New Mentor Eyes Mat Matches

By RANDE WILMARTH
Sports Editor

Give a man a degree and he can do anything.

Part of a degree, anyway.

Beginning a third term at the University studying for his Ph.D. in Education, former high school wrestling coach Art Keith was named head coach of the Oregon grappling team Thursday.

Keith, who had worked with the Duck wrestlers during the fall term and the initial part of the winter quarter as an unofficial assistant coach, said, "I've taken over since Tuesday, but it wasn't official until now.

Ed Johns, in his first year as head wrestling mentor, coached the Ducks to a 6-8 dual meet record and a fourth place finish in the AAUW tournament in 1965.

"Completely Unexpected"

But the University of Utah was looking for a football coach and Johns, also the Webfoot freshman grid coach, grabbed the chance. He left Thursday morning for Salt Lake City to join the Redskins staff with an assistant coaching job waiting him.

Thus, a vacancy existed in the athletic department and Keith was there to fill it. "It was completely unexpected, a sudden development," said Keith. "I've been studying for my doctorate in Education."

No sooner does Keith take over the job as head coach and he's got a couple of headaches—and they're both from Washington.

The Ducks host Western Washington Friday at 4 p.m. and Washington's Huskies at 7:30 p.m. Saturday night.

"Western Washington's going to be real tough," Keith remarked. What could be more interesting than the outcome of the meet might be the reaction of Jim Smith, the Western coach.

Smith and Keith, both directly from the prep wrestling ranks—Smith from Madison High of Portland and Keith from David Douglas, also of Portland—have met a number of times in various prep grappling tournaments.

Welcomes Job

And the usual finish was with Smith's teams ending up lower than Keith's. "Jimmy Smith's going to be a bit surprised," smiled Keith. "But he's got a good group of kids and he's had longer to work with them than I've had."

Keith is taking nine hours this term, but welcomes the coaching chores. He said that it's "a real opportunity (college coaching), a job I'd liked for a long time. There's a good deal of potential here at the University."

In previous years, the new mentor coached one state A-1 high school championship team at Newberg and a runner-up at both Medford and Douglas. He's also managed two thirds and one fourth place squads.

And in his nine-year prep coaching career—three years each at Douglas, Medford and Newberg—he's tutored 13 different individual champs, including such greats as Don Conway, Ron Finley and Pat Clock, all who went on to national fame, and Greg Morgan of Douglas, who, as a senior, has a chance this season to become a three-time state champion.

OSU Graduate

Keith graduated from Oregon State in 1956 and earned his masters there in '61. While on the Corvallis campus, he became a three-time coast champion in the 147 and 137-pound classes and never lost a dual meet match.

But now it's back to the present—and this weekend — and Keith thinks "we can have a good season. We don't have much depth but we've got one good kid in every weight."

In fact, two of these "good kids" starting for the Ducks Friday afternoon Keith has seen a lot of before. Doug Robertson, a 145½-pounder and defending AAWU champion, was coached by Keith for three years at Medford and Steffen Criner, a sophomore starting at 152 pounds, was led by Keith for two years at Douglas.

Other starters will be Rick Marx at 123, Grant Henjyoji at 130, Curt Scott at 137, Craig Caster at 160, Bob Mitchell at 167, Bruce Glenn at 177 and Bob Lawrence at heavyweight.

The small squad has been bothered slightly by injuries. Kent Studebaker, a 177-pounder, has suffered a broken bone in his hand and will be out for six to eight weeks. And John Malpass, 160, has sprained ligaments in his foot but, according to Keith, should "be ready to go next week."

EMERALD SPORTS

Ducks Set for NCAA Hoop Champs

Let's Hope That Blunderbuss Works, Don!

By PAUL POLSKY
Associate Sports Editor

The Oregon Ducks will face their sternest test of the 1966 season Saturday in Los Angeles when they take on the defending PAC and national champion UCLA Bruins at Pauley Pavilion on the Westwood Campus.

Oregon opens the PAC campaign Friday in Los Angeles against Southern California.

The Ducks will take on a power laden Bruin squad coached by Johnny Wooden which has not been as consistent as in the last two years but which has the ability to destroy an opponent any given night.

The Bruins' big five, Mike Warren, Mike Lynn, Edgar Lacey, Doug McIntosh, and Freddie Goss all sport averages in double figures. Their number six man, now that Goss is back, Kenny Washington, is averaging close to 10 points a game.

Bruins Now 8-3

Up to this weekend the Bruins posted a 7-3 mark with the only blemishs on the slate two loses to Duke (82-66) and (94-75), and one to Cincinnati (82-76).

The Bruins have beaten such top ranked teams as Illinois, Ohio State, Kansas, Purdue, and USC. In defeating the Trojans, Boilermakers, and the LSU Tigers, the Uclans captured the Los Angeles Classic over Christmas.

Looking at the UCLA team, Oregon coach Steve Belko just shudders. Belko feels that the return of Freddie Goss has been a definite strengthening factor for the Bruins. "With Goss back their pressing attack is now even more diversified." Belko was referring to the way Wooden has been mixing up his press in a 2-2-1, 2-1-2, and 1-2-2 this year.

"That Mike Warren is also a very good ball player at guard," Belko quickly added.

Warren Leads Team

Speaking of Warren, the little sophomore from the midwest, he is leading the team in scoring with a fine 17.9 average for 10 games.

Right behind Warren is forward Mike Lynn with a 17.2 average and leads the team in rebounds with 99. Lynn was used last year as a spot starter and has shown considerable improvement this year.

High jumping Edgar Lacey is third in team scoring with a 14.5 average and second in rebounds with 98. Lacey had a bad start this year and couldn't score well in the first few games but suddenly found himself against SC and since then has helped carry some of the scoring load.

Another starter, Doug McIntosh, has a 10.5 average and 60 rebounds. He has been good on defense this year and has showed some improved strength on the boards. John Pinkstaff will really have a job guarding this fellow as will Craven, who will probably get the call against the spring-legged Lacey.

Goss Scores 45

Goss, though he has only played in four games, has scored 45 points, while displaying fine marksmanship from the field with 17 of 35 shots attempted and a .486 per centage.

Rounding out the top six is Kenny Washington, probably the best bench warmer in college basketball the last two years. He has alternated with Warren now that Goss is back but has played in all ten Bruin games. He has a 9.7 average with 49 rebounds, and a .400 shooting percentage from the floor.

With Goss, Warren, and Washington in the backcourt the Ducks will have a problem contending with the Bruin speed on the fastbreak and the press. "Goss just adds so much extra it is harder to handle the Bruins the way you'd like," finished Belko with a sigh.

Ducks Eager

The Ducks are looking forward for the UCLA game and Belko feels that they will give a good account of themselves. He pointed out that in the last game of the tournament, Dave Kafoury showed some of his old sophomore form as he poured in 12 points in the losing cause after coming off the bench.

He also noted that Bill Jennings is coming along as is Nick Jones. Jennings played one of his best games against Washington State Primarily a shooter and not quite so effective on defense, Belko has played a couple of kids ahead of him this year who shoot almost as well but have played a little steadier defense.

Jones came into his own a little more in Portland and showed some of the old spark and held his own in the scoring parade during the Far West Classic with Jim Barnett shelved.

Probably the brightest spot will be the return of Barnett. "His return is such a psychological lift that we may play a lot better than some people expect us to," beamed Belko.

The loss of Barnett even before the first game of the tourney held the Duck chances at a bare minimum. "He was really missed and there was no doubt about it."

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