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Softball

continued from page 13

fensive showing in the two games combined for Oregon. Her 2-for-3 effort in Game 2 followed a perfect first game output of 3-for-3 with four RBIs and a run scored. In her third at-bat in Game 2, Petrick hit a deep drive that was tracked down by Portland State's center fielder Whitney Olson. The flyout broke Petrick's streak of five consecutive hits.

"It felt good," Petrick said. "I guess it was just one of those days when you are seeing the ball well."

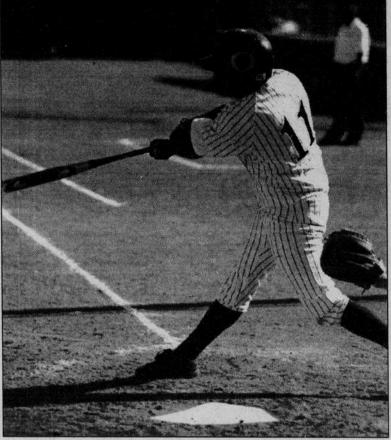
"We got a big boost from (Petrick)," Rincon said. "She's a kid that we are beginning to count on more and more."

As they had done on Monday in the first game of a doubleheader at Portland State — which the two teams ended up splitting — the Ducks came out hot offensively against the Vikings' star pitcher Morgan Seibert in Game 1.

Oregon tallied one run in the first inning, two in the third and four in the fifth. Seibert lasted through four and one-thirds innings allowing six runs off eight hits. She struck out two and walked none. Megan Herscher relieved Seibert in the fifth and gave up three hits and one unearned run.

Oregon's combined pitching attack of Anissa Meashintubby and Lindsey Kontra allowed four hits, two walks and one run while striking out seven.

"We got good pitching again tóday," Rincon said. "It was nice to get all the pitchers some work going into a big Pac-10 series at Ari-



Innathan House Emerald

Oregon center fielder Amber Hutchison follows through with her home run swing in Game 2 of Wednesday's doubleheader between Oregon and Portland State.

zona and Arizona State. These games today were a nice tune-up (for the trip to Arizona) and were really competitive. We showed some composure and to come from behind in (Game 2)."

After losing 12 straight, Oregon has now won three of its last four games. The Ducks, heading into a three-game weekend in Arizona against No. 2 Arizona and No. 5 Arizona State, are looking for their first Pac-10 win in more than a year. The Ducks' last conference victory was against Arizona State on April 1, 2001.

"We're excited," Petrick said. "We battled and came up with two good wins."

E-mail sports reporter Chris Cabot at chriscabot@dailyemerald.com.

Woods

continued from page 13

faster and better in his second collegiate season.

"He can be an 18-6-plus guy in college for sure," fellow vaulter Cody Howell said. "In the next two years, he's going to be one of the top couple of vaulters in the NCAAs."

Ironically, the talented pole-vaulter with the strong Oregon ties almost missed the Hayward Field experience altogether. Woods won state pole-vaulting championships his junior and senior years and came out of high school as the No. 2 vaulting recruit in the nation. Though his parents are both Oregon alumni and he comes from a town rich in Oregon track history — Coos Bay is the birthplace of the legendary Steve Prefontaine — Woods said he didn't want to join the sagging program in Eugene.

"There was no way I was going to come to Oregon," Woods said. "It's not because I didn't like (former head coach Bill) Dellinger. I got a chance to meet him and he's a great guy, but the program didn't seem to be going in the right direction."

But then Woods got a call from new head coach Martin Smith on the first day of recruiting. Then coach Smith called again and preached about the new direction the program was headed. Then coach Smith called again when Woods broke his leg playing football his senior year, and coach Smith told the young vaulter that Oregon still wanted him.

"They made it an easy choice, really," Woods said.

Now, Woods sees himself as part of an Oregon track and field revolution. He thinks the Ducks are close to starting a track dynasty once again, and last season's ninth-place finish at the NCAA Championships was only the beginning.

"Now that the program's taking

Trevor Woods

Sophomore pole vaulter

Hometown: Coos Bay (Marshfield H.S.)

This season: Personal-best 18 feet, 1/2 inch vault (currently fourth nationally) at Washington Dual, April 13.

2000-01: Fourth-place finisher at Pacific-10 Conference Championships with 17-3 vault. No-heighted at NCAA Championships.

Before Oregon: Finished third at 2000 U.S. Junior World Championships after winning Oregon state titles in 1999 and 2000. Ended senior season ranked fourth nationally.

Quarterback for state semifinalist Marshfield football team, and earned Midwestern League Co-Offensive MVP honors for football senior season.

off, it's kind of like you're waking a sleeping giant," said Woods, who then invoked the image of a successful college football team. "Look at Miami. They were good for a while, then they went down the tubes a little bit, and now that people see they're coming back, everyone's going to start flocking there. That's what's going to happen here, everyone's going to want to come here."

Woods is just the athlete to start that revolution. Humble yet optimistic, talented and enigmatic, he embodies all the characteristics of a successful athlete. His willingness to learn has enabled him to grow as a vaulter, and he has improved with each season. In high school he vaulted 16-8, then moved up to 17-4 last season, and now has joined the elite 18-foot club.

The sophomore's next goal is 19 feet, a height that could qualify him for his ultimate dream, the Olympics.

"When I think about the Olympics, I think, 'OK, I'm an 18-footer right now'," said Woods, holding his hands 12 inches apart. "I've got to get one foot in two years."

Woods also realizes the Olympics are a dream and he remains humble about his chances on the world's biggest stage. But if the words of his teammates are any indication, he has already come far in his time at Oregon.

"Ever since he's come in here, he's developed his strength," fellow vaulter Jason Slye said. "He's developed his explosiveness and his technical skills."

Slye and Howell are members of a pole-vault crew that has become close to Woods in his time at Oregon. Woods said that all the vaulters consider themselves equal when they step onto Hayward Field, no matter the individual results. Howell, who injured his hand, will not compete at the Oregon Invitational this weekend, but the rest of the vaulting crew will be there.

The Oregon Invitational is one of only four meets left for Woods before his return trip to the NCAA Championships in late May. While the NCAA meet is far off, Woods holds it in the back of his mind.

"Ultimately an NCAA Championship would be huge, that would be awesome," Woods said.

"He's definitely determined to go back there," Slye said. "He has a good chance of going in there and winning the whole thing."

Maybe then Woods could collect another newspaper for his backpack, a sports page for celebration instead of motivation.

E-mail sports reporter Peter Hockaday at peterhockaday@dailyemerald.com.