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Chris Gross

SPORTS NEWS

GEORGE FOX COLLEGE
SPORTS INFORMATION OFFICE
NEWBERG, OREGON 97132-2697
503/538-8383, EXT. 292
FAX 503/537-3830



March 15, 1993

GFC Softball Fast Start Includes First-Ever Sweep Of Puget Sound

George Fox College's softball team can savor its sweet start.

After starting its season 4-0 – sweeping home doubleheaders versus Western Oregon State College and the University of Puget Sound – GFC won't play another counting contest till the Lady Bruins host Pacific University Tuesday (March 30) at 2:30 p.m.

Although a bit worried about losing momentum in the schedule lull, first-year coach Chris Gross will enjoy the next two weeks. She's undefeated in her career as a head coach. "It's a pleasant surprise," she says.

Gross' teams never swept Puget Sound when she was a player, but Saturday (March 13) under her direction, the Lady Bruins won two straight for the first time ever. "They played with a lot of heart Saturday," said Gross. "We have the consistency we didn't have last year." Last year the defense was strong, but there be no offensive production."

1991 all-district pitcher Becky Stewart, Banks, Ore., junior, pitched a two-hitter in the first of two nail-biters. UPS took a 2-1 lead into the seventh and final inning, but GFC came up with two runs for the 3-2 win.

Freshman pitcher Brandi Price, Medford, Ore., allowed eight hits, but came away with a 1-0 shutout victory. "Puget Sound was hitting the ball most of the game," said Gross. "Good solid hits and between the fielders, but the defense stepped up and held them. We got the third out when we needed to."

GFC collected three hits.

In their Thursday (March 11) season opener, the Lady Bruins used strategy and strong defense for their 4-1 and 7-3 wins over WOSC.

"We're putting the ball in play," says Gross. We've gone away from power hitting. We're just putting the bat on the ball and making the other team field it."

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The Wolves gave GFC all four runs in the first game. Junior outfielder Toni Owens, Brookings, Ore., scored the Lady Bruins first run by taking home after a wild pitch. A fielding error allowed sophomore Annette Delisle, Morgan Hill, Calif., a free pass to home base in the second. After Western Oregon scored in the top of the fourth, GFC added two more in the bottom of the frame. Sophomore Kris Fausti, Tigard, Ore., was walked with the bases loaded and a mishandled hit allowed senior catcher Viki Fields, Medford, Ore. to come home.

Price gave up three hits and GFC manufactured four.

Owens scored the first two runs of the nightcap in the first and third innings. WOSC responded with a run off a couple base hits in the fourth. GFC batted around the order in the fifth and scored five more runs. Stewart gave up two runs in the seventh inning. GFC outhit the Wolves 9-3 and both teams committed two errors.