

EMERALD SPORTS

WEBFOOT-PRINTS . . .

Barnett Improves

By RANDE WILMARTH
Sports Editor

Would the scores have been any closer in Los Angeles last weekend if Jim Barnett's left hand had been completely recovered?

If the performance the Oregon senior gave with only one good hand has any indication, then the Duck's two contests—losses to USC, 92-66, and to UCLA, 97-65—might have had, scorewise, at least, different outcomes.

"Jim played real well down there against those teams," said Oregon coach Steve Belko. "And he was under a severe handicap." Barnett, who picked up 16 points in the loss to the Trojans and 22 counters in the Bruin game, injured his hand in a freak accident before Oregon's Far West Classic opening tipoff in Portland and saw his first competitive action since then Friday and Saturday nights.

Belko hopes Barnett will be able to remove the protective covering over the fingers soon, and thus give the Duck forward more maneuverability. "He should have better control of the ball this weekend (when Oregon hosts Washington and Washington State)," added Belko. "You know, there's so much of manipulating the ball in basketball; it's a tough situation when you've got one good hand. And you need two hands to rebound. Jim's such a good rebounder and this is hurting us."

Statistics point this out as, even with missing three of the Ducks' nine games, Barnett is third among his teammates in rebound production with 45. He was also picked by Belko as the most consistent performer during the USC encounter, as well as being "pretty effective" in the UCLA contest.

"Barnett's a much better ball player than last year," continued Belko. "And this is based on those last two games where he was playing almost one-handed against the finest ball clubs on the coast. He's filled our expectations as a team player, floor leader type."

Barnett, incidently, moved into eighth place over the weekend in the list of the top ten Oregon career scorers. He now has 988 points and needs just seven more to move past Ken Hays in seventh place, who tallied 994 counters in four years, 1944-47.

What were the reasons for the Duck's 32-point loss to UCLA Saturday? "We had our poorest shooting night this year," answered Belko. "We had real good chances, but we just couldn't hit. I wouldn't have questioned any of the shots we took." The Ducks shot 35.1 per cent for the evening on 27 of 77 tries. "In the second half we made a real good showing. When you're so far behind you have to gamble and when you make mistakes against a good ball club . . ."

Problems, Problems and More of the Same . . .

But Belko added that he was "satisfied with our play at UCLA, other than the shooting in the first half. Getting beat by 25-30 points by UCLA is like getting beat by five points by a good team."

With a 3-6 record, one can look at an athletic team and search for problems. And although Belko doesn't want to use them as excuses, they can be found and also can be classified as definite factors in the so far losing season.

The Webfoots owned a three-game winning streak before entering the Classic and obviously had high hopes for extending the string in the Glass Palace. But Barnett became injured and sophomore John Pinkstaff, who looked great in the four previous Oregon encounters, came down with a virus. "He was not a well boy at the Classic," said Belko. And then last weekend, besides the injury to Barnett, which hampered his playing performance, Bill Jennings turned up sick in Los Angeles. "We had hoped to use Jennings against UCLA," added Belko. "He did a good job against them last year."

Only Nine Games Played . . .

Besides the bad breaks on illness problems, there's also the not-too-often-thought-of problem of scheduling. "We've only played nine games now, while a lot of other clubs have played up to 16." The Ducks had met seven other squads before last weekend's competition, while the Trojans had met 11 and the Bruins ten. "Game experience means a lot," continued Belko. "We'll have five non-conference games in January and February, which should be played in December." Belko cited examinations and two closed weekends as the reason. "And it's hard to get teams to travel during the week."

Does Belko feel that the Oregon team, after losing five straight now, will rebound? "I look for them to overcome all the handicaps and come back," the head coach said. "The kids have got all the confidence in the world. They've got a real fine attitude."

Oregon meets Washington Friday night in McArthur Court, a team that the Ducks already have beaten once earlier this season, 63-61. And what's a better way to snap a loss string than to keep another string going?



STEVE BELKO
"Team Has Confidence"

Wood Finds Confidence

By LYNN MUCKEN
Sports Writer

Coach Don Van Rossen carries two major hopes with him when he leads his swimming squad south this weekend.

First in his thoughts, of course, will be hopes for upsets of either UCLA or powerhouse Southern California. But another improvement in the performance of senior Dale Wood would also merit some of Van Rossen's attention.

Wood's fantastic improvement in last weekend's meet with California raised Webfoot expectations concerning their team captain, who swims the 200- and 500-yard freestyle events.

Wood, who hails from Sidney, Australia, or thereabouts, began competitive swimming at the age of 11, and was Australian 400-meter freestyle champion at 14. Since coming to the University, however, he has never fulfilled the expectations that his youthful success created.

Confidence Restored

Van Rossen now thinks that Wood is ready to fulfill his potential. "Saturday might have made him into a great swimmer," stated the Duck swim mentor. "It restored his confidence."

According to Van Rossen, a faulty training system in Australia almost ruined Wood as a swimmer.

"Dale was being coached by Don Talbet at the same time as was John Konrad, one of the big names in swimming history," notes Van Rossen, "and Talbet ruined Dale's confidence by using him as a pacer against the older and better Konrad. Dale was just too young to take that kind of training."

Now, however, after a year-and-a-half layoff from competition, Van Rossen feels Wood's new confidence and winning attitude should help him fulfill his early promise.

Wood himself is feeling more confident. "I've been reconditioning myself mentally and physically and I'm hoping for good meets against UCLA and Southern Cal," states Wood. "The year has started out like I want it to and I hope it will work out, all the way to the NCAA championships."

Talking to Van Rossen and Wood, one gets the impression that they have a mutual appreciation society.

"Dale is the coach's swimmer, a real joy to work with," notes Van Rossen. "He is loyal to the team, to training, and he always puts out to his maximum."

"Coaching Good"

Wood, in turn, has equally high praise for Van Rossen. "The coaching is good here," claims Dale. "I've been associated with several good coaches and Van Rossen is as good as any of them. He does a hell of a lot for the collegians and Australians especially."

From an Australian point of view, Theta Chi fraternity ranks as equal with Van Rossen for Wood.

"They've (Theta Chi) given me free room and board for four years as their foreign students," relates Dale. "I think it's great that they can take in a foreign student where he can live with Americans and see how they live."

"Coach Van Rossen and Theta Chi have done a lot for me," stresses Wood, "and they really

deserve credit for the role they played in my life over here."

Dale, at the age of 23, is in his last season of varsity competition before heading back to Australia to take a job as a representative for an oil company. Before he departs, however, he hopes to make this season the most successful of his career.

IM Schedule

Basketball

- 3:50—Court 40, Spiller A vs. Debusk A
- Court 43, Ganoe A vs. Henderson A
- 4:35—Court 40, Deady A vs. Busada A
- Court 43, Hawaiians A vs. Psychology A
- 5:15—Court 40, Sigma Nu A vs. Phi Gamma Delta A
- Court 43, Kappa Sigma A vs. Pi Kappa Alpha A

Handball

- 4:00—Chi Psi vs. Young
- 4:45—Henderson vs. Philadelphia

Soccer Club Sets Wednesday Trials

The Oregon soccer club will hold a practice Wednesday in the East Gym at 7:30 p.m. Coach Jan Broekhoff urges anybody who is interested to attend.

'O' Club Meets

Order of the O will meet at the Beta Theta Pi house Wednesday. New members are welcome.

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DUCK STATS (Nine Games)													PAC
	G	FGA	FG	Pct.	FTA	FT	Pct.	Reb.	PF	TP	Avg.	Avg.	
Pinkstaff, c	9	120	47	.392	41	30	.732	91	21	124	13.8	12.5	
Barnett, g-f	6	96	38	.396	43	30	.698	45	20	106	17.7	19.0	
N. Jones, g	9	98	42	.429	25	15	.600	29	26	99	11.0	5.5	
Craven, f	9	93	38	.409	19	11	.579	62	12	87	9.7	11.0	
Thomas, f	9	43	17	.395	20	8	.400	38	16	42	4.7	1.0	
Kafoury, g	8	48	17	.354	5	4	.800	14	14	38	4.8	11.0	
Smith, f	6	30	12	.400	15	9	.600	21	13	33	5.5	2.0	
Jennings, f	7	31	11	.355	14	11	.786	27	12	33	4.7		
DuShane, g	8	26	10	.385	11	9	.818	16	18	29	3.6	2.0	
Franz, c	9	18	8	.444	5	3	.600	7	9	19	2.1	2.5	
J. Jones, g	3	10	4	.400	0	0	.000	2	4	8	2.7		
Nicksic, g	6	3	2	.667	2	1	.500	2	3	5	0.8	0.0	
Romppanen, f	1	1	0	.000	0	0	.000	4	1	0	0.0		
Totals	9	617	246	.399	200	131	.655	419	169	623	69.2	65.5	
Opponents	9	641	255	.398	232	164	.707	477	170	674	74.9	94.5	

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