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Oregon baseball swings into season

■ The men's club baseball team returns from play with high hopes for its regular season

By Shigenari Matsumoto for the Emerald

Oregon Club Sports men's baseball team played in a two-day preseason tournament during the weekend at Washington. The Ducks finished 1-2 against the Pacific Coast Conference opponents, Montana, Idaho and Eastern Washington.

Oregon coach Rich Fay said he was pleased of the team's unselfish play.

"It was easy for the players to try hit home runs like the other teams did, but our style is to put runners on the bases and drive them in," Fay said.

The Ducks lost 6-9 in a close game against University of Montana. Fay said he was impressed how the team fought back despite the early 5 point deficit and that Oregon had a good chance winning if it were not for the time limit, which is applied to the tournament.

The Ducks won the second game against Idaho 13-2. Zach Ross threw 7 strong innings and drove in 3 runs for Oregon. The Ducks suffered a 14-0 loss against Eastern Washington, playing with only 5 regular players. Oregon will play Western Washington on March 18 at Eugene.



Spring break not one for Duck golf teams

■ Both golf teams will be basking in the sun on the course, not at the beach this spring break

By Peter Hockaday for the Emerald

For once, the Ducks will have home-course advantage.

Over spring break, the Oregon men's golf team will host the Oregon Duck Invitational at the Shadow Hills Country Club in Junction City March 20 and 21. The women's golf team will tee off at the Colby/Santa Clara Invitational in Monterey, Calif., on those same dates.

The Oregon men will rely on the hot hand of Ryan Lavoie. He won the individual title at the Cleveland Southwest Intercollegiate two weeks ago and will look

to improve on his performance at the Duck last year, when he finished seventh overall.

Fourteen teams will compete in the Duck Invitational, the Ducks' only Northwest outing of the spring. The teams will play two rounds of 18 holes each on March 20, while the final 18-hole round will take place on March 21.

The women's golf team will also compete over the break, even if they won't experience the same home-course advantage that the men get. The Ducks play in the Colby/Santa Clara Invitational at the Rancho Canada Golf Club in Monterey on March 20 and 21.

The women will try to improve on their No. 23 ranking at the tournament they've won twice in two attempts, last year and in 1997.

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Women

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jumped into the arms of her ecstatic teammates, the Ducks weren't thinking about respect. They weren't thinking about parity, or being underrated or playing in a supposedly weakened conference.

When asked about how it felt to win the title outright and no longer have it under UCLA's shadow, Wolvert didn't talk about a lack of respect. Instead, she applauded her fans.

"The biggest difference I see in

how I feel from last year and this year is just the fact that we won it at home in front of everybody," she said. "It just makes it worth more. Last year we were at [California], and there were like 300 people there. I'm sure 200 of them were ours anyway, but the best experience we've had this year so far would be tonight."

Wolvert wasn't an exception to her team. Nothing was said by players — aside from Jenny Mowe joking around about "no co-champion stuff" — about how they deserve more respect.

That in itself is commendable because everyone knows they do.

But the Ducks obviously have more important things to think about. They have never made it past the second round in nine trips to the Big Dance, but they've also never hosted two rounds at Mac Court.

Just like Oregon gets little respect from the conference, the Pac-10 gets little respect this season from the NCAA. The chances are that no team coming into the Pit will really be ready for what is coming to them. For the first time ever, the Ducks should go to the Sweet 16.

Which is in Portland. Only two hours of driving for their 9,000-

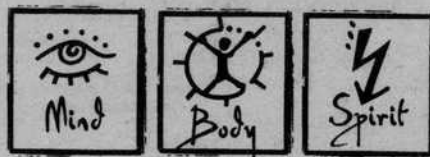
plus fans.

And then, who knows?

But Ann Meyers still isn't sold on Oregon. In an on-line chat on ESPN.com that immediately followed the NCAA selections, the UCLA alum discussed third-seeded Mississippi State coming to Eugene.

"I think Mississippi State has got a great chance of making it to the Sweet 16," she said. "You know what, it might play an advantage for Mississippi State to go to Oregon."

Watch out, Meyers. And don't call her "Shaq Williams." She doesn't like it.



Make it Happen!

Spring Break 2000

Here are some helpful hints for enjoying a much deserved Spring Break.

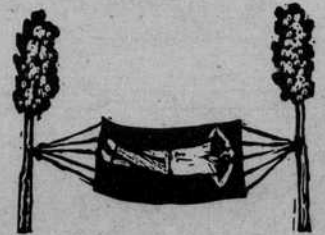


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