

"I thought (Dante) Culpepper was (my friend), but now that everything's happened, it seems to me I lost a friend."

Raiders wide receiver Randy Moss about his former teammate

■ In my opinion



JON ROETMAN
ROUGHING THE PASSER

Cheating to win: Would you do it for your team?

How important is winning to you?
Would you cheat to get the job done?
Would you do anything it takes to get a W and the reward it brings?

These questions arose in my mind Thursday after my teammates and I were eliminated from the Rec Sports dodgeball playoffs.

After splitting the first four games of a first-round best-of-five series, the deciding game came down to sudden-death overtime, when after a long stalemate we were finally eliminated when our biggest player was clipped on the foot.

While the loss was extremely hard to take, the fifth game should have never gone to overtime.

Moments before time expired in regulation, one of our opponents was tagged in the foot with a thrown ball after it had deflected off the ball he was holding.

According to dodgeball rule 34976.732, section A, article two, if a ball hits you before hitting the floor, YOU'RE OUT.

Our opponent, who happened to be a large man with one of his team's best throwing arms, apparently didn't understand this rule and stayed in the game.

Since this is the first year dodgeball was offered as an intramural sport at Oregon, many of the game's rules and nuances were still uncertain. The game's biggest shortcoming is the lack of a true referee. There is an "official" on site who is only there to settle disputes as the last possible option. Otherwise, the game is self-officiated.

Two of us who had been knocked out of the game tried to point out to our opponent that he had been hit on the foot and should be out of the game. Our efforts were in vain, however, as he continued to deny the accusations. We got nothing more than a confused shoulder shrug from the "official."

If our opponent went out of the game, we would have finished regulation ahead two players to one and advanced to the second round. But he stayed in; we couldn't get the job done in overtime and I proceeded to make an ass of myself by yelling, swearing and telling the big guy he was a cheating-ass m--- f--- after the game.

I've always been a fan of self-officiated games. If you're playing with honest people, self-officiating eliminates bad calls from officials who may not have the best view on a particular play. I'll even give the benefit of the doubt to an opponent during most arguments — unless something is brutally obvious — just to keep an honest feel to the contest.

Ultimate Frisbee is a perfect example of successful self-officiating. Athletes go by a "spirit of the game" code that would make anybody feel like a dirtbag for trying to cheat.

But after Thursday, I'm no longer an advocate of self-officiating. I'll take the occasional blown call from a referee over the temptation of an individual to help his own team by letting something go.

Hey, maybe the big guy got caught up in the moment and actually didn't feel the ball hit his foot. But for an uber-competitive person like myself, advancing in the playoffs in

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■ Club Sports

Baseball advances to World Series

An offensive onslaught led the Ducks past Western Washington at last weekend's regional tourney

BY LUKE ANDREWS
DAILY EMERALD FREELANCE REPORTER

After a dominating performance in the Northern Pacific Regional Tournament last weekend, the Oregon Club baseball team will be heading to familiar territory — the National Club Baseball Association's World Series.

Oregon, which previously qualified for the World Series in 2004, defeated Weber State 13-4, UCLA 13-6, and Western Washington 7-0 to claim the fifth seed in next week's eight-team World Series in Bradenton, Fla.

The Ducks, winners of last year's regional tournament, entered last weekend's tournament as the number three seed after capturing their second straight Pacific Mountain Conference title. The Ducks finished the season winning eight of their last 11 regular season games.

"We are playing a great caliber of baseball right now," head coach Bradley Ficek said. "It was just a matter of putting it all together."

For the second straight year, Ficek's squad met Weber State in the opening game of the regional tournament. The Ducks fell behind early 2-0, but two monster offensive innings enabled Oregon to rally and overwhelm the Wildcats.

After Travis Brown's solo home run in the second inning cut the Oregon deficit to 2-1, the Ducks came alive and poured it on in the fifth inning.

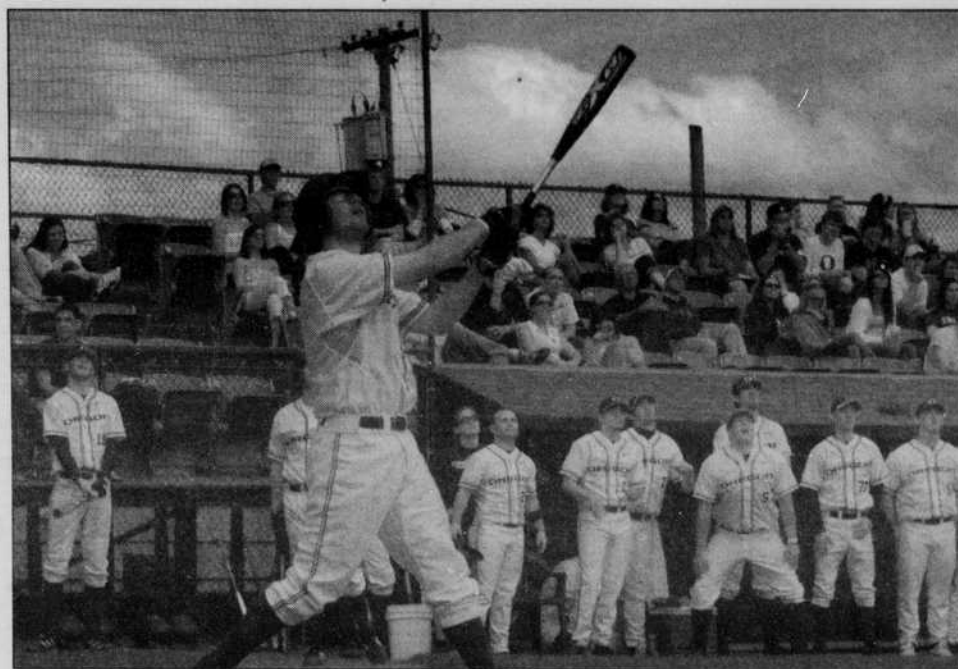
Brothers Jerry and Gavin Wahl-Stephens led off with back-to-back singles and Matt Oss delivered a single to allow Jerry Wahl-Stephens to score and tie the game at two. Jordan Denney then followed with a two-RBI double, and his brother, Marcus Denney, pushed the lead to 5-2 with a run-scoring double of his own. After a Travis Chock single and three wild pitches, the Ducks tacked on two more runs to make the lead 7-2.

An inning later, the Oregon bats continued to pound the ball. The Wahl-Stephens brothers again led off with consecutive singles, and Oregon capitalized with a big inning, scoring four more runs to take an 11-2 advantage.

The Ducks eventually secured the 13-4 victory. Pitcher Scott Sullivan went the distance for Oregon, improving his record to 6-0. Jerry Wahl-Stephens led the offensive explosion by going 3 of 4 with three runs scored.

"We seem to be a team that, when it rains, it pours," outfielder Tory Caputo said. "We put up big numbers in bunches."

The win paired Oregon with UCLA in Saturday's nightcap. The Bruins used an offensive onslaught of their own to defeat Western Washington earlier in the tournament, setting the stage for a showdown in the second round.



TIM BOBOSKY | PHOTOGRAPHER

Oregon's Jerry Wahl-Stephens, seen here earlier this season, went 3 for 4 with three runs scored against Weber State in the opening game of last weekend's Northern Pacific Regional Tournament. The Oregon Club baseball team will advance to the World Series in Bradenton, Fla.

But with a large crowd on hand, the lights went out quickly for UCLA as Oregon cruised to a 13-0 lead before the fifth inning. Twelve of the 13 Oregon runs came with two outs.

"That is something we've been stressing all season," Ficek said. "Two-out hits are going to win us games."

The Bruins managed a late comeback by scoring six runs in the final three innings, but the Ducks held on for the 13-6 win. Jordan Denney made his first start on the mound this season and recorded the win. He pitched 4 2/3 innings and amassed nine strikeouts, including seven in a row during one stretch. Chock continued his stellar weekend by going 3 of 4 with four RBIs. The victory earned the Ducks a berth into the weekend's championship game against conference rival Western Washington.

"It was the same situation last year," Ficek said. "It was fitting that it came down to the two best teams from the same conference."

Western Washington, because of the earlier loss to UCLA, had to defeat Oregon twice in two games to win the tournament and advance to the World Series. The Ducks, however, needed just one win to continue their season.

The Vikings wasted no time in the first game, getting an early 3-0 lead after a two-run homerun in the first inning. The lead ballooned to 6-0 by the fourth inning before the Ducks were able to score.

In the fourth, Jordan Denney led off with a single and later scored on a single by Adam Dexter. Jonathan Loomis continued the rally with an RBI single, and Dexter later scored

on a fielder's choice, cutting Western Washington's lead to 6-3.

The Ducks would get no closer than three runs as the Vikings picked up the 7-4 win, forcing a deciding second game.

Oregon took the early 1-0 advantage after Brown's single scored Dexter in the second inning. The Ducks then scored another run in the third and four runs in the fourth, upping the lead to 6-0. Defensively, Oregon pitchers Nick Hall and Tim Hegdahl took care of business, shutting down the Viking attack en route to the 7-0 win. The two combined for a two-hit shutout, sending the Ducks to the National Club Baseball World Series for the second consecutive year.

"For our pitchers to only give up two hits is a great accomplishment," Ficek said. "I can't explain it. To win regionals and represent the University is a joy."

The victories also brought postseason awards for the Ducks. Chock and Sullivan were named to the All-Region Team, and Dexter, Gavin Wahl-Stephens and Greg Wells were named to the second team. The Denney brothers, Brown and pitcher Jay Tlougan rounded out the third team. In addition, Chock was named as the National Player of the Week and Hegdahl was selected as co-Pitcher of the Week.

Oregon will enter the World Series as the fifth seed and face last year's runner-up, North Carolina State, in the first round May 26.

"We are going to be more prepared this year," Ficek said. "We are on a roll right now and hopefully we can keep that going into Florida."

■ Outdoor recreation

Paradise FOUND

Newport offers visitors a unique coastal experience, complete with fine dining, excellent bed and breakfasts and a first-rate aquarium

BY ASHLEY GRIFFIN
OUTDOOR RECREATION REPORTER

On clear mornings, the sunrise in the little coastal town of Newport is a sight to behold. Individual rays hit the crashing waves and wet sand, brightening the empty beach as the sun creeps toward the town to wake locals and tourists. Shop owners put open signs in their windows while bed and breakfast owners fry eggs and hash browns for

their visitors. Tourists along Bayfront Boulevard wander into the local coffee shops to grab a steaming drink and plan their day.

And when visiting Newport, what a day that will be.

Newport, located about two and half hours northwest of Eugene, first gained popularity for its delicious Yaquina Bay oyster and has since been recognized for its outdoor activities, beaches, aquarium, unique lodging and

world-class seafood restaurants.

"I love Newport because it's simple, uncomplicated and easy to get to," junior Kim Walker said. "There are a lot of different activities to do and it's a great way to spend a day."

The activities in Newport are as unique as the shells and driftwood tourists find at its beaches and shops.

Newport's Oregon Coast Aquarium is a popular stop for visitors to view seals, otters, tufted puffins and a giant octopus. It has six acres of cliffs, rocky caves, tide pools and trails. The aquarium is open from 10 a.m. to

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