



'Being mentally tough counts a lot'

Photo by Jacki Wilson

# Halberg: Ducks find a gem (nast) in their own backyard

By JEFF NIELSON  
Of the Emerald

It isn't too often you find a top gymnast right in your own backyard.

But, luckily for the Oregon women's gymnastics program, that's exactly what happened when freshman all-around Wendy Halberg, a 1975 graduate of Sheldon High School, decided to attend the University and compete under first-year coach Henriette Heiny.

For Halberg, choosing Oregon wasn't all that difficult.

"I briefly considered Washington," said Halberg, who has lived all her life in Eugene. "They've got a language requirement for out-of-state students that I couldn't meet, though."

Halberg started her gymnastics endeavors in the sixth grade, although she says back then it was "just for fun." After getting serious about the sport her sophomore year at Sheldon, the Duck gymnast went on to place fifth in State AAA all-around competition and second in the United States Gymnastics Federation all-around regionals her senior year. She also attended nationals for AAU juniors and USGF seniors.

Halberg likes all-around competition for several reasons.

"Being an all-around is good because if you blow one event, there's still three others," she said. "I've always been an all-around. If you really

want to go anywhere in gymnastics, you have to be."

That doesn't mean the going has always been easy. In a sport where one mistake can be deadly, the margin for error is slim.

"You can usually cover up the small errors in a routine, but not something obvious—like falling off," said Halberg. "You can't let the bad times get you—you just have to come back in the next event. Being mentally tough counts a lot."

Right now, however, the Ducks are toughening up for a specific goal—to score a team total of 98 points to qualify for AIAW national competition. They've come close—in its first meet of the season, Oregon totaled 97.75.

Halberg is determined to help fulfill that goal. "My current goal is to do well with the team at regionals and nationals," she said. "I know we'll qualify, we just have to put it together."

Unfortunately, Halberg is not so definite about her future plans in gymnastics. A pre-nursing major, she has two years of school here—then it's up to Portland to attend the Oregon Medical School.

Being a nurse doesn't always go hand-in-hand with uneven bars and floor routines.

"I'll have this year, then maybe next season," said Halberg. "After that, I don't know. There's always a chance for a change. I'm an active person, and gymnastics keeps me in shape, gives me something to concentrate on."

"I'll always want a substitute if I don't have gymnastics."

## the athletic department

NIKE  
Kenya Red

reg. 22.95  
\$19.95



for the other jogger in your life.

10th & Olive — in the Atrium  
Open Fridays til 9 p.m.

## the Record Depo

Grand Opening

The Record Depo offers the leading artists and labels at the best prices in town. We're kind of hidden on W. 11th in Eugene behind Radio Shack. But we've got the album you've been searching for, so even if you have to hunt for us

We're Worth Looking For

2385 W. 11th

686-2644

SAT. 14th

W. 11th

Radio Shack

Record Depo

## Racquetball Players

EKTELON

Berg's is headquarters in Eugene for Racquetball equipment and accessories.

We have Racquets by Ektelon, Leach and Champion (Ektelon and Leach Demo Racquets) Tennis Racquet Restringing and Regripping

Bergs Nordic Sport Shop

11th & Mill Open Friday till 9:00 343-0013

Can Oregon win without the Pit?

That's the all-important question looming in the face of this weekend's return Pac-8 basketball games with California and Stanford in the Bay Area.

Those who doubt the effect of McArthur Court and its wild fans on Oregon's play, need only consider the Ducks have lost their last seven Pacific-8 games on the road and won seven out of eight of their last Pac-8 games at the Pit.

Stanford and Cal, both easy victims of Oregon's last weekend, beat the Ducks last year down south, Cal winning 76-74 and Stanford 71-70. A repeat performance could end Oregon's already flimsy chance to finish among the top two in the Pac-8 race.

Determining odds isn't easy. The Ducks were impressive Saturday in blitzing Cal 79-60 and easily took Stanford, 72-59 Thursday. But since the Ducks beat Washington 68-66 last year on Jan. 18 in Seattle, their Pac-8 story on the road has been no Pit, no win.

"I wish we could take all our fans with us," said Dick Harter. "But we've just got to learn to win on the road."

Cal, which hosts the Ducks tonight at 8:05, probably has the best shot at marring Oregon's weekend. The hot-cold Bears surprised Oregon State Thursday night and, when hitting on all five cylinders, are tough.

"They're a very explosive team that can control the tempo of the game when they have a lead," said Harter.

Stanford, meanwhile, is ailing. Sixth man Paul Giovacchini tore ligaments against the Ducks and is out for the season. Starter George Schader, suffering from a stress fracture of the fibula, will play, but not at full strength.

Harter intends to start the same lineup he used last week: Geoff Nelson at center, Greg Ballard and Danny Mack at forwards and Ron Lee and Mark Barwig at guards.



Greg Ballard will be out to stop Cal's Carl Bird again

## UCLA routs Cougars, Huskies make SC 0-8

(AP) — UCLA remained atop the Pacific-8 conference after thrashing Washington State 104-78 Thursday night.

The Bruins, now 7-1, were led by Marques Johnson, who scored 19 points.

It was UCLA's 96th consecutive home-court victory while defeating the Cougars for the second time in five days.

Washington, 93-75

Seven-foot center James Edwards scored 20 points to lead ninth-ranked Washington in a 93-75 Pac-8 basketball victory over Southern California.

The Huskies, tied for second in the conference, now are 6-2 and 19-2 overall. The Trojans have lost all eight of their conference games this year and fell to 11-10 overall.