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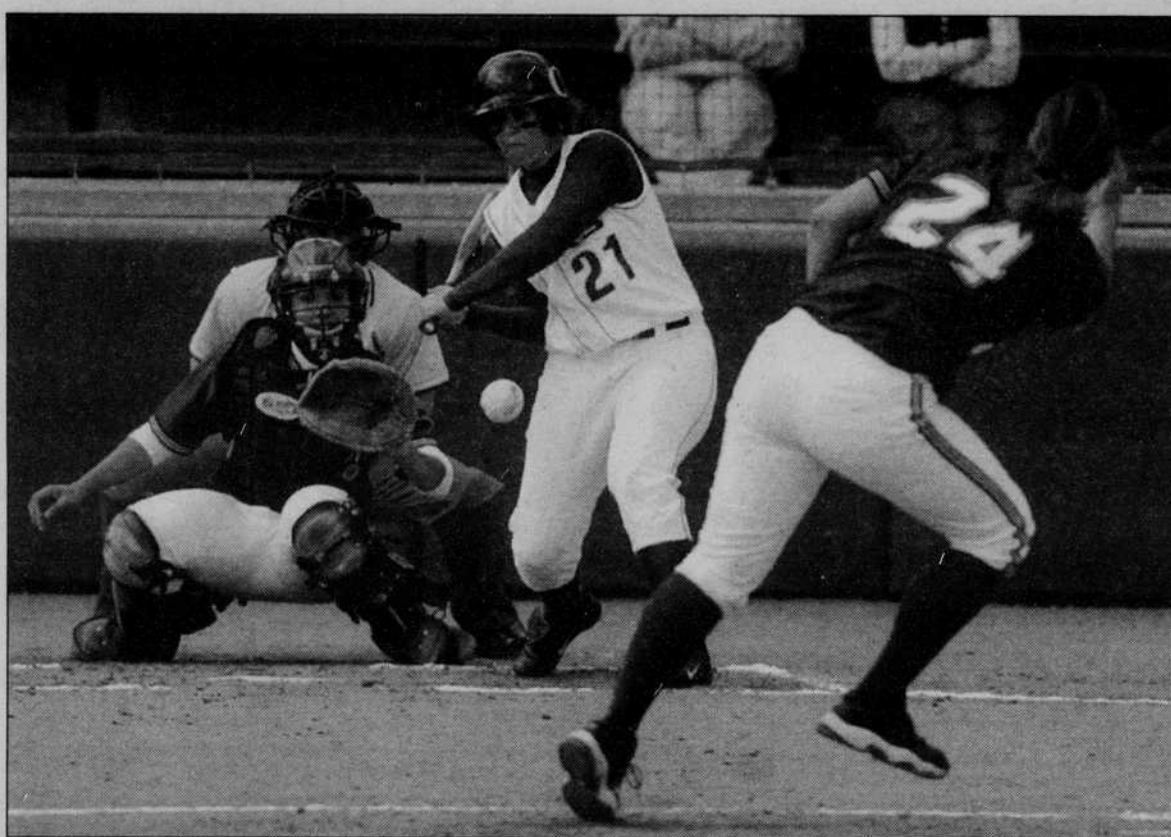

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Beth Boskovich (21) has a .280 batting average this season and leads the Ducks with three home runs and nine RBIs.

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SOFTBALL

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Last season, the tournament fields were pretty muddy and well-used, according to Arendsen. The tournament's 11 teams play on city-owned fields for the weekend.

In last weekend's Fiesta Bowl Tournament, senior catcher Jenn Poore led the offense with an 8 for 16 weekend. Transfer pitcher Ani Nyhus went 2-1 during the tournament to improve her record to 4-2.

"We kind of were up and down," Poore said. "When our pitching was on, our hitting wasn't. When we got people on, we didn't get them around. Overall, it went pretty well — we beat some teams we needed to beat."

The Ducks won their tournament opener Friday against then-No. 14 Cal State Fullerton, 10-1, but then lost two

consecutive games — an 8-3 loss to then-No. 15 Texas A&M and a 3-1 loss to Ohio State. Oregon came back Saturday afternoon and beat Cal State Northridge, 6-1, and carried the momentum into Sunday with a 4-1 victory against then-No. 11 Texas.

The Fiesta Bowl Tournament was Oregon's first opportunity to have the entire pitching staff available. Sophomore Amy Harris made her first appearances of the season, picking up an 0-1 record and four strikeouts in three appearances.

"It's good to get back out there because it's been so long," Harris said. "I was ready for it."

The Ducks face just one ranked team this weekend after playing three top-25 teams in Arizona. Regardless of rankings, the Ducks know they need to find their game for an entire day — not just one game. Part of their inconsistency stems from many players switching positions in the

offseason. The other main factor in Oregon's struggling focus is having such a young team. Although the Ducks have 11 returning players, they have six newcomers, including Nyhus and outfielder Suzie Barnes.

"I think at first, everybody was trying a little too hard," Poore said. "They weren't being themselves. Now, they've found what their roles are going to be on the team and they're doing a real good job."

It's the first of three trips to California for the Ducks, who also travel to UCLA and make a trip to California and Stanford.

The Campbell/Cartier Classic is held every year in memory of former San Diego State softball players Susanne Campbell and Karin Cartier. Campbell and Cartier lost their lives in a car accident during the 1991 softball season.

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TENNIS

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tough with all their talent this year. We're looking forward to the fight."

The Ducks dropped both contests with Washington last season, but with their renewed and impressive play so far, the women are viewing this match as a way to prove that they are legitimate contenders in the conference and in the country.

"We look at that as an opportunity," Schyllander said. "We feel like we match up pretty well (with them)."

Men head to California

The 59th-ranked Oregon men (6-1) want to build a new winning streak after suffering their first loss of the year against Boise State last Friday. They came back the next night to defeat Denver, 4-3.

"(We) let one get away against Boise State, but the guys played hard and stuck together," Oregon head coach Chris Russell said. "We should be riding some mojo into this weekend because the guys came together so well to close the Denver match."

The Ducks will compete against UC-Santa Barbara (3-4) today and No. 22 Oklahoma State (3-0) on

Saturday in Santa Clara, Calif.

Junior Sven Swinnen is becoming one of the top players for Oregon as he is just two wins away from entering the program's top-ten career wins list.

Santa Clara head coach Marty Davis said that his team's depth has been a key asset this season and he hopes it will be an advantage for his squad.

"We will have to play our best match of this young season to compete with the Ducks," Davis said. "Hopefully, we'll be inspired playing at home and be able to draw energy and motivation from our fans."

Alex Tam is a freelance reporter for the Emerald.

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WOMEN

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there every day, you've got to be driven, you've got to get loose balls. Those are the little things that make a big difference.

"... We've got to get back and play what I consider Oregon basketball and that's tough, in the trenches, down and dirty, don't care what the score is — you're going to give this University and this team your best and that's not happening with the five people we have on the floor."

Oregon grabbed a 13-9 lead seven minutes into the first half on a three-pointer by Davis. Arizona State responded with nine straight points, including a jump shot by guard Kylan Loney that gave the Sun Devils

an 18-13 lead.

Arizona State scored 11 of the next 19 points to take a 29-21 half-time lead.

Loney lead the Sun Devils with 14 points, while forward Kristen Kovseddy added 11.

Smith said the Ducks need to give a better effort in their remaining games.

"We have three games left in this season and we need five players that are going to come out and put aside all of the little differences that are making this season difficult," Smith said. "It's really easy to go through the season when you have a winning record but it's difficult to hang in there (when you're losing)."

Contact the sports reporter at jonroetman@dailyemerald.com.