

Matmen meet WSU, Huskies; 'effort' needed

"We're going to need an outstanding effort for both meets."

That was wrestling Coach Art Keith's optimistic analysis of his squad's chances against Washington State and Washington this weekend.

The Ducks take on WSU Friday at 7:30 p.m. in McArthur Court and journey to Seattle for a Saturday night dual meet with the Washington Huskies.

Illness and injury hurt Oregon considerably in the last few weeks with four wrestlers still out of action.

Barry O'Donnell, Tom McLean and Kip Gorton are out with infection and 130-pounder Pete Helzer has a cut finger.

One bright spot for the Webfoots this weekend will be the possible return of John Miller. The 115-pound Pac-8 champ has been out since early December with a bad knee.

Miller will probably not wrestle this week, according to Keith, because of possible risk to his knee. "He's almost ready to go. I think he's going to come back real strong."

The Ducks, currently 5-6 for the season, are riding a three-match win streak as a result of their successful swing through California last week.

As a prelim to the Oregon-WSU match Friday, the Ducklings will face OCE at 5 p.m., also in McArthur Court.

Probable Oregon lineup with season's records in parentheses: 115—John Miller (2-1-1), 123—Forfeit, 130—Jason Schar (2-4), 137—Jim Ventura (3-2) or Rick Mailloux (4-2), 145—Brad Johnson (5-5), 152—Randy Noah (6-4), 160—John Thennes (0-0), 167—Larry Larsson (0-0), 177—Dick Bellock (0-0), 191—Tim Wilmarth (4-1), Hvt—Henry Muller (6-3-1).

IM schedule

BASKETBALL

3:35—Court 40—Phi Delta Theta A vs. Pi Kappa Alpha A
Court 43—Delta Upsilon A vs. Chi Psi A
4:20 Court 40—Sigma Phi Epsilon A vs. Phi Gamma Delta A
Court 43—Chi Phi A vs. Tau Kappa Epsilon A
5:00 Court 40—Station A, A vs. Diads II A
Court 43—Philadelphia A vs. Westmoreland A

HANDBALL

3:35—Parsons vs. Delta Tau Delta

California center takes charge

6-8 freshman on the way up

By RICK ROGOWAY
Of The Emerald

The Oregon Frosh looked sluggish as the Lewis and Clark JV's took an early 12-8 advantage in Friday evening's hoop clash. Then towering Rusty Blair took charge.

The Ducklings' 6-8, 200-pound center sank a clutch lay-in and a short jumper from the foul line in rapid succession to knot the score. He then caused an errant L-C pass, blocked a pair of shots and canned a dandy left-handed hook, to put Oregon ahead, 22-15, and spur them to a 99-76 swamp of the Pioneers while snaring 35 points in the process.

Not hard to tell

It isn't hard to tell Rusty Blair is a basketball player. Those octopus arms and legs that reach up to his waist like a never-ending ladder are sure tip-offs. But the way the product of San Luis Obispo, Calif. High School bends his head so not to hit it on the impending door frame is the clinching giveaway.

One of the most sought-after prospects in Oregon history, Blair received offers from 20 colleges, including such court powers as undefeated Santa Clara, Utah and California. Frosh Coach Frank Arnold commented, "We spent more time recruiting him than anyone else since I came to Oregon three years ago."

It appears Blair was worth the effort. In an illustrious prep career he led his school to a number one ranking in the CIF, was named all-league two years in succession, 1968 Southern California Player of the Year and was honored on two All-American squads.

Rusty has picked up where he left off last year. Through 16 games, of which the Ducklings have won 13, Blair is second in team scoring a 16.7 average, and first in rebounding by a large margin, averaging 11.2 per game.

Liked program

Blair chose Oregon because he liked the coaches and the program which he stated was "on the way up." Looking forward to Varsity play, Blair explained, "It will be quite a jump from Frosh ball... the competition will be a lot better but we should have a good year. In my junior year there should



RUSTY BLAIR

'Good quickness for size'

be no problem... we'll go all the way."

In his estimation, Blair is still weak on defense but feels strong at the other end of the floor. In weekend victories over L-C and Portland State Frosh he looked good all over the court, exhibiting a soft shot that flutters up to the basket usually swishing through the twine without nudging the rim. He's an adept initiator of the fast break and invariably hustles, usually being the first man down-court on defense.

Arnold surveyed his prime prospect, "He still has deficiencies but with his dedication he should clear them up. He has

good quickness for his size, a good eye and is getting more aggressive each time out."

Blair leans toward recreation as a major but is still uncommitted. He enjoys the outdoors, fishing and hunting. "After college," Blair smiled, "I may try playing pro ball."

Ironically Rusty always yearned to play baseball, but his father discouraged that sport in favor of basketball. There are a few coaches and several thousand Oregon fans that are mighty glad he swapped a hardball for the rubbery version.

Like the man said, "Oregon is on the way up"... and so is Rusty Blair.

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REGISTRATION & INFORMATION AT ABOVE

SESSION 2

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Sundays, February 23,
March 2, 9, 16, 23
Thursdays, February 27,
March 6, 13, 20, 27

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