

# OFFENSE

continued from page 7

kid brings a different element — we have some who are speedy, some who see the ball well, and others who have their own specialties. A lot of kids are putting last year's experiences to good use."

As a team, the Ducks have improved their batting average from last season's .258. Through Sunday, Oregon is batting .284.

## Home, home on the road

At both Washington and UCLA, the Ducks had a reasonable cheering section in the stands. Four Oregon players call the state of Washington home,

while at least three California natives had family at the UCLA games. Pitcher Ani Nyhus, from White Rock, British Columbia, even got a surprise visit from her mom at Friday's game.

"She hasn't seen me pitch in about four years," Nyhus said. "She took a day from work to come to the game."

First baseman Kristi Leiter, from Lake Stevens, Wash., scored the first run for the Ducks on Friday with a home run to the bleachers in right field.

"In front of her high school team, her summer team and her friends and family," Arendsen said. "She hit a home run in her first game at home. That's just the thrill of a lifetime."

Leiter, Nyhus, third baseman

Ashley Richards, outfielder Dani Baird and outfielder Suzie Barnes all had family at the Husky game. Julie Jaime, Beth Boskovich and Breanne Sabol each had family at the UCLA games.

## Pitching her way up

In Friday's victory, Nyhus threw 11 strikeouts against the Huskies. Add in her six k's Saturday and one Sunday and the transfer junior is already up to 128 strikeouts this season. That puts Nyhus at No. 10 on Oregon's all-time career strikeout list. The 128 strikeouts also put her at fifth all-time for a single season with 14 regular season games remaining.

Contact the senior sports reporter at [mindirice@dailymerald.com](mailto:mindirice@dailymerald.com).

# HAGER

continued from page 7

early and see the shoot around. Better yet, stand behind the glass and flinch as each puck flies toward you during warmups. Know it won't hit you, but pretend. Practice those reflexes, stay limber.

Just remember what it was like when you were young, when your innocence was more than a forgotten memory.

I know when that exact moment struck me.

As much as Barry Bonds has had a cloud fly over him for the start of the 2004 season, seeing him hit No. 660 for his career was cathartic. He did something that only three other players in history had ever done. That dates back to 1876 when the National

League was officially formed.

That's more than 125 years. Think about it. Digest it.

Can you really tell me now that steroids are too much of an issue for you to stand in amazement at what he did? Is it possible to let that scandal sit in your head long enough to keep from enjoying what may be the most significant record in our lifetime?

I hope not.

I was never a huge Bonds fan, not until recently. I had heard the stories about him being rude, selfish and just generally a bad person.

It drove me away from liking the man, even though I grew up a San Francisco Giants fan.

Then I realized it all didn't matter. It came back to me. I remembered what it was like to sit in the stands and watch batting practice as baseballs

flew more than 400 feet toward the center field seats.

I remembered my days at Candlestick Park, how I swore I would never call it 3Com Park.

Those were the days when baseball was baseball. And when football players went to the trenches and the beauty of a spiral thrown by John Elway, Dan Marino and Joe Montana was a thing of beauty rivaled by no other.

I remembered all those things last week as I watched Willie Mays embrace Bonds. Everything came back to me.

The good old days.

And how they can come alive again.

Contact the sports editor at [hankhager@dailymerald.com](mailto:hankhager@dailymerald.com). His opinions do not necessarily represent those of the Emerald.

# BACKUPS

continued from page 7

defense, if you're the guy in the gap, then you're going to make the tackle, (if not) we're in trouble. We still have to play harder and faster."

With Rodney Woods out of practice Monday because of an elbow sprain suffered before the scrimmage, Gipsen practiced with the No. 1 defense for most of the afternoon.

It is expected, however, that Woods will be practicing with the team as the week progresses. J.D. Nelson, who missed the scrimmage because of a concussion, practiced Monday.

## What was that sighting?

The injury bug that hit Oregon during the 2003 season has evidently continued and claimed some special teams talent.

Before the Ducks scrimmaged Saturday, they practiced special teams

situations. Seen snapping during punts at one point was Leaf.

The situation seemed even more dire during the scrimmage when Marques Binns blocked a Jared Siegel 35-yard field goal attempt. The snap appeared to be high on the play and could have affected Siegel's timing.

Later on, Clemens found Kause for a two-point conversion after the snap on the point after the touchdown was misplayed.


"We have some issues in the kicking game right now with our snapping," Bellotti. "Again, a couple of our field goal snappers were out (Saturday) due to injury or academic suspension. Obviously we were down to our third-string snapper and we didn't have good continuity in terms of snap and hold."

One of the first couple of snaps from Leaf?


Errant, of course.

Contact the sports editor at [hankhager@dailymerald.com](mailto:hankhager@dailymerald.com).

Advertise in the ODE classifieds 346-4343



942-8730



484-1927

**STUDENT SPECIAL**  
**GOLF 9 HOLES \$10**  
*Students Only. Must show ID. (Monday - Friday)*

# ROOM RACE

2004

WANT TO LIVE IN THE HALLS NEXT YEAR?

**APRIL 15—RACE STARTS**

Online application—<http://housing.uoregon.edu/roomrace>

The sooner you apply the more choices you have for single rooms, creating your own neighborhood, and picking your complex. (Only current residents using a campus ethernet or UO modem connection have access.)

**MAY 10 at noon—APPLICATIONS DUE**  
*(There is no application fee for returning residents.)*

**MAY 11—ROOM SELECTION**

 UNIVERSITY OF OREGON

DAILY SPECIALS • FULL BAR • LIVE MUSIC • POOL • VIDEO POKER • DAILY SPECIALS • FULL BAR • LIVE MUSIC • POOL • VIDEO POKER • DAILY SPECIALS • FULL BAR • LIVE MUSIC • POOL • VIDEO POKER

# MAD'S

## at the Vet's Club

Live Music This Week!

WEDNESDAY APRIL 21 • FREE  
**Open Mic with Pete Christie**  
*All welcome*

THURSDAY APRIL 22 • FREE  
**Christie & McCallum**  
*Honky Tonk/Rock*

FRIDAY APRIL 23 • \$2  
**Juke Joint Blue**  
*Blues*

SATURDAY APRIL 24 • \$3  
**Paul Biondi & The Peter Girl Project**

(541) 344-8600 • 1626 Willamette St.  
LUNCH: Tuesday-Friday • 11:30-2:00 pm  
DINNER: Tuesday-Saturday • beginning at 4 pm

## What are *your plans* after graduation?

---


**Apply now to Willamette's Master of Arts in Teaching program and this time next year, you could be teaching.**

---

Begin our 10-month MAT program in August and by next June, you'll be certified to teach — regardless of your college major.

With the recent rise in teacher retirements, more jobs are becoming available than expected. We prepare leaders for the next generation of teachers.

*Call us at 503-375-5453 to talk about opportunities and how to apply.*



**WILLAMETTE**  
THE FIRST UNIVERSITY IN THE WEST  
900 STATE STREET, SALEM, OREGON 97301  
503-370-6303 [WWW.WILLAMETTE.EDU](http://WWW.WILLAMETTE.EDU)