



KATE HORTON | PHOTOGRAPHER

Oregon's Breanne Sabol slides into third base in the Ducks' sweep of Santa Clara in a doubleheader at Howe Field on Monday. Sabol went 4 for 7 in the two games with four RBIs and a run scored.



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Oregon third baseman T.J. Eadus gets a hit during Oregon's win against Santa Clara in game one Monday. The freshman went 2 for 3 with two RBIs against the Broncos.

■ Duck softball

Oregon sweeps Santa Clara with back-to-back shutouts

The Ducks captured two 5-0 victories behind the arms of pitchers Alicia Cook and Lindsey Kontra

BY CLAYTON JONES
SPORTS EDITOR

It was an early Monday morning for the 25th-ranked Oregon softball team, but as they say, the early bird gets the worm. Most of the Ducks flew into Eugene in the wee hours of the morning just in time to come out and sweep a doubleheader against Santa Clara at Howe Field.

The Ducks (25-13 overall, 3-4 Pacific-10 Conference), who recently lost back-to-back games to No. 2 Arizona on Saturday and Sunday and defeated No. 18 Arizona State on Friday, took four different flights to get back home to play the doubleheader against the Broncos, with the first leaving at 6:40 a.m.

Freshman pitcher Alicia Cook said it was a late night for the Ducks getting back from their game against the Wildcats on Sunday night.

"We didn't get to the hotel till 12 (a.m.) and then we had to leave again at 4 (a.m.), so we didn't get a lot of sleep," Cook said. "But the team really pulled together today and helped each other to get through it."

In the first game of the doubleheader, Oregon relied on the arm of Cook and the bats of T.J. Eadus and Breanne Sabol to defeat Santa Clara, 5-0.

Cook (7-4) went the distance, as she struck out nine, walked none and gave up four hits.

"I felt good today," the Elmira, Ore. native said. "My pitches were moving better, and it just felt good."

The Oregon offense started off slow

against Santa Clara pitcher Liz Courter but got things going in the bottom of the fourth inning when Kristi Leiter drove a double into the left-center-field gap to start the inning. Right fielder Dani Baird doubled next, but Leiter had to hold up on third base. Eadus then drilled a line-drive single to right, letting Leiter score and giving the Ducks a 1-0 lead.

Oregon scored three more the next inning, capped off by another RBI single for Eadus. The freshman went 2 for 3 with two RBIs.

Sabol drove in the final run of the game in the fifth inning with a single.

The Ducks got another great pitching performance in game two, this time from senior Lindsey Kontra, to once again defeat the Broncos, 5-0.

Kontra baffled Santa Clara hitters all game with her change up, giving up six hits and no runs with four strikeouts.

Oregon head coach Kathy Arendsen said she was really pleased with her pitchers Monday.

"Both Lindsey and Alicia stepped up for us on a day where it would be easy to not hit spots and not be focused, but they were," the third-year coach said. "They made big pitches when they needed them."

The Ducks got going in the bottom of the third inning when Erin Goodell lined a triple over the center fielder's head and Lovena Chaput hit a sacrifice fly to give Oregon a 1-0 lead.

Hot-hitting Sabol was up next and smashed an RBI double to give the Ducks a 2-0 advantage. Sabol, who

moved up to the No. 2 spot in the lineup, went 4 for 7 with four RBIs, two stolen bases and a run scored in the doubleheader.

Sabol is now hitting .345 on the season, good for first on the team, and said her success is just a matter of getting good pitches to hit.

"I just feel like I'm seeing the ball better," the shortstop said. "I'm picking up better pitches, and I'm not swinging at balls."

Arendsen said the offense that Sabol has provided for the team has just added to how valuable she is to the team.

"Bre is such a great defender that we don't put a lot of pressure on her offensively and ask her 'What can you do for us?'" Arendsen said. "She is our best bunter and now she is really throwing her hands and getting the ball in play."

"She is a talented, talented player and there is nobody she can't hit," Arendsen said.

To cap Oregon's scoring for the day, right fielder Kayleen Hudson drove a ball over the right-center-field wall for a home run to give the Ducks a 5-0 lead.

Next up for the Ducks is a weekend series at Howe Field against No. 3 Cal on Friday at 4 p.m. and No. 6 Stanford on Saturday and Sunday, both at 1 p.m.

"This gives us some momentum going into a very difficult Pac-10 series at home," Arendsen said. "Cal is number three and Stanford is in the top 10, but they have to come to Howe where we like to play."

"Hopefully we have built some confidence back."

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■ Duck tennis

Tennis teams end losing streaks with big victories

The Oregon women defeated San Diego on Sunday, and the men snapped their 11-game losing streak with a win against Arizona

BY ALEX TAM
DAILY EMERALD FREELANCE REPORTER

Ever since Davina Mendiburu arrived in Eugene four years ago, she has been one of the Ducks' most consistent players in the top half of the lineup.

But for the first time in her career, Mendiburu was finally recognized nationally when she entered the rankings last week as the No. 81 singles player.

"It feels good, but at the same time, it's not such a big surprise because I think I deserve it," Mendiburu, 22, said. "I've been working hard, and I've been beating very good players. It's really exciting, but I want to show everybody that I deserve it, and by doing that I need to win more matches."

The Ducks now have three players ranked in the nation's top 100. Oregon head coach Nils Schyllander said he attributes the team's success this season to that fact.

"When you win a lot and when you pick up good wins, you're going to get ranked," Schyllander said.

On Sunday, the No. 24 Ducks (14-7 overall, 2-5 Pacific-10 Conference) snapped a six-match

losing streak when they defeated San Diego, 5-2, during a southern California road trip. Two days earlier, Oregon lost a close 4-3 match to Long Beach State.

"We bounced back well after a disappointing loss Friday," Schyllander said. "This team was not going to be beaten (Sunday)."

In Sunday's victory, Mendiburu continued her hot play as she won her career-best and team-high 21st match of the season. She has won six of her last eight matches. The Menton, France, native defeated San Diego's Tara Livesay in straight sets, 6-1, 6-1.

Oregon's Dominika Dieskova notched a victory at the No. 2 position after defeating Lauren Kazarian, 6-3, 7-5. The 20-year-old Dieskova improved her record to 19-12 overall. Her 19 victories are just one shy of her career-high, which she set last season.

However, the Ducks' third-ranked player, Daria Panova, fell at the No. 1 position, losing to San Diego's Emma Murphy in straight sets, 6-0, 6-3. Panova is currently ranked 49th in the nation.

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■ Duck golf

Seven is lucky number for men's and women's golf

Both teams finished in seventh place at their respective tournaments with Gregg LaVoie and Johnna Nealy leading each Duck squad

BY SCOTT J. ADAMS
DAILY EMERALD FREELANCE REPORTER

The Oregon men's golf team bolstered its campaign for a spot at this year's NCAA Regionals on Saturday after shooting an 11-over 295 in the final round of the ASU Thunderbird Invitational, which placed them in a tie for seventh place. The Oregon women also enjoyed a seventh-place finish last weekend after shaving nine strokes off their first round score to finish at 303 at the Peg Barnard California Collegiate in Stanford, Calif.

Both teams competed in fields of 15, and both tournaments featured a number of clubs ranked among the top 25 in the nation.

Despite windy conditions in the third round at the par-71, 7,025 yard Karsten Golf Course, the Oregon men managed to card their best round of the tournament highlighted by a third-place finish for junior Gregg LaVoie. The Pasco, Wash., native marked the best outing of his collegiate career with an even par 213. Oregon head coach Steve Nosler was more than pleased with LaVoie's performance.

"Gregg had an outstanding tournament," Nosler said. "Just about every shot was really on."

LaVoie has been the backbone of Oregon's turnaround spring season, delivering solid performances in tournaments as of late. At last week's Western Intercollegiate, LaVoie led the Ducks to a team title as he finished tied for 12th.

Matt Ma and Justin St. Clair have also helped Oregon finish the regular season strong. At the ASU Thunderbird Invitational, Ma tied for 11th at 215, and St. Clair carded a final round 77 to tie for 37th at 223.

As a team, Oregon's final score of 876 edged other teams vying for a berth at the NCAA Regionals, including fellow Pacific-10 Conference foes Stanford (892) and California (902). The Ducks finished just two strokes behind No. 8 Brigham Young (874) and three behind No. 11 UCLA (873). Finishing first was No. 2 UNLV, followed by Pepperdine (861), host school No. 15 Arizona State (869), No. 17 Arizona (871) and the Bruins, who finished second, third, fourth and fifth, respectively.

UNLV grabbed the team title with an impressive 859 team score. The Running

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