

EMERALDS BRIEF

The Eugene Emeralds (11-8) continue their stint away from Civic Stadium today as they face the Everett AquaSox (9-10) in the fifth of a six-game series.

Since the beginning of the series it has been a battle back and forth, and Friday night Everett came out determined to put the Ems back on the losing track, handing Eugene a 6-2 loss.

Eugene struggled from the start in front of a sold-out crowd in Everett, Wash., as the Emeralds didn't score their first run until the eighth inning.

Center fielder Brian Wahlbrink, second baseman Peeter Ramos and catcher Colt Morton recorded the only hits for Eugene, with three each. Ramos and Morton each drove in one run for the game.

Saturday's game proved much more interesting, however, as the Ems showed they would not again be an easy victory.

The Ems dominated the entire game until the top of the ninth, where they led 12-3, and Eugene looked like

they would easily walk away with their first win of the series.

But the AquaSox recorded eight runs in the bottom of the ninth inning to fall just one run short in the Ems' 12-11 victory.

Morton again led the way for the Ems, going three for six with two home runs and five RBIs. Right fielder Jeff Leise also hit a home run.

Right-hander Aaron Coonrod (1-1) earned his first victory Saturday night even with Everett earning eight hits in the game.

The Ems came back Sunday evening and earned their second straight victory over Everett to close out the third game of the series with a 5-2 win.

The game stayed tied at 2-2 through eight innings until the Ems managed three runs in the top of the ninth to secure a victory. Shortstop Alex Garcia scored three runs in four at bats to lead the Ems.

Eugene played Everett in the fourth game of the series Monday in Washington but results were not available at press time.

The Ems head home to face Yakima on Thursday.

Contact the sports editor at jessethomas@dailyemerald.com.

Round up



Jessica Waters Emerald

Andrew Sakshaug (front), former Eugene Challengers player, snags a grounder as he covers first base during the San Diego Padres' tryouts Wednesday at Civic Stadium. A Eureka Falcons player backs him up in the outfield. The entire Falcons team, under coach Todd Zeigler, came to the tryouts while traveling for a league tournament. Other hopefuls came from Florence, Portland and around Oregon to try their luck for the Padres' scouts. The Eugene Emeralds are one of six Padres Organization Minor League teams, and tryouts will be held at a number of the minor league teams' parks during the summer.

SPORTS BRIEFS

Oregon hires new assistant women's track coach

The Oregon track and field team announced Thursday that Marnie Marson will join the Ducks as an assistant track and field coach, and will oversee the women's distance program for the upcoming 2003-04 season.

This hiring comes after the men's and women's programs were joined after last season, when 27-year head

coach Tom Heinonen retired.

Marson, the head boys and girls distance coach at North Medford High School the past two seasons, quickly rebuilt her program and led the girls cross country team to a 12th place finish in the 2002 state track meet last fall.

Previous to coaching at North Medford, Marson was the assistant track and head cross country coach at Klamath Union in Klamath Falls. Among her prep pupils, Marson coached Arizona State's Liz Lindgren and Ore-

gon's Sara SchAAF.

"We're excited to add Marnie to our staff," Oregon coordinator of track and field Martin Smith said. "She's an intelligent, hard-working and honest coach that has earned the respect of her peers."

In her time at Klamath Union, she coached five 4A state individual champions including SchAAF, Lindgren, Stanford's Ian Dobson and Jacob Gomez. Marson was named 1999 Oregon Boys Cross Country Coach of the Year after her team won the state

title and ranked fifth nationally.

In her prep days, Marson won the 1985 4A state 3,000 title as a senior at Klamath Union, and won the 1983 state cross country title as a junior.

After high school, Marson competed in three seasons for Brigham Young University where she earned success as a rookie. Injury and illness plagued her as a sophomore and junior, however.

As a collegiate senior, she transferred to Southern Oregon University

and graduated with a bachelor's degree in social science and received a special education teaching certificate.

"I'm excited to concentrate fully on being a Duck," Marson said. "Klamath and North Medford were two distinctly different challenges, and I'm equally excited about this chance."

"The University of Oregon, Eugene and Hayward Field deserve to have a great program. It's been a lifelong dream to be here."

-Jesse Thomas

Magic

continued from page 5

of manning regional fund-raising offices in Medford and Portland.

"I've known Jim for 20 years or so," Athletic Director Bill Moos said. "He has a lot of energy and a lot of charisma. He loves athletics and has the right competitive work ethic."

The Cougar graduate helped bring the athletic fund to another level, too, bringing in unprecedented donations.

"Jim was very instrumental in that," Williford said. "It was a combination of hard work by a lot of different people."

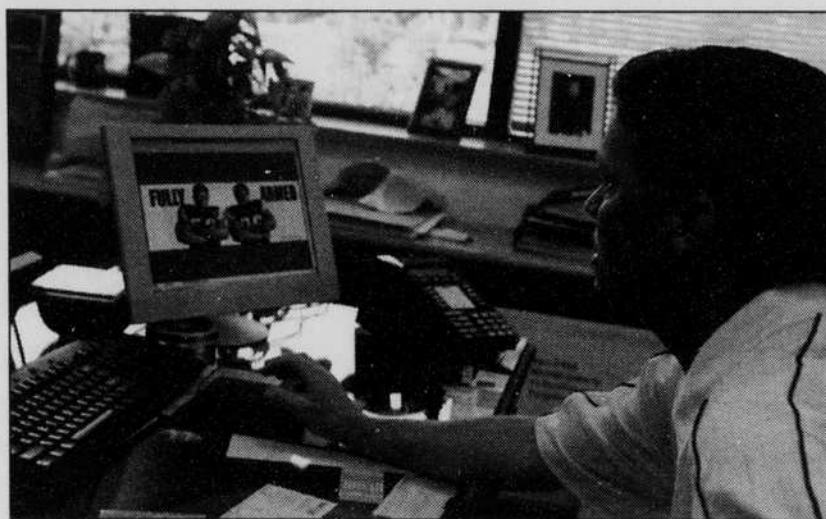
College Town, USA

Bartko learned throughout his tenure at Oregon that one can't be afraid to take risks or do new things.

As a part of the new mascot 'Mandrake' introduction, however, Bartko soon learned that all marketing ploys aren't as openly accepted.

"Everybody thought that here we are trying to sell more clothes and get rid of the (Oregon) Duck," he said. "But you can't fear failure. You can't ever say, 'Let's not do something because these people don't like it.' People didn't like our uniforms the first year and now we are one of the top selling Nike schools in the country."

But despite the ups and downs of marketing, Bartko and the athletic



Jessica Waters Emerald

Bartko shows off one of the Duck campaigns for the upcoming football season including defensive tackles Igor Olshansky and Haloti Ngata in "FULLY ARMED."

department still have everybody wondering: What will come next?

For football, Oregon has nothing planned on a national scale, but will put up numerous local billboards, with possibilities of some in Portland.

Defensive tackles Igor Olshansky and Haloti Ngata already have their faces on a billboard near Salem and locally on West Seventh Avenue, with the statement FULLY ARMED.

Wide receiver Samie Parker was recently epitomized on Franklin Boulevard with the simple word SPEED. A billboard is planned for kicker Jared Siegel, saying LONG RANGE, but the picture and graph-

ics have not been finalized.

And for linebacker Kevin Mitchell, one will see none other than OLD SCHOOL, which will be revealed in Eugene within two weeks.

"We'll never stop the local billboards," Bartko said. "That's our push, to make it College Town, USA."

And what's next for the gurus over at the Casanova Center?

"You never know, we could go to South Korea or Hong Kong," Bartko said. "We could do whatever. That's part of it is to catch people off-guard."

Contact the sports editor at jessethomas@dailyemerald.com.

SPORTS BRIEFS

March Madness changes in effect

In addition to announcing Final Four sites through 2011 last week, the men's basketball committee also made two significant changes to the look of the NCAA Tournament men's bracket starting in 2004.

When the bracket is released on Selection Sunday, which is March 14 next year, the committee will determine the Final Four semifinal pairings when it sets the bracket. In years past, the semifinal matchups of regional winners were predetermined and rotated each year.

"The committee's main charge has been to competitively balance the bracket," Bill Hancock, NCAA consultant to the Division I men's basketball championship, said Monday. "But the Final Four semifinal matchups really weren't balanced. This addresses that."

Basically, the tournament's top two No. 1 seeds will be placed in opposite brackets. The fourth-best No. 1 seed will be placed in the regional opposite the overall No. 1 seed with the third-best No. 1 seed placed with the other No. 1 seed.

The committee will do away with the directional names for the four regions on the bracket. Instead, each of the four regions will be referred to by the host city's name. In 2004, the regionals will be East Rutherford (formerly East), Atlanta (South), St. Louis (Midwest) and Phoenix (West).

-By Wendell Barnhouse
Knight Ridder Newspapers (KRT)

Lakers' Bryant faces felony allegations

Los Angeles Lakers superstar Kobe Bryant was arrested July 4 on suspicion of felony sexual assault following an alleged incident with an unidentified woman at a hotel near Vail, Colo., authorities said.

The 24-year-old Bryant has not been charged with a crime, said Mark Hurlbert, district attorney for the Fifth Judicial District in Breckenridge, Colo.

"We have not made a decision," said Hurlbert, who planned Monday to review the arrest report and evidence.

Bryant turned himself in on July 4, voluntarily complying with an arrest warrant stemming from allegations of sexual misconduct filed on June 30.

Bryant posted \$25,000 bond at the Eagle County Sheriff's Detention Facility on Friday. He could not be reached for comment.

"These allegations are completely out of character of the Kobe Bryant we know," Lakers general manager Mitch Kupchak said. "For the seven years he's been with us, he has been one of the finest young men we've known and a wonderful asset to both our team and our community."

-Kevin Ding
and Natalya Shulyakovskaya
The Orange County Register (KRT)

Thomas

continued from page 5

Joseba Beloki and two-time Giro d'Italia champion Gilberto Simoni. They are merely listed for the sake of making it seem that Armstrong will not easily ride into the sunset with another victory.

But in reality, Armstrong has no competition. Not because of lack of physical capability or inexperience, but because no other cyclist in the race can match his mentality. His mental focus is stronger than Igor Olshansky's biceps.

Sean Yates, a former teammate of Armstrong's and current sports direc-

tor at rival Team CSC, understands that Lance has to falter to lose.

"We're not building toward toppling Lance," Yates told ESPN.com. "Unless he has a bad day, no one can touch Lance. He's at the top of his game. He just gets better and stronger every year."

In the last half decade, Armstrong

has managed to conquer every barrier placed before him. He has faced more adversity than any other athlete and destroyed any expectation that his rivals and the media have placed on him.

Armstrong will go on to win his fifth Tour de France, barring no injury or significant mishap. Will he

go on to win six or seven? I hope so, but I don't know. That's like asking whether Michael Jordan will ever retire.

Contact the sports editor at jessethomas@dailyemerald.com. His opinions do not necessarily represent those of the Emerald.