

Lary: 'I wanted to be a great gymnast'

By JOHN HENDERSON
Of the Emerald

Randy Lary hobbled slowly into the varsity lounge in McArthur Court, his blue overalls failing to hide the bulky white cast that covered his left leg.

"Man, this thing feels like it weighs 90 pounds," said the senior gymnast.

The weight Lary carries on his leg, however, can't measure up to the load the injured Duck has on his mind. After hyper-extending his leg on a vault against Louisiana State two weeks ago, Lary has been plagued by the burden of shattered dreams.

With the Pac-8 meet less than two months away, Lary came down from his vault against LSU and jammed his thigh bone into his knee.

Exit dreams; enter depression.

"At first, I felt I was going out of gymnastics never accomplishing my goals," recalled Lary. "For the most part it's true, but I have to accept that."

emerald sports

After qualifying for the nationals by placing third in vaulting his sophomore year, Lary had two goals to shoot for: earning All-American honors and helping the Ducks win the Pacific-8 title. Oregon has been runner-up to California the last two years and Lary missed last year's Pac-8 meet with a twisted ankle.

"I came really close to becoming All-American my sophomore year," said Lary. "Last year I couldn't reach my goal because of my injury but I really thought this was going to be my year."

The injury ends a long career that has been lined with injuries. Besides the broken leg and twisted ankle, Lary has suffered torn cartilage that required knee surgery in 1974, a bruised foot and a shoulder injury.

"I don't have a very resilient body," said Lary. "I never had the flexible and beautiful style that Bob Rikli has. I was always kind of a hacker."

Lary never let that stand in his way, however, as he worked his way to become the State AAA high bar champion while at South Eugene High and to a national ranking in vaulting. His 9.3 vault has only been bettered by Oregon's Rikli and California's Tom Beach.

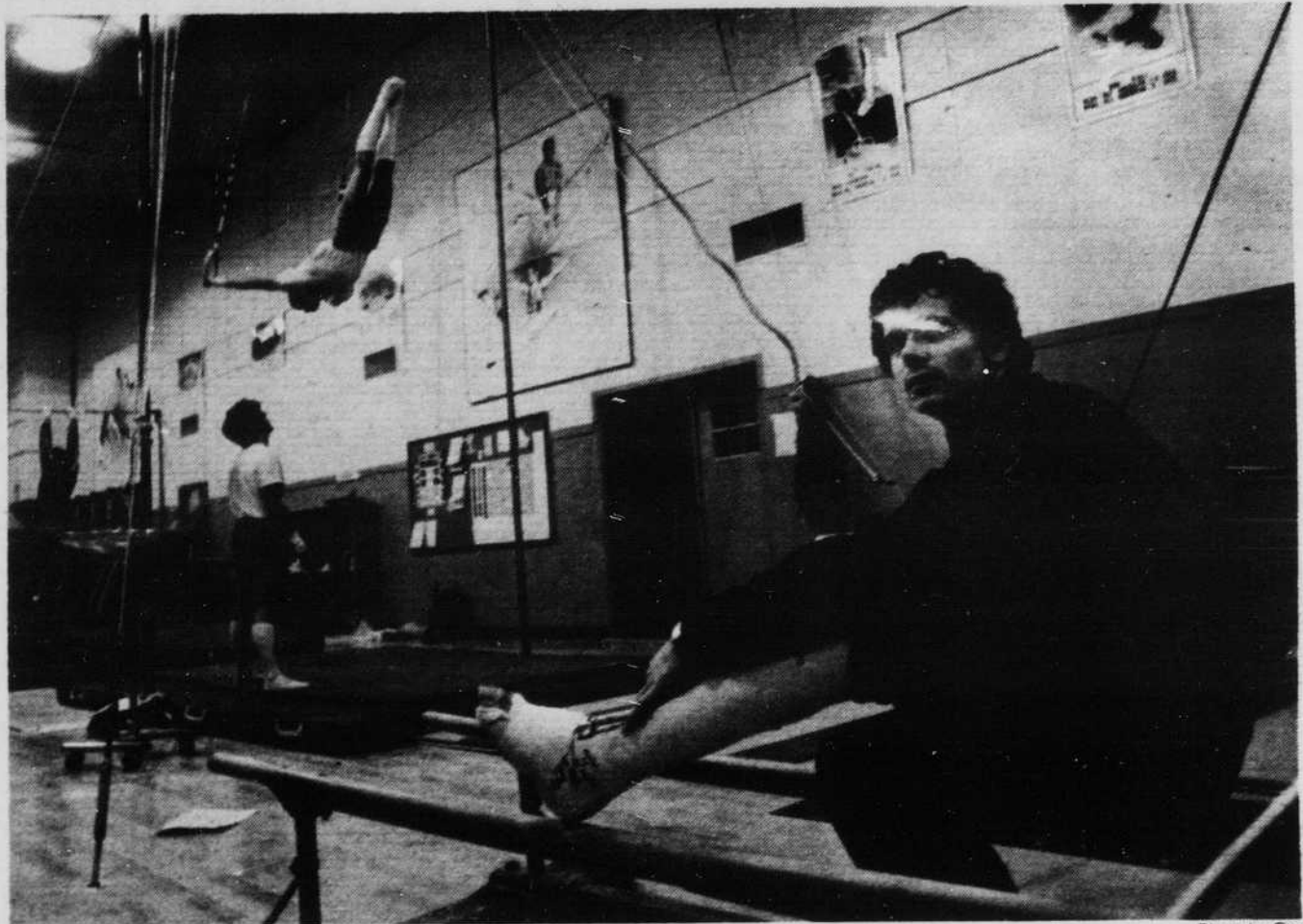


Photo by Greg Clark

Gymnastics is now behind Randy Lary but a coaching career lies in the future

"I always seemed to do something I always felt I could do," he said. "I didn't have as much talent as many gymnasts who aren't as good as I am. I just wanted it. Obviously good coaching and a good program helps, but it has to come from within."

"I worked hard to accomplish what I have in seven years, but it's over and I didn't accomplish my goals. I guess everybody can't accomplish them."

Lying in a hospital bed with his dreams in plaster didn't do wonders for Lary's attitude. Time and discipline, however, picked it up.

"I kept thinking that I put so much into gymnastics and got so little back," said Lary. "But I got my head

straight, looked back and saw that I did get a lot out of it. It's pointed me towards a career in coaching and it got me through college."

"But it's hard to think that while lying in a hospital."

One of Lary's goals can still be reached if coach Bill Ballester can find a way to replace Lary and upset Cal in the Pac-8 meet.

You don't find many 9.3 vaulters in P.E. classes.

Whether or not Oregon knocks off the Bears on March 4, Lary will always remember the tragic vault against LSU.

"I really wanted to be a great gymnast," said Lary, staring at the ground.

"Maybe I wanted it too much."

Ducks, OSU in different roles as 3rd Civil War unfolds tonight

PORTLAND — A week ago as Oregon State and Oregon prepared to meet each other, the Beavers were 11th-ranked and playing some of the best basketball the state has seen. The Ducks, meanwhile, were coming off two straight losses, the second of which was probably the worst game they've played all year.

But that was a week ago.

Now, the roles have been reversed as the two teams await their third clash tonight at 8 p.m. at Memorial Coliseum. Oregon played its best game of the year in whipping the Beavers 83-68 Saturday night and the magic that had accompanied Oregon State to its perch atop the conference was nowhere in sight.

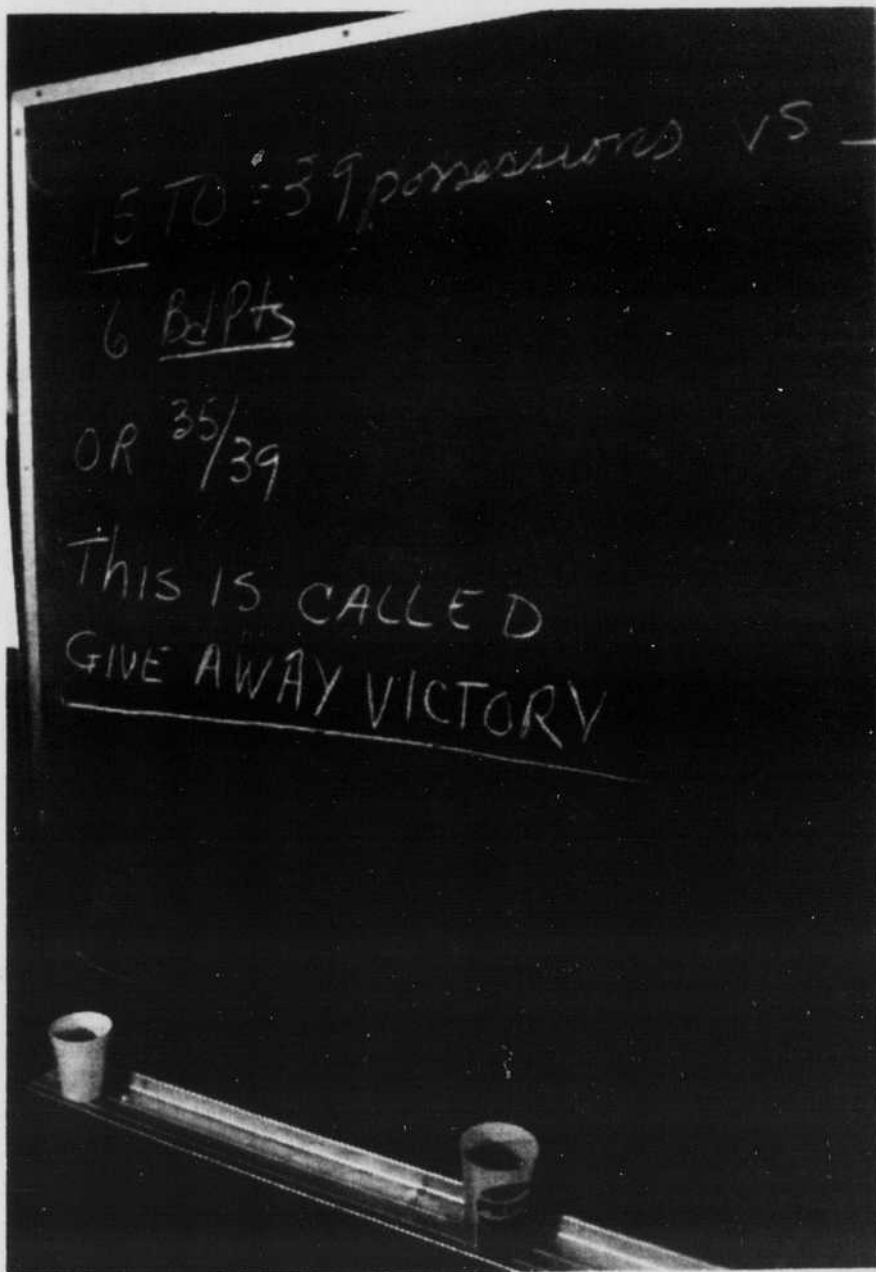
"We played terrible defense," said Coach Ralph Miller. "And on offense, all we did was dribble-dribble-shoot. There was no method to our offense."

The Beavers, who went into the game hitting 53 per cent from the field, shot 48 against Oregon. The Ducks, meanwhile, hit 57 per cent, slightly better than their 44 per cent average.

"We took a licking," said Miller. "I don't think I've seen Oregon play better in the last four or five years."

The Ducks didn't cool off in their game Monday night against Seattle, hitting a season-high 96 points and 63 per cent from the field.

Oregon State plans to start with its same five tonight while the Ducks haven't designated a starting lineup.



Miller's Saturday night message . . .

Can OSU change things tonight?

Sportfolio

Harshman blasts Hawaii ref

SEATTLE (AP) — The Hawaii Rainbows tend to rely psychologically on the officiating to help them win college basketball games, says Washington Coach Marv Harshman.

The veteran Husky mentor directed his team to two victories in the island over the weekend.

The incompetent officiating which favors the Rainbows hampers the Hawaii basketball program, Harshman told the weekly Puget Sound Sportswriters and Casters luncheon Tuesday.

Harshman said it was the first time he knew of where he'd seen a 7-foot center play two games without getting a free throw.

"It's a good thing James Edwards has been lifting weights," Harshman said of his leading scorer. "He was able to carry two people to the basket."

A Honolulu television commentator awarded Harshman the "poor sport of the week" award for winning and still complaining about the officiating, the Husky coach said he was told.

Lee 5th in pizza voting

Ronnie Lee, Oregon's All-American guard who broke the school's single game scoring record Monday night, is currently in fifth place in the West voting for the fifth annual Pizza Hut Basketball Ca B Classic.

Lee has garnered 33,652 votes to place him behind Texas A & M's Sonny Parker (38,721), Texas El Paso's Gary Brewster (37,538), Washington's Clarence Ramsey (35,203) and UCLA's Andre McCarter (34,818).

Indiana's Scott May leads the East balloting with 44,906 votes.

Balloting for the April 5 charity contest featuring the nation's top senior collegians will conclude March 8.

Oregon Invitational

Tickets for the evening portion of the Oregon Indoor Invitational track meet Saturday are priced at \$7 and \$5 for adult reserve seat and \$3.50 and \$2.50 for children under 15. All tickets are reserved.

Tickets for the Developmental Meet to get underway at 11 a.m. are \$2 for adults and \$1 for children under 15.

The evening meet boasts five world record holders and a host of local talent.