

Local progger keeps up with the 'best of 'em'

By BOB WELCH
Of the Emerald

Glen Frerichs sits in his east wing science office surrounded by test tubes, chemicals and shelves loaded with books and reports on stuff like chemical thermo-dynamics, nuclear radiochemistry and the Dushman reaction of iodic acid at low iodide concentration.

He opens a thick notebook full of intricate data, thumbs to a particular page and zeroes in on a line of names and numbers.

"Looks like Washington State over Oregon by, uh, 13," he says.

Frerichs is a 34-year-old graduate student aiming for his Ph.D. in physical chemistry. His hobby? Predicting the outcome of everything from District 5AAA basketball to major college football with a system he devised himself.

"I've been more accurate than Jimmy the Greek or Dick Dunkel at predicting college football point spreads this year," he said. "I keep up with the best of 'em."

The Greek rates ahead of him in picking winners but Frerichs, who's picked .781 per cent of the college football winners this fall, doesn't think that's the best way to judge a prognosticator.

"I think a more sensitive test is looking at the point margins—the average error per game," he said.

Although Frerichs had his District 5AAA and his Pac-8 basketball predictions published weekly in the *Register-Guard* last year, this year he's in it just for the challenge.

"I enjoy seeing how I rate with the experts," he said.

Frerichs' system does not employ a computer. He derives a point system from these three things:

- The past performance of the team.
- The quality of the opponents played.
- The home field advantage.

Each of the 75 college teams Frerichs rates is assigned a number based on the criterion mentioned. From there, Frerichs makes his predictions.

This week, Washington State rates as a two touchdown favorite over Oregon. In other games, Stanford is rated by 23 over Oregon State, UCLA by 14 over Washington and Southern Cal by one over California.

Frerichs believes the Trojans have been over-rated. Last week, with the polls ranking SC third, Frerichs had the Trojans 22nd. "They haven't played any tough teams except Notre Dame," he said. "I don't have much faith in the polls."

As for Oregon, Frerichs foresees a 2-9 season, though he'd like to see better.

"I'm an ardent Oregon fan," he said. "I get pretty emotional at games, especially basketball games."

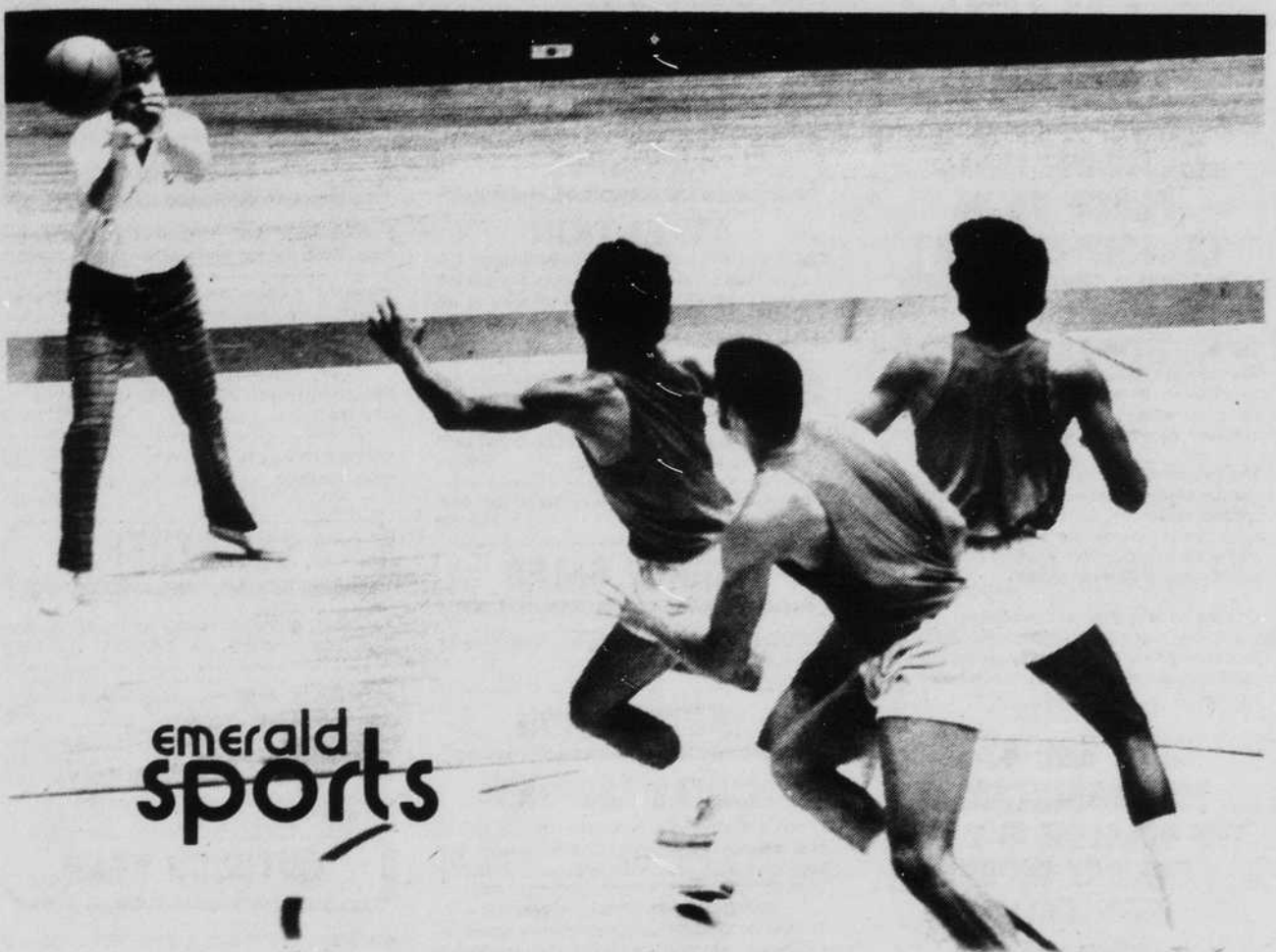
Frerichs rates the top 75 college football teams each week. Before the USC game, Oregon was ranked—you guessed it—75th. The Ducks moved up to 71st after a solid showing against the Trojans and climbed to 66th after their 18-7 win over Utah.

Still, Oregon's a 13-point underdog this weekend against Washington State. "I've got to be objective," said Frerichs. "I wish I could favor the Ducks but that's just not the way it came out."

It isn't much consolation that he's picked all the correct winners in Oregon's games this year. "It isn't too hard to pick who's going to win an Oregon football game," he said.

Frerichs may keep up with the best of 'em, but if you're thinking of using him to enhance your weekly bets, forget it.

"It's just a hobby," he said. "I don't believe in gambling."



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Photo by John Johns

Hoopers on display Thursday in Coos Bay

If you want to see the Kamikaze Kids in action, and don't mind the drive to Coos Bay you can watch the Ducks in a season-opening intrasquad game Thursday night. The game starts at 7:30 p.m. at Marshfield High School. Coach Dick Harter will take 20 players for the contest, 17 varsity players and three JVs.

Sportfolio

V-ballers zap OSU

The Oregon women's volleyball team displayed strong teamwork Tuesday night in defeating Oregon State 15-7, 15-10. The junior varsity also won 13-15, 15-2, 15-10.

The Ducks scored the first 10 points of the first game. Kahlei Slick served those 10 points consistently while her teammates blocked spikes, put away shots and kept the Beavers scrambling.

JV stickers triumph

The Oregon women's junior varsity field hockey team blanked South Eugene 2-0 Tuesday on the South Eugene field.

Hanna Munson and Allyson Smith each scored goals for the Ducks, who boosted their record to 4-1 with the win.

Soccer teams lose

It was a lost weekend for Oregon soccer. While the team competing in the Oregon Intercollegiate Soccer Association lost 4-0 and 3-0, the Oregon grads were downed 3-2 by the Blitzers and the women's soccer team was shutout 3-0 by Lewis and Clark.

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Lacrosse club meets

The club sports lacrosse club will meet Wednesday at 7:30 in the EMU room to be posted. New or inexperienced players are welcome.

Grid managers meet

All managers of intramural league-winning flag football teams should meet Thursday at 3:30 in PE 71, according to IM head John Broachardt.

Badminton gathering

The club sports badminton club is holding a meeting on Thursday at 6 p.m. to discuss activities and tournaments in the EMU room to be announced.

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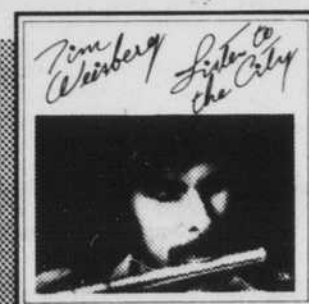
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