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Doug Little

Yes, Ducks once 4-2

By JIM HUNTER
Of the Emerald

So much can be said about the first year of the Harter Era. You can mention Oregon's heady 4-2 record before engaging in that disastrous Far West Classic where they finished last. Or the Ducks' 6-20 record, the second worst in 50 years. Or their winless Pac-8 campaign, first in conference history.

But it is probably best to start at the beginning, before they committed their first turnover, muffed their first fast break.

Dick Harter was not optimistic but certainly, thought those who read or heard it, his predictions of a six-win year were the usual pre-season banter coaches are given to in order to make their eight or 10 wins look all the more impressive.

After all, this is the same Dick Harter who had been talking of making Oregon a national basketball power within four years. And starting off with

six wins is no way to make Oregon anything, except, perhaps, a school at which unemployed cage bosses apply.

But Harter was telling it straight. With a bland mixture of sophomores and seniors who might have been on a bench elsewhere, the Ducks fashioned a 6-20 record, 0-14 in Pac-8 play—dismal loss after dismal loss, one close defeat after another.

The season opener was a puzzler to many. Down 11-0 to Montana after four minutes, spectators at McArthur Court were wondering just how bad is this 1971-72 version? Oregon responded by rallying for the win. Consecutive road losses to powerhouses Ohio State and Villanova were no help as what else did you expect? Then three straight wins over Portland University, Gonzaga and Weber State got folks thinking the opening win against the Grizzlies wasn't a fluke after all. Hopes of 10 wins, a

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