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Chanticleers upset Ducks, end Oregon's streak at 14

Coastal Carolina scored two runs in the third inning to upend the Ducks in Florida

By **Mindi Rice**
Senior Sports Reporter

Before the No. 16 Oregon softball team lost two consecutive games for the second time this season Saturday, the Ducks were in the midst of a school-record 14-game winning streak.

But Oregon (17-6) suffered a 2-1 loss Saturday to Coastal Carolina in the Speedline Invitational in Clearwater, Fla., to snap the Ducks' streak.

In the top of the third inning, Coastal Carolina's Kristina Sheppard hit a two-run home run. In the bottom of the inning, Oregon catcher Jenn Poore scored on a double by shortstop Breanne Sabol to cut the deficit.

The Ducks couldn't score again, leaving four runners on base.

"We just needed a few more timely hits," Oregon head coach Kathy Arendsen said. "But I thought our players battled until the end and really believed they could find a way

to win. It just didn't go our way, but I'm pleased with how we continued to fight."

Team USA gave Oregon its second loss Saturday. It was the first of three consecutive games the Ducks will play against Olympic-qualifying teams.

Team Canada faces Oregon in a doubleheader Wednesday at 1 p.m. at Howe Field.

Team USA beat the Ducks, 7-0. Former Arizona pitcher Jennie Finch and Texas pitcher Cat Osterman combined for a one-hit shutout.

Left fielder Dani Baird accounted for Oregon's only hit of the game.

Oregon had kept its win streak going through Friday. The Ducks opened their day with a 4-1 win against Jacksonville.

Poore was 2 for 3 with two RBIs and a home run in the victory. Infielder Ashley Richards went 2 for 4, while pitcher Amy Harris pitched a complete game, allowing three hits and striking out seven.

"I like the fact that we're continuing to play with intensity and not having a let down," Arendsen said. "We have been playing to win and going out with a lot of fire and confidence."

In the second inning, second baseman Erin Goodell laid down a successful squeeze bunt that scored freshman Ann Marie Topps. In the

fourth, sophomore Beth Boskovich hit her first career triple to score Richards. She then scored on Poore's home run.

The final win in the Ducks' win streak was a 9-8 victory Friday against Northwestern.

Goodell hit a single to left field that scored Topps in the bottom of the seventh to give Oregon the victory.

"What a tremendous show of courage by our team today," Arendsen said. "We never gave up and when we were down we continued to battle. I thought our young players showed great poise and a great ability to keep fighting."

Oregon was behind 5-0 in the fourth inning when freshman Suzie Barnes hit a two RBI single. The next batter, freshman Kristi Leiter, hit a three-run home run over the right field fence — her first career home run — to tie the game.

In the bottom of the fifth, Oregon loaded the bases and scored two runners when Northwestern pitcher Courtney Foster threw two illegal pitches, advancing the runners.

After the doubleheader against Team Canada, Oregon travels to Las Vegas for games Friday and Saturday in the UNLV Tournament.

Contact the senior sports reporter at mindirice@dailyemerald.com.

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SPORTS BRIEFS

Jackson gets top team honor

There wasn't much surprise Sunday when the Ducks gave out their top team award.

Luke Jackson was named Oregon's most valuable player at the team's annual banquet after leading the Ducks in scoring with 21.6 points per game.

Jackson is just one of just a handful of players around the country to lead his team in points, rebounds (7.3) and assists (4.5) per game. He ranks second in the Pacific-10 Conference in scoring behind Arizona State's Ike Diogu, is fifth in rebounds and seventh in assists.

Jackson, who is a finalist for the Naismith and John R. Wooden awards, is the only player in Oregon's history to post three 500-point seasons. He scored 540 points this season, giving him 1,854 for his career, putting him third on Oregon's all-time list.

The past two Oregon team MVP's have gone on to be selected in the first round of their respective NBA Drafts. Frederick Jones won the award for the 2001-02 season and went 14th overall to Indiana. Luke

Ridnour won the award the next season and was taken 14th by Seattle.

Bryan Bracey won the award in 2000-01 and was selected in the second round, 58th overall by San Antonio.

Also at the banquet, seniors Jay Anderson and Andre Joseph shared the Jesse Nash most improved player award. Anderson was also named the John Warren most inspirational player.

Redshirt freshman Jordan Kent took home two awards. He was named the Rear Admiral John Dick defensive player of the year. He was also honored with the Harry Ritchie scholar-athlete award, the second year in a row he has won it.

Duck track and field gears up for NCAA Indoor Championships

Senior Ryan Andrus led a busy day for the Oregon track and field teams in Seattle on Saturday.

Andrus earned an automatic invite to the NCAA Indoor Championships next week in Fayetteville, Ark. He took second in the 5,000-meter race at the NCAA Last Chance Qualifier in the Dempsey Indoor with a time of 13 minutes, 51 seconds.

The mark was a 16-second personal

best for the Orem, Utah, native.

Andrus took home the team's only automatic mark of the day, but the Ducks earned six NCAA provisional marks in Seattle and Florida.

Junior pole vaulter Hannah Moore earned a provisional by taking a personal best in the event by clearing the 13-foot-5-inch mark.

Senior Eri Macdonald ran the 800 in 2:06.75, good enough for first in the event.

Meanwhile, in Florida at the Fast-Times Qualifier, Eric Mitchum ran a 7.26 in the 55 hurdles, giving him first and a NCAA provisional mark. Sophomore Matt Scherer took third in the 400 with a time of 47.25, good for an NCAA provisional mark.

The NCAA will announce the field for the championships today. A minimum of 15 athletes will compete in each event with as many as 21 possible.

In addition to Andrus, Oregon is guaranteed to send athletes for three more events. Freshman Tommy Skipper will compete in the pole vault, while junior Magdalena Sandoval earned an automatic berth in the 5,000. The men's 4x400 relay team — which consists of Scherer, Travis Anderson, Brandon Holliday and Roderick Dotts — will also compete.

— Hank Hager

Music and Dance

UO School of Music & Department of Dance

MARCH CONCERTS

For more information on School of Music events, call 346-5678.

Mar. 8-11 CLIFFORD MADSEN: Visiting Professor
Free lectures on music education topics at 1 p.m. on 3/8, 3/10, and 3/11. Call 346-5678 for more info.

Mon. 3/8 OREGON PERCUSSION ENSEMBLE
UO Ensemble 8 p.m., Beall Hall
\$5 General Admission, \$3 students & senior citizens

Tue. 3/9 OREGON JAZZ ENSEMBLE + LAB BANDS
UO Jazz Ensembles 8 p.m., Beall Hall
\$5 General Admission, \$3 students & senior citizens

Wed. 3/10 DANCE QUARTERLY
Department of Dance 7 p.m., Dougherty Theatre
FREE Admission

Wed. 3/10 UO CONCERT CHOIR
UO Ensemble + Guest Choirs 8 p.m., Beall Hall
\$5 General Admission, \$3 students & senior citizens

Thu. 3/11 NEW CENTURY SAXOPHONE QUARTET
UO Chamber Music Series 8 p.m., Beall Hall
Reserved seats \$12, \$25, \$29; in advance from Hult Center (682-5000) or EMU (346-4363).

Sat. 3/13 UO GOSPEL ENSEMBLES
UO Ensembles 3 p.m., Eugene Christian Fellowship
\$8 General Admission, \$5 students & senior citizens

Sun. 3/14 UO PERCUSSION ENSEMBLE
UO Ensemble 2 p.m., 198 Music
\$5 General Admission, \$3 students & senior citizens

UNIVERSITY OF OREGON

For our complete calendar, check: music.uoregon.edu

WOULD YOU LIKE TO BE HEARD?

Gregory Vincent, Vice Provost for Institutional Equity and Diversity invites you to attend an open mic listening session ...

- Wednesday, March 10, 2004 9:30 am to 11:00 am
- Thursday, March 11, 2004 9:30 am to 11:00 am
Emphasis on issues facing students of color
- Tuesday, March 16, 2004 3:00 pm to 4:30 pm
- Wednesday, March 31, 2004 11:30 am to 1:00 pm
Emphasis on issues facing faculty & staff of color and diversity community staff members

The Vice Provost wants to hear what you have to say on issues of institutional equity and diversity. What are the challenges and opportunities for the University of Oregon in the areas of institutional equity and diversity?

All sessions are open to the University Community, faculty, staff, and students and will be held in the EMU Gumwood Room. For further information, contact 346-3186

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