

Oregon's Belko: 'We're Still in It'



It Took 15 Years, Tzar, But You Pulled Through

By DAVE BARONTI
Sports Writer

There was one prevalent attitude in Steve Belko's talk to the Oregon Club Monday. "We're still in it."

Not only that, noted Belko, but

several other teams are too.

At the PAC coaches conference earlier this year, he said, the coaches decided on methods of action in case the race ended in a tie.

"We thought it was pretty fun-

ny then," the Duck coach grinned. "But we don't any more."

"We even have something figured out in case of a five-way tie."

However, most attention was given to this weekend's upcoming games with Washington and Washington State.

"Saturday's game with Washington will be tough," he said. "They're big and they're strong ... and they beat SC down in California. Both games we had with them went right down to the wire."

Still Contender

"We're a contender, and we're going to have to play like one ... we'll take them one at a time."

The Ducks will have to wait until the following Monday to tackle Washington State, however. A change in PAC policy enacted this year puts a minimum two day travel allowance from Seattle to Pullman.

Belko is pretty happy about that. "That overnight flight (from Seattle to Pullman) was bound to kill someone," he said. "The new way keeps us from getting stuck on a foggy mountain top overnight."

Belko thought last weekend's effort against both UCLA and Southern Cal was tremendous.

"The only thing that beat us against SC was that first half ... we got discombobulated. They beat us on the boards and we missed several good shots."

The second-half, he said, was much better. "We were going helter-skelter—but that big man (Block) made the difference."

"I suppose we should be satisfied," he laughed. "We held him to 44. Last week, he got 45."

"Saliva Test"

Belko related how, after the game, he went up to Forest Two-good, USC coach, and "demanded" a saliva test on John Block.

Two-good asked him to wait until after Southern Cal's game with Oregon State the following evening.

"No kiddin' aside, we played a darn good game. I think Southern Cal is better than they were earlier in the year ... and they beat Kansas, Cincinnati and Vanderbilt then."

The UCLA game was something else. Everyone received Belko's plaudits.

Duck Girl Hoopers Face Oregon State

The University's women's basketball team, currently sporting a 1-4 season record, travels to Corvallis in an attempt Tuesday night to avenge an earlier defeat by the Beaver women.

Oregon State edged the female hoopers, 38-35, in the opening game of the season.

IM Schedule

Basketball
3:50—Court 40, Burgess A vs. Parsons A
Court 43, Beta Theta Pi B vs. Theta Chi B
4:35—Court 40, Busads B vs. Hilyard Mets B
Court 43, Campbell A vs. Watson A

Intramural managers are asked to turn entry blanks for spring sports into the IM office as soon as possible.

John Pinkstaff, he said, did an excellent job. He was tired in the first half and yet came back strong at the finish.

And when he noted that "Bill Thomas did as well as any man I've ever seen who fouled out without scoring," Belko wasn't being sarcastic.

"I'm not a believer in statistics," he explained. "Bill did a good job."

Jim Barnett and Dave Kafoury, too, were singled out. "Dave per-

formed terrifically against the press."

About his ball control tactics, the Oregon coach explained that "We had to beat UCLA that way. I don't care if the Uclians are all dead or sick, they'll beat you every time if you run with them."

"Very, Very Happy"

"We are all very, very happy with our performance."

Several members of the audience had questions to ask about

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'Coach' Anderson Feels Frustration

By TOM TAYLOR
Sports Writer

Switching from the court to the bench is "more frustrating than anything else," states frosh basketball coach Jerry Anderson. He was captain of last year's varsity squad and this year he is getting a chance to try his hand at coaching.

He says the main difference between a coach and a player is that the coach sees all the little errors a player overlooks.

"As a player during practice you tend to skip over the little mistakes, thinking you won't make them in a game." On the other side, the coach sees "each mistake as if it means a game."

The three-sport all-stater from Medford said that varsity coach Steve Belko gives him a free hand in running the Duckling hoop team. "Coach Belko watches a few minutes of practice and part of each game, otherwise he has nothing else to do with the squad," said Anderson.

PE Masters

Right now Jerry is working on his physical education masters and hopes to land a coaching job in the near future. Commenting on his present coach standing, he said, "This is just a temporary job. Oregon does not have a regular frosh coach." Jerry got the job by asking for it.

Anderson, who lettered in football, basketball and baseball in high school, said that he could possibly be off to Australia for a coaching job next year. "Since basketball is just starting there, I'd be coaching a team like our AAU teams." But he added, "I'd like to stay in Oregon with a A-1 high school team."

Jerry stated that his biggest thrill as a basketball player came in 1960. He was then a member of the state champion Medford basketball team that defeated a Coos Bay team, led by 7-foot Mel Counts. Counts is now playing with the world champion Boston Celtics of the National Basketball Association.

Three State Champs

"But my biggest thrill in sports came later in that same year when I helped lead the baseball team to the state championship to make it three state championships in my senior year," added Anderson.

Medford that year also won the state football championship. Getting back to his frosh hoop team, he felt it had played its best series of the year two weeks ago in beating the Linfield JV's and a revenge win over

Clark JC. "Defensively is where we've improved the most," said Anderson.

As far as the rest of the season is concerned, he says, "I'll have the team do a lot of running and hope to improve on our 11-6 record." It looks like the frustrating is still continuing for the young frosh mentor.

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Paul Polsky . . .

Duck Fans Come Alive

Congratulations are now at hand for the Oregon student body and the newly revised and revitalized rally squad.

The school has come alive behind its basketball team in recent weeks and now, as shocking as a bolt of lightning out of a clear blue sky, the Ducks are in the thick of the PAC race. With a 6-4 league mark, and 13-9 overall, they are not out of the championship picture.

One of the biggest series in college basketball is upcoming. The Ducks will play the league leading OSU Beavers, March 4-5, in what may decide the league title.

In recent home games the attendance has risen hand in hand with the Duck's surge toward the top of the league standings. The team is beginning to make believers of the Oregon students and more and more followers are showing up Friday and Saturday nights at McArthur Court. A recent example would be the 18,500 plus fans that viewed the USC and UCLA games last weekend.

In fact, 9,500 fans showed up for the UCLA game alone even though it was televised regionally. The weekend before 7,000 fans saw the Ducks come from behind to beat the powerful Stanford Indians, who the week before had dumped the Ducks by 18 points. Another 6,600 saw the Ducks obliterate the California Golden Bears the following evening for a weekend series sweep.

Rally Squad Improves

The student body section has grown, too. Now, more than ever, it is crowding into the end zones. The revised version of the rally squad is a big improvement and the yells are more encouraging.

The Creston Creek section continues to come up with new innovations. Against Cal, their leader, Mike Glover, took a large sign, "Tan Cal's Hide," and a sled with a Duck conquering a Bear, around the floor to the loud cheers of all Oregon partisans.

When the Bruins and Trojans came to town Glover had prepared an emblem of the Creston Creek seal and a large yellow "O" with a Duck in it and these were used as a large, two-sided flag.

The band, with their classy new green and black outfits, have varied their numbers and now are a big part of the basketball crowd. It is indeed a thrilling experience to witness 3,000 or more students standing and cheering when the school song is played or when the Ducks come from behind to win going away like against Cal.

Ducks 10-2 at Home

There definitely must be something to crowd support as the team has rewarded the fans with not only wins, but with some of the best basketball seen in Eugene in a long, long time. In addition the Ducks home record is a classy 10-2.

With a predominately sophomore team the Ducks should be able to remain in the thick of the pennant races in the next couple of years.

The fine play of such notables as John Pinkstaff, Bob Craven, Nick Jones, Bill Thomas, and Ken Smith has steadied the Ducks. And of course there is the amazing Jim Barnett who, in his senior year, is now in second place in the all-time Oregon scoring race.

The most satisfying feeling to these ballplayers is the crowd support. They have come a long way since the beginning of the season, weathering injuries and illnesses which put them in a position when the team could not give their best or most representative performance.

Now, healthy and with the student body support, they have come back, led by their capable coach Steve Belko, to be in the thick of the PAC race.

Also giving their best support now is the rally squad, which has shown a definite desire to improve and has helped organize and direct the student body section. Its recent revamping has been well organized and worth commendation.

There are four games left. One of these is at Mac Court and the rest on the road. This leaves Duck fans with only three more opportunities to show the rest of the PAC teams and their student bodies who's who. The Ducks could finish with a flurry. There are still those two big games with OSU.

EMERALD SPORTS