



Jessie Swimeley Emerald

Emeralds manager Jeff Gardner consults with catcher Nick Trzesniak (left) and pitcher Jeremy Webster (right). The Ems are 14-19.

## Ems

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top teams. Boise leads the East division by 8 1/2 games, and the Emeralds handed the Hawks only their ninth loss of the season Monday night. The Ems lost four games at Boise by a total of 16 runs, including a 10-2 blowout Sunday afternoon. Eugene's Geoff Jones gave up three home runs in the third inning of that game.

Prior to the Boise series, Eugene was swept in a three-game series at Everett. The AquaSox are currently in second place in the West division with a record of 16-16 before Monday. After last Monday's game was rained out, the Ems dropped both games of a doubleheader by a total of seven runs Tuesday, then another game Wednesday.

Despite all the losses, Gardner said his team has shown resiliency.

"Their effort has been good," Gardner said. "If they ever stop try-

ing, then we've got something to worry about."

The Ems have experienced losses in another area as well: in the injury category, especially in the bullpen, where several relievers have been hurt.

*"Their effort has been good. If they ever stop trying, then we've got something to worry about."*

**Jeff Gardner**  
manager,  
Eugene Emeralds

"I've never been a big believer in using the injury excuse," Gardner said. "If you have a good club, you should be able to overcome those injuries."

The Ems were able to overcome their bullpen deficiencies with lots

of offense Monday night. Outfielder Doc Brooks hit a two-run home run — his fourth of the year and second in two games — to break a 1-1 tie in the fourth inning.

Boise's Syketo Anderson hit an inside-the-park home run to bring the Hawks within two runs in the bottom of the eighth, but Emerald outfielder Marcus Nettles scored on Jason Bartlett's sacrifice fly in the top of the ninth to give the Ems a 5-3 cushion. Eugene would need it, as Boise's Corey Slavik hit a solo shot in the bottom of the ninth, but the Ems held off the Hawks for the win.

The Emeralds now return home for their longest home stretch of the year, an eight-game stand against the Salem-Keizer Volcanoes and the Tri-City Dust Devils. The Ems' three-game series with Salem-Keizer, the top team in the West division, begins tonight. Eugene will lock horns with the Devils in a five-game series starting Friday.

# Armstrong riding for third Tour title

LUZ-ARDIDEN, France — Lance Armstrong descended from the wooded peaks of the Pyrenees on Sunday wearing the leader's yellow jersey and on course for a third straight Tour de France title.

Barring sickness or accidents, the Texan is almost certain to be the champion again when the race ends July 29 in Paris, thanks to his dominating mountain rides the past week.

In Sunday's last mountain leg he was fourth, finishing just behind main rival Jan Ullrich of Germany. Armstrong leads the overall standings by 5 minutes, 5 seconds, with six stages left.

In these flat stages it is difficult for riders to take a big lead.

"This year, he is stronger than ever," said Ullrich, the runner-up last year. "Simply unbeatable."

Armstrong took the lead Saturday after his third stage victory. All three were in the mountain stages, which began in the Alps and moved to the Pyrenees close to the Spanish border.

He slowed before the finish Sunday, apparently allowing Ullrich to beat him. The pair shook hands after crossing the line. It was the only time since the start of the five mountain stages that

Armstrong hadn't overwhelmed the German rider.

"I tried everything, my team tried everything," Ullrich said. "I attacked, my team attacked, but Lance was simply unbeatable."

After the stage Armstrong attended the daily race leader's ceremony and was applauded by spectators. He returned to his team vehicle without speaking to reporters.

Roberto Laiseka of Spain delighted thousands of fans from his native Basque region by winning the leg from Tarbes to this ski station high in the Pyrenees. Wladimir Belli of Italy finished second.

Ullrich, the 1997 champion, moved into second place behind Armstrong. The two riders recorded the same time in the 89.6-mile stage. Armstrong defeated Ullrich in the previous four mountain stages.

Ullrich was part of a small group of riders that included Armstrong when he attacked with less than a mile to go. Armstrong gave chase but unlike the previous mountain stages was unable to overtake his rival.

The Associated Press

## Hockaday

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mic force in their favor as they begin their 2001 campaign: pre-season ranking. Although many of the experts will laugh, Oregon should be ranked high in pre-season polls, which could facilitate a quick rise to the top of the college football world. The Ducks ended last season at seventh in The Associated Press poll and should be in the top 10 at the start of this season.

Do you know the ultimate goal for Oregon? That goal that you can think, but dare not say?

Go ahead, you can say it. Rose Bowl. National Championship. Why not throw in a little Florida State to make the picture complete, or a dash of Oklahoma?

Oregon coach Mike Bellotti isn't afraid to say that the Rose Bowl is the Ducks' goal this season. Could this be Oregon's year? Could it finally win the Pac-10, the Rose Bowl and Harrington the Heisman for good measure?

Don't you wish you could answer those questions right now ... ?

Peter Hockaday is the sports editor for the Emerald. He can be reached at phockaday@dailyemerald.com.

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