington on Saturday and Washington State on Sunday.

Wrestling

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ed as Pac-10 champ by defeating Lionel Halsey of Cal State Bakersfield. An injury-plagued Watson fought his way to the final round before falling in the final match.

Eighth-ranked Lee, the defending Pac-10 champion, worked his way into the championship round with a 10-4 win over Jeremy Wilson of Portland State. He then saw a familiar face in Halsey Sunday for the Championship.

Lee already defeated Halsey once this season, overwhelming

him 10-0; he then made it two-for-two, with his win Sunday. Lee scored a technical fall with 6 minutes, 21 seconds left in the match.

One of the bigger surprises of the tournament was Watson, who was wrestling for the first time since he broke his hand prior to the Portland State match. Watson fought a tough battle against Alberto Garza of California Polytechnic. The two grapplers went to sudden death overtime, where Watson scored a takedown to win the match.

Watson then faced Zac Zimmerer of Stanford on Sunday for the championship in the 133-pound

division. Zimmerer defeated Brian for the second time in two tries this year by a 2-1 tiebreaker win.

Tony Overstake and Eric Webb were stopped in the semi-finals. Overstake fell to Quinn Foster of Arizona State, 12-6, in the 149-pound weight class.

He then took on Jay McGuffin of Boise State in the consolation bracket on Sunday, where McGuffin bested Overstake by a 6-4 score.

Webb fought valiantly against Oregon State's Jason Cooley before falling in sudden death overtime. Webb nearly scored a technical fall to make it into the champi-

onship round. Cooley, however, scored a takedown to defeat Webb, 4-2.

Then in the consolation round, Webb took on Cal State Bakersfield's John Devine on Sunday. Devine beat Webb by a score of 4-3.

Oregon sophomore David Watson made it into the semifinals by handing a sound defeat to Nico Saldana of Cal State Fullerton, 13-5. David was joined by fellow sophomore Eugene Harris, who scraped out a 6-5 win over Nick Frost of Arizona State to advance.

Harris, a junior college transfer,

faced Nathan Vasquez of Cal State Bakersfield in the consolation championship round. Vasquez bested Harris by a score of 7-5.

David took on Gabe Vigil of Boise State in the 149-weight class on Sunday. Watson was defeated by Vigil, 3-2.

Three Ducks earned automatic berths to the national championships next weekend in St. Louis with their performance at the Pac-10s.

Eugene Harris and Brian Watson will be making their first trips to nationals, while Lee, a junior, will making his second trip in three years.

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