

No more 'sit down Steve'

Belko quits coaching career

By STEVE SMITH
Of the Emerald

"Sit down Steve," the favorite cry of many an Oregon basketball fan, will no longer jangle the rafters of McArthur Court when the going gets rough for the Fighting Ducks.

Steve Belko, Oregon's durable "baggy pants" coach is retiring, and there is little doubt that Duck basketball will ever be the same.

Belko, 55, has served as Oregon coach for 15 years, longer than any other basketball coach in the school's history.

During his tenure, he compiled a 179-211 record, much of it in Pacific-8 conference, generally regarded as the toughest conference in collegiate basketball.

"I want to thank all of my friends that I have made over the years in the State of Oregon," Belko said. "I am now looking

forward to another challenge in college athletic administration and the opportunity of working with Athletic Director Norv Ritchey.

"I believe that the Oregon basketball program is back on solid footing and I want to wish the best of luck and good fortune to my successor."

Ritchey was lavish in his praise of the retiring coach.

"Steve Belko has given the University 15 years of dedicated service. I have known of Steve's desire to move out of active coaching and I am very pleased that he will be in the department through the next year to assist me in the administration of our athletic program."

Belko's retirement from coaching did not come as a surprise. Last fall he was named as a finalist in the search for a new commissioner for the Big Sky Athletic Conference, and it has been widely

rumored he was seeking an administrative position.

Belko has received numerous national honors during his tenure at Oregon. He served for six years as a member of the important basketball rules committee, and is currently serving as first vice-president of the National Basketball Coaches Association, and as a board member of the Basketball Hall of Fame.

In the last three years, Belko has brought Oregon back to basketball respectability with players like Stan Love, Larry Holliday and Bill Drozdiak.

In a coaching career highlighted by two NCAA tourney teams in 1960 and 1961, perhaps his biggest win came last year when Oregon beat number one rated UCLA in a barn buster at Mac Court.

The Oregon coach began his athletic career as a prep basketball player in Gary, Indiana, later playing junior college

ball at Compton, California, Junior College in 1935-36.

He then transferred to the University of Idaho, where, as a guard, he placed among the top five scorers in the Northern Division in both the 1937 and 1938 seasons. He was named to the division all-star team twice.

Belko served as head high school coach from 1939-42, then joined the Navy. Upon discharge he served as an assistant coach at the University of Idaho until accepting the head coaching position at Idaho State in 1950.

In six seasons, he transformed the Staters from an also-ran to a consistent title contender. In his last four seasons his teams won the Rocky Mountain Conference championship and moved into the NCAA regional tourney.

He compiled a six year record of 108-52 with Idaho State before moving to Oregon in 1956.

New head coach boasts top Ivy League record

By STEVE SMITH
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If Steve Belko's retirement as head basketball coach at Oregon constitutes the end of an era, then the arrival of Dick Harter should rank as a beginning.

Harter is currently head coach at the University of Pennsylvania. That is, he was coach until Tuesday afternoon, when both he and the Penn administration announced he was moving to Oregon to fill Belko's post.

University athletic department officials declined to make the appointment official until late Tuesday afternoon.

But in making the announcement, athletic director Norv Ritchey said, "I feel that our search for a head basketball coach has produced the top young coach in America, not only in terms of winning, but also his closeness to his players, his style of play, his moral integrity and

his belief that hard work and team discipline provide results."

All words aside, the appointment of Harter could be the collegiate sports coup of the year.

Harter's Pennsylvania Quakers are coming off the most successful season ever recorded by an Ivy League basketball squad. With a 28-1 record, Penn reached the finals of the Eastern regionals of the NCAA tourney, losing to Villanova in that final round.

The 28 consecutive victories before that loss, and the 44 consecutive conference victories compiled by the Quakers over two seasons, are records unmatched in Ivy League history.

Harter graduated from Penn in 1953, sixth man on an NCAA regional team. Following six years with the Marine Corps, he returned to his alma mater as an assistant basketball coach.

Began at Ryder

His first head coaching job was at Ryder College in Trenton, New Jersey for the 1965-66 season. But Harter stayed with Ryder for only that one season, returning to Penn in 1966 as head coach.

"He really turned our program around," sports information director Herb Hartnett said Tuesday. "He compiled a 20-31 record his first two years, but in that third season everything came together."

Penn's 1968-69 record was only 15-10, but the Quakers were Ivy League champs, and Hartnett points to an eight game winning streak at the end of the season as an indication of things to come.

In 1969-70, the Quakers went 25-2, losing to Niagara and Calvin Murphy in the NCAA regionals. With all five starters back, Harter expected, and got, a better record, 28-1 for 1970-71.

Plays man-to-man

"Penn was in the top 15 in the nation defensively," Hartnett said. "Harter plays a tough man-to-man defense. He's only gone to a zone once in three years, and that was against Niagara when we tried to stop Murphy. We lost."

Offensively, last year's version of the Quakers averaged 82 points a game, best in the school's history, while holding opponents to just over 60.

"I decided to move to Oregon for four reasons," Harter told the Daily Pennsylvanian Tuesday. "I was looking for a school with an excellent chance for the NCAA title year in and year out, and you can't find such a school in the Ivy League. I was looking for a good locale for my family and for recruiting. I wanted a school that was sound academically. And I am convinced the Pacific-8 can offer the same type of players I want."

Harter, married and the father of five children, was characterized as a tough disciplinarian in a January feature in *Sports Illustrated*.

Said SI Harter, an ex Marine officer, believes so strongly in discipline and pays such attention to detail that the legging's on his players' warmup pants must be snapped shut right down to the shoe tops. No loose flaps will be tolerated."

The story continued, "As might be expected, he is a neat-hair man. His own is so short it would not ruffle in a typhoon, but he allows his men to have neat sideburns and mustaches."



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Steve Belko's Oregon Record

YEAR	Won	Lost	PF	PA	Pct.
1956-57	4	21	1,485	1,712	.160
1957-58	13	11	1,544	1,557	.542
1958-59	9	16	1,574	1,681	.360
1959-60	19	10	1,760	1,669	.655
1960-61	15	12	1,640	1,616	.556
1961-62	9	17	1,666	1,813	.346
1962-63	11	15	1,636	1,717	.423
1963-64	14	12	1,796	1,760	.538
1964-65	9	17	1,733	1,899	.346
1965-66	13	13	1,752	1,772	.500
1966-67	9	17	2,083	2,001	.654
1967-68	7	19	1,665	1,758	.346
1968-69	13	13	1,770	1,963	.500
1969-70	17	9	1,893	1,951	.653
1970-71	17	9	2,017	1,874	.653
TOTALS	179	211	72,047	68,600	.465

Belko's All-Americans: Chuck Rask, guard, 1960; Charlie Warren, forward, 1962; Jim Barnett, guard, 1966; Stan Love, center, 1970-71.



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