

# Ems topple Vancouver for second straight win

■ Eugene takes the first game of a series for only the second time this season

By Peter Hockaday  
Oregon Daily Emerald

The Eugene Emeralds finally broke "the curse of the first game."

With a win over Vancouver Monday night, the Ems won the first game of a series for only the second time this season, in their 14th series of the season. The Ems toppled the Canadians 6-3.

The Ems also broke another streak that they would rather forget. Eugene went errorless for the first time in 20 games.

Jon Brandt picked up his first professional win Monday night. The former UCLA standout pitched six strong innings before leaving the bases with two men on in the sixth. Brandt also got strong relief performances from Mike Hoyt and Juan Mejia, who preserved the starter's six-run lead.

## Northwest League Standings

(through Sunday)

### West Division

1. Salem-Keizer (32-20)
2. Vancouver (28-23)
3. Everett (25-27)
4. Eugene (21-31)

### East Division

1. Boise (35-18)

2. Tri-City (28-25)
3. Yakima (23-28)
4. Spokane (16-36)

### Batting Leaders

1. Syketo Anderson, Boise (.396)
2. Jason Bartlett, Eugene (.341)
3. Brad Bouras, Boise (.331)

### Stolen Base Leaders

1. Marcus Nettles, Eugene (23)
2. James Shanks, Spokane (20)
3. Vincente Rosario, Everett (17)

On the offensive side, Trevor Brown was one of the stars Monday night for the second time in two games. Brown drove in two runs Saturday afternoon in a 6-4 win over Everett, then knocked in three more with a bases-loaded double in the top of the sixth inning Monday night. Brown's double put the Ems up 6-0, and they would not relinquish the lead.

The win Monday night moved the Ems to 22-31 on the season, but Eugene is still flailing in the basement of the Northwest League's West Division. The Ems needed to get the best of Everett in the teams' recent three-game series in order to overtake the third-place AquaSox. However, the Emeralds managed to take only one from the visitors.

Before that home series with Everett, Eugene played three games at the home of the AquaSox, and also went 1-2 in that series. The back-to-back series victories for Everett helped it open a one-game lead into a three-game lead Monday.

Despite the losses, Eugene continues to swing its bats well. Short-stop Jason Bartlett is a fixture at the top of the NWL's list of batting leaders and trails Boise's Syketo Anderson by 55 percentage points. Eugene slugger Greg Sain was tied for the league lead in home runs before Vancouver's Matt Allegra hit a two-run bomb against the Ems Monday.

Speedster Marcus Nettles, Eugene's leadoff man, continues to impress his speed on opposing pitchers. Nettles leads the league with 23 stolen bases, three more than the second-place player. Nettles' statistic is most impressive because he did it even after joining the Ems late, when his Miami Hurricanes won the College World Series.

The Ems will play two more games at Vancouver, then take an off day before returning home for a five-game series with Boise. The Hawks lead the NWL's East Division by seven games. The Ems have 23 games remaining in the season.



Jessie Swimeley Emerald

Trevor Brown had five RBIs in two games against Everett and Vancouver, both wins.

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## New turf

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team policy forced him to leave the Volunteers.

This year, Smith has already found trouble, as he was reportedly arrested for drunk driving last weekend.

*"It's going to continue to give us a home-field advantage. This turf is just the next generation of what we had."*

**Mike Bellotti**  
Oregon head coach

The trio of running backs aren't the only ones with speed on the Ducks' offensive side of the ball. Returning wide receivers Keenan Howry and Samie Parker are two of Oregon's fastest players. Howry caught 52 balls for 780 yards last

year, while Parker averaged 18.3 yards per catch in his limited appearances behind Marshaun Tucker last season.

"Keenan isn't the biggest or the fastest guy out there, but it's almost impossible to stop him," Bellotti said.

Oregon added even more speed at the wide receiver position in the form of track and field star Micah Harris. The speedster ran in the 100-meter dash for the Ducks at the NCAA Championships in June.

Cornerback Rashad Bauman, who Bellotti called "possibly the best athlete ever to play at Oregon," could feast on opposing wide receivers who don't know how to handle the NeXturf.

There remains little doubt — to the Oregon players, at least — that the new turf will provide the same old advantage. Whether that means the Ducks will extend their home winning streak to 25 games, Oregon won't know for another four months.

## Hockaday

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year — put my team in position to win."

Ah, I see a ray of optimism trying to muscle its way into this column.

Civil War? It's at Autzen Stadium this year, where the Ducks have won 10 of 13 Civil Wars since 1975, including the last three. Wisconsin comes to Autzen as well, and you can believe the Ducks will be looking for a little revenge after last year's close loss at Camp Randall.

"We lost a game [at Wisconsin] that we should have won," tight end Justin Peelle said. "It's been on our minds since then."

Justin's got the spirit that the rest of the team needs. Heck, the rest of the team already has it.

Call it a Duck thing. Perennial underdogs, always slighted, always out for revenge, never given enough respect. They got that (lack of respect) this year when Sports Illustrated picked the Beavers at No. 1.

If you thought last year's Civil War had too much hype, just watch as it builds this year. And builds. In fact, it's going to build so much that you can't drink anymore, Joey. You can't smoke, you can't eat fatty foods. You can't even eat a peanut. Only salad.

And determination. You can eat determination for breakfast, Joey. I give you permission.

Because that's what it's going to take to be a Duck in 2001. Rose Bowl or bust, right?

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