

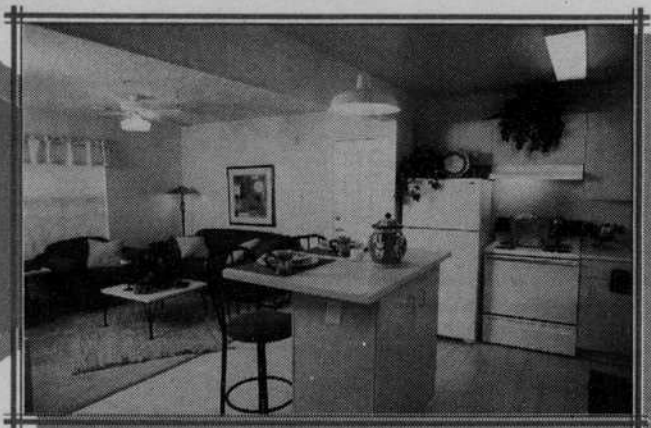
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SOFTBALL

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Friday, Nyhus relieved Amy Harris in the top of the third inning after Anissa Meashintubby and Harris combined to give up eight runs to Oregon State. Nyhus struck out the first batter she faced and shut down the Beavers in the non-stop rain.

"In the situation, all you can look for is to get out of it," Nyhus said. "I think everybody's attitudes were down. It was a time when you come in and you just have to make sure nothing else happens."

The No. 17 Ducks (25-9 overall, 1-0 Pac-10) were down 8-3 when Nyhus came into the game. It looked like she was the life support to keep Oregon from losing by the eight-run rule until shortstop Breanne Sabol kicked off the bottom of the seventh with a single to left field.

Suddenly the Ducks didn't look lethargic for the first time all day. After singles and two walks, the Beavers returned starting pitcher Monica Hoffman to the circle. Pinch hitter Julie Jaime brought Oregon to within two runs with a sacrifice fly that scored one, leaving two runners on with two outs.

Center fielder Suzie Barnes walked

to load the bases. Hoffman gave up a run when she hit catcher Jenn Poore with a pitch. That drew the Ducks to within one, 8-7, with two outs and the bases loaded.

"We were thinking 'OK, at least we won't get beat that bad,'" Sabol said. "Then all of the sudden we just kept scoring and scoring and scoring, and then it was like 'Oh, we're going to win this game.' I knew if I got up again, I was going to get a hit."

That she did, as Sabol's single to left center drove in pinch runner Ann Marie Topps and Barnes to give Oregon the 9-8 victory in the bottom of the seventh, ending the three-hour and 10-minute game.

In Saturday's first game against Utah State, the Aggies scored three runs off Harris in the top of the second inning to take the early lead. The Ducks scored a run each in the second, fifth and sixth to tie the game.

Meashintubby, who relieved Harris in the second, threw 7.2 innings. With two outs in the top of the ninth, Meashintubby gave up a two-run home run to give Utah State a 5-3 lead. She gave up singles to the next two batters before Nyhus came in and faced one batter to record the final out.

"I didn't want to (bring Nyhus in)," Oregon head coach Kathy Arendsen said. "But I had to. Anissa was tiring, she had thrown well over 100 pitches."

Oregon's Hudson led off the bottom of the ninth with a home run to left center field but the Ducks couldn't add any more runs in the 5-4 loss.

Contact the senior sports

reporter

TRACK

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meashintubby.com 15.78 in the 110 hurdles, 131-5 in the discus, 14-3.25 in the pole vault, 142-8 in the javelin and 4:26.53 in the 1,500.

The Yoncalla native's marks in the 110 hurdles, discus, pole vault and javelin were all personal bests.

While the trio's numbers were impressive, Oregon decathlon coach Bill Lawson said the best part about the decathletes' performances was battling through fatigue.

"They were tenacious competitors," Lawson said. "They had some bumps along the way, but overcame them, just like the indoors thanks to a great competitive attitude and competitive desire. Even at the end when it was 90 degrees and windy, and they had been out there for seven hours, they stepped up again and ran great 1,500's. I'm really proud of them, and looking forward to them doing even better at Pac-10's."

Redshirt junior Leonidas Watson contributed to Oregon's successful spring break on Saturday when he won the long jump in the University of Arizona's Jim Click Shootout.

The St. Louis Community College transfer made his first outdoor jumping appearance of 2004 a memorable one with a mark of 25-4.5. The jump fell only 3.5 inches short of his outdoor best.

Watson added a second-place performance in the triple jump with a mark of 51-5, 3.5 inches behind Arizona's J.R. Harrison.

Oregon junior Derek Strubel earned Pac-10 and regional invitations in the triple jump with a mark of 50-0.75. Strubel's mark raised his personal best by more than three inches.

Three Ducks also placed in the top 10 in the high jump. Sophomore Jeff Lindsey finished seventh (6-8.75), while sophomore Teddy Davis and redshirt freshman Bobby Owen finished tied for 10th (6-6.75).

Contact the sports reporter
at jonroetman@dailymerald.com.

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