

Oregon Daily Emerald

SPORTS

Sports Editor:
Peter Hockaday
phockaday@yahoo.com

Best Bet
MLB: All-Star Game
5 p.m., Fox



Tuesday, July 10, 2001



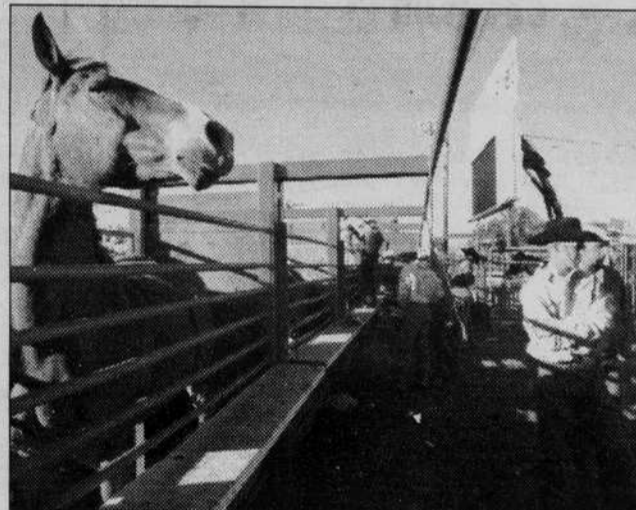
R. Ashley Smith for the Emerald

Assisted by his hazer, the person on the horse in charge of keeping the steer going in a straight line, S. Goodwin of Pasco, Wash., eases off his horse to catch his steer before wrestling it to the ground. Goodwin was one of the competitors in the Eugene Pro Rodeo at the Rodeo Grounds Friday through Sunday. In addition to the rodeo action, spectators also enjoyed a dance and food.

WILD, WILD, WEST



R. Ashley Smith for the Emerald



R. Ashley Smith for the Emerald

Wrestling his steer to the ground (above), K. Anderson of Coleville, Wash., uses brute force and leverage to pull the animal onto its side. Everybody watched the action (left) while waiting to compete at the Eugene Pro Rodeo.

Home runs and good pitching power Ems to winning trip

■ The Eugene Emeralds have improved their record to 9-11 after a recent offensive spurt led to wins

By Peter Hockaday
Oregon Daily Emerald

In minor league baseball, one game is all that's needed to turn a season around.

That's what Eugene Emeralds manager Jeff Gardner said after his team blew out Yakima 13-0 on July 2 at Civic Stadium.

He was right. That win preceded two more home victories over Yakima, including a 5-4 battle on July Fourth. The Ems opened up a five-game road trip with two losses at Spokane, then turned around for three straight victories by a combined total of 13 runs.

Monday night's contest was a perfect example of the Ems' recent turnaround. Eugene used power hitting and decent pitching to blow out Spokane 9-5 in Washington.

Spokane struck first with three runs in the bottom of the second inning, but the Ems answered with four runs in

the top of the third. First baseman Greg Sain had a two-run home run — his league-lead-tying fifth shot of the year — to spur the Ems to a 4-3 lead.

After Spokane scored two runs in the bottom of the third inning, Eugene got another key home run from Jon Benick in the sixth inning, a three-run bomb to put the Ems up for good.

The Emeralds' statistics for the weekend were mind-boggling, considering that Eugene averaged just over four runs per game before that 13-0 rout of Yakima. The Ems had five home runs in Sunday and Monday's games, had back-to-back shots both nights, have two players with active hit streaks over five games and sent nine batters to the plate in an inning Monday.

After Monday's contest, the Ems have two hitters — Sain and shortstop Jason Bartlett — in the Northwest League's top seven for hitting. Sain is seventh overall with a .333 average.

The Ems have also gotten good performances from their starting pitchers. Before ace Scott Kelly left in the



Jessie Swimeley Emerald

Emeralds hitters Jake Gautreau (5) and Jason Bartlett (9) have sparked Eugene to a 6-4 record in its last 10 games.

Turn to Ems, page 6