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# Ducks face test in Arizona

■ Oregon takes on No. 9 Arizona State tonight and No. 1 Arizona this weekend

By Adam Jude  
 Oregon Daily Emerald

It just keeps getting tougher for the Oregon softball team.

The Ducks (25-30 overall, 1-11 Pacific-10 Conference) have lost six straight games and are in Arizona to face No. 9 Arizona State tonight before taking on top-ranked Arizona on Saturday and Sunday.

This is the second consecutive weekend that Oregon has faced the nation's top team. The Ducks fell to then-No. 1 UCLA twice last weekend, but gained some momentum from the close 4-3 and 6-3 losses.

Suffering through a tough spell



earlier this month, Oregon seemed to have lost hope for the remainder of the season. In addition, senior catcher Kelly Planche — "the backbone of the program for the last four years," according to head coach Rick Gamez — suddenly quit the team before last Friday's loss to No. 12 Washington.

Since then, though, and despite the losses, the Ducks have gained confidence.

Against Oregon State Tuesday, Gamez's squad out-hit and ultimately out-played the Beavers, going into the seventh inning with a 3-3 tie. But a two-out, walk-off home run by OSU's Steph Adams won the game for the Beavers. Pitcher Connie McMurren, who allowed just four hits in the game, tallied the loss for the Ducks.

"You can really feel [the sense of pride]," Gamez said after the Oregon State loss. "They really feel like they should have won this one."

Oregon's only Pac-10 win came

against Arizona State, a 4-0 victory the first game of a doubleheader on April 1. Sophomore Lisa Wangler threw a complete game for the Ducks in the win and Janell Bergstrom hit the first home run of her career, a solo shot in the second inning off Arizona State's Erica Beach.

In the second game, however, the Sun Devils (30-15, 5-7) got their revenge in a 10-1 victory.

Arizona State is third in the conference with a .296 team batting average.

Arizona (47-4, 9-2), the Pac-10 leader, has won 37 straight home games. The Wildcats have also hit an NCAA record 101 home runs this season. The Wildcats have outscored their opponents 379-42 this season, and their average margin of victory is about seven runs. They also lead the nation with a team batting average of .349.

Arizona defeated the Devils, 5-0, Wednesday in Tempe.

# Water polo expects solid play

■ Men's water polo hopes to outlast a tough field, while cricket is confident it can capture its first win of season

By Jesse Thomas  
 for the Emerald

The Oregon men's club water polo team will face steep competition at the Duel in the Desert this weekend.

The Ducks will travel to Tuc-

son, Ariz., to go body-to-body against eight other teams. The field includes Arizona, Arizona State and Colorado, among others. The Ducks' toughest competition will come from the Washington/Cornell team, which is

comprised of athletes from both schools.

"We are expecting very healthy competition and hope to be strong ourselves," Oregon coordinator Anthony Tran said.

Oregon is currently third out of the seven teams in its conference. The Huskies, who the Ducks could face this weekend, are one of two teams ahead of Oregon.

The Ducks said they don't know what to expect because they haven't faced any of the teams in the tournament this year. But the men say they are confident they will place high, despite the tough competition.

"We have a lot of new talent and are stronger than we were in the fall," Oregon junior Justin Steel said. "We hope to be in the top-three."

### Cricket looks to bounce back

The Oregon men's club cricket team is heading to Portland this weekend in hopes of raising its record to .500.

Sunday, the Ducks will play the Multnomah Cricket Club in just their second match of the season. The men are coming off a loss last weekend in their season-opener to the Gresham Cricket Club, but say they realized the mistakes they made and know how to improve.

"We need to concentrate on our batting performance," batsman/wicketkeeper Lain Johnston said.

Along with improved batting, the Ducks say they can be more dominant by improving their fielding. Johnston said last weekend's loss was caused by simple errors, both mental and physical. He said that if the men improve on those areas they will be hard to beat.

"We are looking for a good performance all around," Johnston said. "We are going to do well."

### Other club sports in action

Sailing is traveling to Seattle, Wash., cycling is going to Walla Walla, Wash., and men's lacrosse heads to Vancouver, British Columbia.

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