

"It's really a shame (former Dodgers pitcher Orel) Hershiser had to resort to cheating to win. It tarnishes his legacy, if you ask me."

Former MLB all-star Jose Canseco in his new book, accusing Hershiser of scuffing balls

■ In my opinion



BRIAN SMITH
LEFTY SPECIALIST

Canseco will be 'Juiced' after release of new book

How's the Fat Tuesday hangover?

I hope you all got your sins and transgressions (and beads) out of the way last night, because it is now time to celebrate the Day of Ashes.

Or in simpler terms...

The season of Lent has come around yet again, and in tribute I thought I would do my part and repent for something in the world of sports.

I thought this might be tough. I don't really have anything to feel guilty about, except maybe the fact that I think curling is a cool sport.

But this idea of repentance got a whole lot easier after yesterday.

So here it goes.

I repent ever, I mean, ever giving any credit to Jose Canseco and the fact that he was a Major League Baseball player.

Reason(s): Where do I start?

How 'bout we start with the book. What book, you ask?

"Juiced: Wild Times, Rampant 'Roids, Smash Hits, and How Baseball Got Big" — set to be released on Monday.

Valentine's Day, no less.

Last week, the word got out that in his book, Canseco wrote that he personally injected steroids into fellow Bash Brother Mark McGuire.

Through ESPN, we (the world) were blessed with some of the Robert Frost-esque musings and observations of a Bash Brother's years in the Major Leagues before the book's release.

Mind you, these are just specific sections, but still I think the words speak for themselves.

According to Canseco, former Dodger pitcher Orel Hershiser scuffed the ball in the 1988 World Series, causing both the Bash Brothers to get one hit apiece the entire series.

"They didn't want a bunch of Latin and black players like me and (Dave Stewart) and (Dave Henderson) winning the World Series," Canseco writes. "It's a real shame Hershiser had to resort to cheating to win, though. It tarnishes his legacy, if you ask me."

Cheating tarnishes legacies?

That sounds like first-hand knowledge to me. Know what I mean, Canseco?

(As a note: Canseco went 0 for 8 in the two games that Hershiser pitched in. In the other three, he went 1 for 11.)

Clearly, Hershiser pitched all five games. Clearly.

Canseco goes on to say that Cincinnati threw the 1990 World Series against the Reds — hitting 1 for 12 during the four-game sweep — so that his buddy Pete Rose could collect on his bets.

Boy, that legacy is just getting better by the moment.

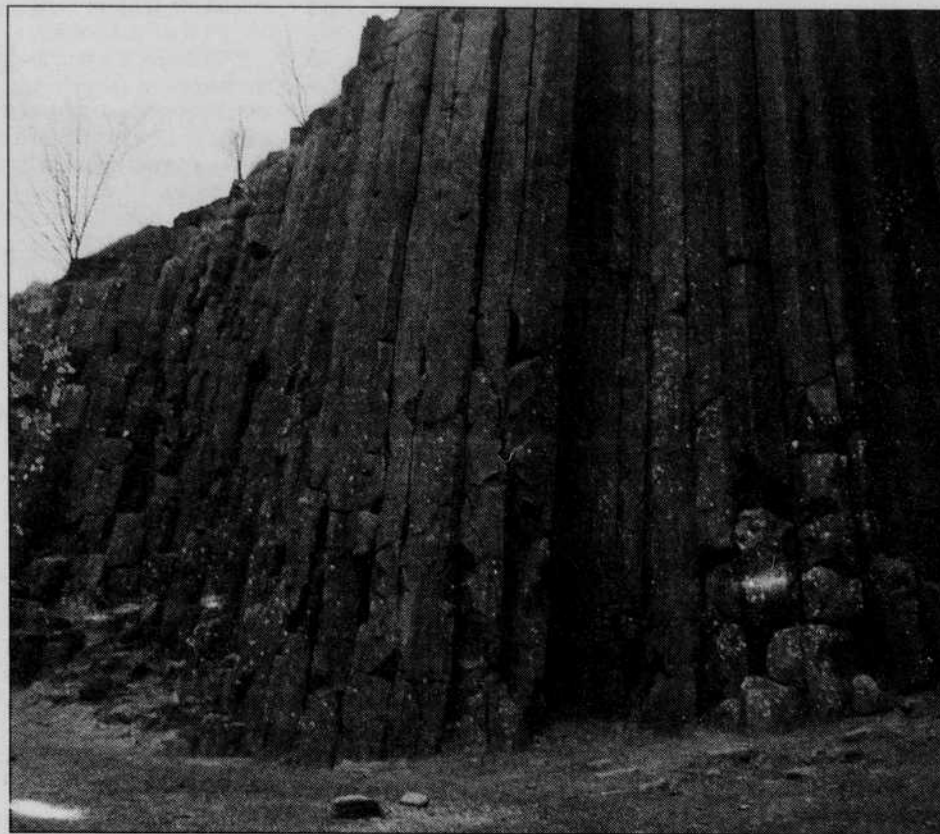
Wait, wait, I can keep going.

Canseco gives himself some credit for saving baseball after the 1994 labor strike.

"People like to credit Cal Ripken for

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■ Outdoor recreation



ASHLEY GRIFFIN | OUTDOOR SPORTS REPORTER

Located on the west side of the butte is one of Skinner Butte Park's biggest draws, The Columns. This area provides some of the best outdoor urban climbing.

No-snow winter alternative

Skinner Butte boasts outdoor recreation activities to supplant lackluster winter sport terrains

BY ASHLEY GRIFFIN
OUTDOOR RECREATION REPORTER

Mt. Bachelor has 56 inches of snow, Mt. Hood Meadows has 34 inches at the base and 58 inches mid-mountain and Hoodoo describes their runs as "lots of bare areas with some new snow." The forecast for a big winter snowfall doesn't look promising.

For many of Eugene's winter recreation enthusiasts, the lack of snow has caused a case of cabin fever. To beat the blues, many have tried seeking new activities at a local venue. That something new could be found at Skinner Butte Park, a 100 acre property just across the train tracks above downtown Eugene.

With the clear skies and high temperatures of late, the activities at Skinner Butte provide many outdoor recreation opportunities for students. The park features baseball and softball areas, a community garden, picnic tables, a playground with slides and swings, a climbing area, and numerous walking and hiking paths.

A popular park attraction is the overlook area where people can stand on this summit and view the entire city, including the University neighborhood and many downtown landmarks. The Three Sisters and the Willamette river are also visible, making it possible to capture the town and surrounding environment with one quick click of a camera shutter.

"It gives you this great overview of the community to get the lay of the land and check things out," said Robin Hostick, a landscape architect for the City of Eugene Parks and Open Space Division.

The park has about four miles of trails, some branching directly off the summit. Most aren't very challenging or lengthy but provide a nice walk in nature. Some trails are paved and lined with moss-covered

rocks and ferns; others are dirt and go deeper into the woods. Wooden stairs aid hikers in steep areas.

Arguably the biggest draw of Skinner Butte is an area known as The Columns. Located on the west side of the butte, it has become a well-known public climbing area. Best of all, it's free. Left over from a basalt quarry that operated between the early 1890s and 1930s, The Columns provide superb outdoor urban climbing.

Lo Williams, a student at Oregon State University, drove to Eugene to check out REI and The Columns. She started climbing a year ago and was able to adapt to her ideal route on the rocks. The difficulty of routes increases from left to right, making The Columns a good place for both experienced and inexperienced climbers.

Kim Haase, an Oregon student who works at the Crux Rock Climbing Gym in Eugene, said it is a good place to train and learn how to use rock climbing gear.

"It's a gym for crack climbers," she said, explaining that places like The Columns offer a more realistic experience for climbing than gyms do.

The Columns get busy when the sun is out, so now is a perfect time for gear-laden climbers to acquaint themselves with the structure.

Dedicated in 1914, Skinner Butte has been providing recreation opportunities for many years and is one of Eugene's oldest and most diverse parks.

"One thing it offers is a sense of Eugene's past," Hostick said. "It's not the city's oldest park, but it is the second oldest. It has been a center of activity and recreation for the city for decades."

Whether students are looking for hiking, climbing, history or a spectacular view, Skinner Butte is worth the five-minute drive from campus. Why not make it a complete outdoor experience and hop on a bike to get rid of that cabin fever?

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■ Club Sports

Discipline leads Club hockey to double win

After sweeping its series against Western Washington, Oregon improved its record to 18-4-2

BY LUKE ANDREWS
FREELANCE REPORTER

Discipline has been a recurring theme of the Oregon Club hockey team's season so far.

This weekend was a perfect example.

On the road against Western Washington, the Ducks committed fewer than 10 combined penalties in back-to-back victories. In each of its four losses, however, Oregon has been more frequently penalized.

"We are trying to stress discipline, especially heading into the Pac-8 Tournament," Captain Mike Tornabene said. "We can win a game on discipline alone."

In the first of two games against the Vikings, Oregon committed only three penalties — compared with Western Washington's 11 — as the Ducks cruised to a commanding 11-2 victory.

Oregon then swept the series a night later, winning 9-1. Once again, the Ducks' penalties were few and far between, which led to the convincing victory.

"They were a really physical team and kept trying to draw us into fights," Tornabene said. "But we were really disciplined and out-skated them."

With the two wins, Oregon's record improved to 18-4-2.

The Ducks conclude the regular season this weekend at home against the Boise State Broncos then will travel to Berkeley, Calif., for the Pac-8 Tournament on Feb. 18.

Leary takes first in fencing

The Oregon Club fencing team had an impressive showing this weekend at the Grand Open in Beaverton.

Joe Leary took home first place in the

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IN BRIEF

Third baseman suffers elbow injury during Oregon's 5-0 win

After a promising start to her Oregon career, Joanna Gail will have to wait to contribute more to the Duck softball team.

The freshman third baseman is out indefinitely after dislocating her left elbow during Oregon's 5-0 win against Jacksonville last Saturday. Gail began her college career going 2 for 3 with a double, a grand slam and six RBIs in the Ducks' 14-0 season-opening win against Indiana Purdue Fort Wayne.

"Obviously we are very disappointed by this injury," Oregon head coach Kathy Arendsen said. "The good thing is that we do have great depth this season, and this will provide an opportunity for others to step up, and I know we will fill that role until Joanna's return."

Gail, who played for Team Greece in the 2004 summer Olympics, is expected to return at some point during the season. Senior Ashley Richards started all 63 games at third base for the Ducks last season and could move from catcher to third base to replace Gail. Freshman Kristi Jorgensen replaced Gail in the Jacksonville game and started at third in the final three games of the Hawaii Paradise Classic.

— Oregon Media Services