

■ Duck softball

# Ducks split doubleheader with Viking competitors

After winning game one with a 2-1 score, Oregon lost the second game 6-5

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SPORTS EDITOR

The 13th-ranked Oregon softball team rode the arm of freshman Alicia Cook to a home victory against Portland State in the first game of a doubleheader, but the Ducks couldn't finish the sweep against the stingy Vikings, losing game two 6-5 Sunday. The two games were the first ever played in February at Howe Field.

Cook, a native of Elmira, overcame first-inning jitters in game one to throw a three-hitter complete game with an impressive 12 strikeouts — tying the third highest total ever at Oregon — in the Ducks' 2-1 victory over the Vikings.

"I thought Cook pitched spectacular," Oregon head coach Kathy Arendsen said. "Twelve strikeouts in her first home appearance is pretty great."

The right-hander started the game shaky after giving up back-to-back doubles to Portland State's Kimi Daniel and Mandy Hill, which gave the Vikings (2-4 overall) an early 1-0 lead.

Oregon (6-4) responded when freshman left fielder Lovena Chaput drove a 2-2 pitch down the right-field line for a double, followed by a drive off the right-center-field wall by shortstop Breanne Sabol for an RBI double, scoring Chaput and tying the game at one apiece.

The hot-hitting Suzie Barnes ignited Oregon's game-winning run when she singled to lead off the fifth inning. Chaput laid down a sacrifice bunt, moving Barnes to second base. Barnes went to third on Sabol's second hit of the game and scored on Beth Boskovich's deep sacrifice fly to right field.

Cook (3-1) finished up the game allowing only one hit after the first inning and only two runners to get on base.

"I was definitely nervous," Cook said of pitching in front of her friends and family for the first time in college. "The last time I pitched, I didn't really have a good game ... The ball was moving better today, and I had better spin."

In the second game, a slugfest broke out with the Vikings coming



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Oregon's Breanne Sabol keeps her foot on the bag at second in the Ducks' 6-5 loss to Portland State in the second game of a doubleheader.



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Oregon's Alicia Cook shut down Portland State in the first game of the doubleheader, throwing a complete game three-hitter with 12 strikeouts in the Ducks' 2-1 victory.

out the victors. Oregon took an early advantage in the bottom of the second inning when Erin Goodell singled in Dani Baird, but Portland State left fielder Laura Segall threw out T.J. Eadus at the plate when she tried to score from second base.

Barnes then ripped an RBI triple that hit the very top of the fence and bounced back — inches from a home run. The extra-base hit gave the Ducks a 2-0 lead.

Portland State battled back in the top of the fourth when Kayla Lewis lined an Amy Harris pitch over the left-center-field wall for a game-tying, two-run homer. Lewis came into the game hitting below .100, but went 2 for 3 with a double and a home run in the second game.

In the bottom half of the inning,

Barnes stepped up for the Ducks again and blasted a two-run homer over the center-field fence to give the Ducks a 4-2 lead. The home run was Barnes' team-leading fourth of the season and her fourth within one week.

The Vikings bounced back with three runs in the top of the fifth inning when Alayna Petersen blasted a three-run home run over the left-field fence to give Portland State a one-run lead at 5-4.

Oregon fought back, picking up a run to tie the score at five in the bottom half of the inning from a walk, a sacrifice bunt and a wild throw by Portland State catcher Rose Rutledge trying to toss out Boskovich at third base.

No one scored again until the seventh inning when Ani Nyhus, who came in to relieve Harris in the sixth inning, gave up a lead-off double to Whitney Olsen. Cook then came into the game for the Ducks and threw out the first hitter she faced, who laid down a sacrifice bunt.

Portland State's Daniel got jammed with an inside fastball from Cook, but hit enough of it to drop the ball into right field, giving the Vikings the lead for good at 6-5.

Oregon got a runner on second base with one out in the final inning, but Boskovich and Ashley Richards both struck out to end the game.

"Sometimes it comes down to who wants it more, and it was pretty apparent they did," Arendsen said. "We have some work to do before we are a good ball club."

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# Women: Bills, Kraayeveld both record double-doubles

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within single digits. Combined, the freshmen scored nine of the Duck's first 12 points, with Forristall connecting on 4 of 4 from the free-throw line and Richards hitting a three-pointer from the corner to pull the Ducks within two with 11:49 left to go in the first half.

"We were very tentative (in the beginning). I think a little bit of it was the emotions," Oregon head coach Bev Smith said. "But we didn't struggle defensively, which helped us stay in the game. When we did make some substitutions, we became better in terms of our offensive execution."

The Ducks took their first lead of the game when sophomore Eleanor Haring made a pair of made free throws with 6:21 remaining in the first half. After that point, the Ducks would never relinquish their lead. Oregon pushed the lead to 32-23 with 1:24 to go in the half on a pair of three-pointers by senior Brandi Davis and redshirt freshman Kaela Chapdelaine.

In the first half, the Ducks shot 5 of 13 from behind the three-point line and sunk 10 of 12 free throws. In contrast, Arizona connected on 1 of 5 from behind the arc and 4 of 5 from the free-throw line.

On the year, the Ducks are 15-1 when leading at halftime.

Oregon took the momentum from the end of the first half and used it to build a quick 17-point lead after three consecutive three-pointers — two of them by Kraayeveld.

"We just tried to start the second half strong, and they just came out on fire," Arizona head coach Joan Bonvicini said. "And from that point, we were on our heels."

Kraayeveld ended the game with 14 points on 4 of 14 shooting, 12 rebounds, three assists and two blocks. Twelve of her points came on three-pointers. The senior from Kirkland, Wash., recorded her eighth double-double of the year and the 27th of her career. Her 14 points marks the 20th time this year that she has scored in double figures.

Kraayeveld helped an Oregon defense that for the 15th time this season, held an opponent to under 60 points.

The duo of Kraayeveld and Bills kept the ninth-ranked scorer in the Pac-10 — Arizona's junior center Shawntinice Polk — to seven points on 3 of 8 shooting from the field. The 6-foot-5 Polk managed only 14 points combined in both games against Oregon this season.



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Oregon senior Cathrine Kraayeveld, left, walks off the floor in her final home game and fellow seniors Andrea Bills, center, and Corrie Mizusawa congratulate her during the Ducks' 69-51 victory against Arizona on Saturday.

"Tonight we played much better defense (than in the previous Arizona game)," Bills said. "(In Tucson) we allowed way more transition points, and even though they had a lot in the first half, in the second half we really buckled down."

Bills added her own double-double to the game with 10 points and 10 rebounds in 29 minutes of play.

Arizona threatened only once more, cutting the lead to 48-41 on a fast-break layup by senior Dee-Dee Wheeler, who led all scorers with 20 points, with 11:10 left in the second half. After a timeout a minute later, Kraayeveld hit her fourth three-pointer of the game to push the lead back to 10.

"We knew they were going to make runs," Kraayeveld said. "We just have to be able to stop those runs and stay aggressive and keep communicating, and I think we did that."

Davis pushed the lead back up to 17 with 4:23 to play on her fourth three-pointer of the game. The Wildcats were unable to get within 14 during the final four minutes.

Davis, who will return next year for her final year of eligibility, led all Duck scorers with 19 points on 7 of 15 shooting.

With 1:23 left in game and Kraayeveld at the line, seniors Bills and Mizusawa received a standing ovation as they made their way to the bench. After sinking her two free-throws, Kraayeveld followed suit and the three exchanged high fives. The seniors have provided an integral part to a team that has the ability to reach to NCAA tournament for the first time under Smith.

"We wanted two things," Smith said. "To be undefeated at home and to get high in the rankings so that we can secure a bid in the NCAA tournament. Our team deserves this victory, and I'm proud of them."

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