

Joy may be gone, but UCLA doesn't need it to win

By PAUL BUKER
Of the Emerald

If the joy of winning is gone from UCLA's perennial national champions, you can bet Bill Walton is still going to get some kicks from tonight's game with Oregon.

The Pit is ready for the 8:05 tip-off. Realists chalk up win 67 in a row for John Wooden's team. Romanticists think freshmen can beat the Bruins.

Walton could care. He just wants to get out of Mac Court as quick as he can. But a thrashing of the Ducks would be nice in front of Mac Court's 10,500 fanatics.

"I like hostile crowds," Big Bill says, "They make me play better."

Dick Harter calls UCLA the greatest collegiate team of all time. That makes The Ducks one of history's biggest underdogs and if you concede 10 home-court points to Harter's crew because of the roars of the Pit, it still comes out 64-48. Win No. 67 in a row along the ho-hum trail of Bruin athletic history.

The Bruins, owners of the NCAA Championship the last six years and winners of an incredible 196 of 201 games to date, stole quietly into Mac Court Wednesday night for a practice session.

Before John Wooden's aides could kick out the curious, it was revealed that the Bruins are engaged in preparation for a sleepwalk. They expect the Ducks to stall.

Los Angeles writers slammed Dick Harter for his slowdown at Pauley Pavilion and he'll get flack tonight from the same menagerie of reporters.

If you want excitement, let the Celtics run with Walton's gang. Survival dictates common sense. Oregon won't run with the Bruins.

Wooden is simply trying to make sure history doesn't repeat itself in the form of something like Oregon's 78-65 victory in 1970.

History was made last weekend in the Bay Area when the Ducks, sparked by Ron Lee and Doug Little, gunned down Stanford and Cal to pop up in third place in the Pac-8.

But home is where Oregon's heart lies. That and a 9-0 record.

"Mac Court is a lot more intimidating than Pauley Pavilion," says Lee, the man from Lexington, Mass., who has slowly turned into Oregon's Mr. Clutch.

"The fans are louder . . . they get us keyed up and we play a lot better."

Obviously, if the screams from row three get Walton keyed up, too, the Ducks are in for a long evening.

The problems begin when Oregon has the ball.

Harter must come up with some kind of offense against the best defense in the conference — and UCLA's feared zone press. He has to hope his Ducks shoot over 60 per cent from the floor and maintain some semblance of survival on the boards.

The relentless pressure of the Bruin press withered the young Webfoots quickly in the second half a month ago.

"Their zone just killed us," said Lee. "We were nervous and they were playing their usual game."

Tempo, notes John Wooden, is the key. UCLA seizes the pace of every game and relentlessly wears down each opponent. All with characteristic impassivity.

Watching Bruins games at Pauley Pavilion is like watching reruns. And on the road, where UCLA's streak is now 31 straight, it's just as business-like.

The rest of the league has a simple solution for these traumatic back-to-back games with UCLA and USC: forget the Bruins, key for the Trojans.

Past results seem to give credence to that philosophy. Nobody's thinking about the NIT and The Pit. Happiness is scaring hell out of Walton with sheer volume and going home content with a narrow loss.

If Oregon beats USC Saturday night, and the Ducks nearly did it in Los Angeles, then they've still got a chance at third place in the conference.

Now 6-3, the Ducks would be 7-4 counting a logical loss tonight, just one game back of Bob Boyd's team.

But none of the Kamikaze Kids are conceding a thing to the Wizard of Westwood. Foolhardy, yes, but so was Harter's hope for a .500 season this year.

For those who vowed to give up masochism after last year's tangle with UCLA at Mac Court (a 93-68 drubbing) and didn't get tickets, it will be broadcast live on KUGN radio.

A delay telecast of the game will be shown on KEZI (Channel 9) beginning at 11 p.m.

By 11 p.m., the realist in Dick Harter will more than likely take command. He'll get down to business and go after the Trojans, who after all, are beatable.

UCLA isn't. This time.

PACIFIC-8 STATISTICS

SCORING — Walton, UCLA, 19.3; Price, Wash., 19.0; Nelson, Wash., 18.9; Lee, Oregon, 18.8; Little, Oregon, 18.3; Dolven, WSU, 18.2; Kelley, Stanford, 17.4; Chapman, USC, 16.3; Jurgenson, OSU, 14.6; Hawthorne, Cal, 14.3.

FIELD GOAL PERCENTAGE — Walton, UCLA, 80-136, .588; Kelley, Stanford, 61-109, .560; Farmer, UCLA, 52-95, .547; Wilkes, UCLA, 57-109, .523; Jeffries, WSU, 28-55, .509; Miller, OSU, 43-85, .506; Meier, Cal, 44-88, .500; Willett, Ore., 28-56, .500; Long, Cal, 29-59, .492; Jones, OSU, 29-59, .492.

FREE THROW PERCENTAGE — Jurgenson, OSU, 17-18, .944; Jones, OSU, 20-22, .909; Anderson, USC, 27-30, .900; Little, Oregon, 31-35, .886; Price, Wash., 31-37, .838; Miller, OSU, 20-24, .833; Williams, USC, 18-23, .823; Dolven, WSU, 18-24, .750; Kelley, Stanford, 35-47, .745; Farmer, UCLA, 14-19, .737.

REBOUNDING — Walton, UCLA, 150-167; Kelley, Stanford, 115-128; Whitehead, OSU, 80-89; Meier, Cal, 78-87; Chapman, USC, 76-84; Price, Wash., 75-83; Lambert, USC, 74-82; Dolven, WSU, 71-79; Willett, Oregon, 67-74; Coughran, Cal, 65-72.



Photo by James Link

CAN HARTER WORK ANOTHER MIRACLE ?

In Pac-8 wrestling meet

Matmen picked for third

Oregon State and Washington, both ranked among the top four teams in the nation, are expected to battle for the championship when the Pacific-8 wrestling meet opens Friday at Oregon State.

Most people concede the Beavers and Huskies the top of the standings when the meet concludes Saturday afternoon, but the battle for third is wide open, with Washington State, Oregon, California, UCLA and Stanford in the race.

Six champions from last year are expected to be on hand to defend their titles, with yet another winner from last year sidelined because of an injury. Four of the defending title holders are from Oregon State — Tom Phillips, 118, Mike R. Jones, 158, Greg Strobel, 190, and heavyweight Jim Hagen.

The other two are from Washington, last year's outstanding wrestler, Hajime Shinjo, 150, and Bill Murdock, 190. Oregon's Mark Purkey, the first freshman to win a Pac-8 title when he won the crown at 167 pounds last year, is out of the meet with an injured knee.

Two other champions from past year could be on hand. Oregon State's Jim Crumley, who did not compete last year after winning the 177 pound title in 1970 and again in 1971, will be there, and Washington's Bill Allen, 190 pound winner in 1971, may be ready to go for the Huskies.

Beaver coach Dale Thomas expects to have five first place candidates, the four returning champions from last year, and Crumley. Consolation results, Thomas feels, will be where Oregon State will win the title, if they do.

"We've got to do well in the consolation round-

s," he said, "because the Huskies have a very well balanced team. We may have more champions, but they could have more kids place than the Beavers."

Oregon will be one of the favorites to push the Beavers and Huskies. Coach Ron Finley has been hit hard by injuries and will be fielding a squad with only one senior, 134 pounder Dave Luke, who is second on Oregon's all-time winning list. Luke was second at 126 last year, fourth the year before at 134. Mike Oilar was third at 142 last year and Duane Stutzman was fourth at 150 in 1972.

Two other Ducks, Don Evans and Purkey, are out of the meet because of knee injuries. Evans was fourth at 158 and Purkey, as mentioned, won the title at 167.

Women playing OSU tonight

The women's version of the Oregon-Oregon State basketball Civil War goes into its second round tonight. The junior varsity and varsity teams from both schools will play in B54 Gerlinger. The J.V. or B game begins at 4:30 p.m.

The Oregon A team lost the first game between the two schools. This is the second and final meeting, unless the teams are paired against each other in the championship tournament early in March.

Saturday the Oregon A and B teams travel to Portland for games against Portland State.