

Caine

The new A.D. inherits a winner



Without fanfare or pomp, John Caine settled in Monday as Oregon's new athletic director.

The 51-year-old former San Jose State AD pronounced the day "hectic." But, then, Caine is luckier than a lot of new athletic directors, some who inherit programs with more problems than Ann Landers.

Oregon's financial base isn't particularly rigid but the Ducks are enjoying plenty of success in sports. And sometimes we forget just how successful Oregon's program really is.

Those who believe Oregon's athletic year went down the drain when the Ducks bombed at the Garden are sadly mistaken. Consider, for example, what Oregon accomplished over the weekend:

- Oregon's track team, without Gary Barger and a home track advantage, thumped Washington 84-79 in what must be considered one of the Ducks' most satisfying dual meet wins in the last five years.

- Oregon's gymnastics teams, the fifth women's team to compete in national competition this school year, placed 12th in the Association of Intercollegiate Athletics for Women championships. It was the highest finish ever for an Oregon team and the Ducks broke the school total point record in the process.

- Three men's gymnasts — Bob Rikli, Scott McEldowney and Mark Stone — earned All-American honors in the NCAA championships.

- Oregon's golf team captured four out of the top five individual spots to breeze to a 51-stroke win in the 54-hole Oregon State Invitational.

- Oregon's baseball team, held together with a lot of pride but not many scholarships, whacked Pacific 19-1 and swept a doubleheader from always-tough Portland State to improve its record to 7-1.

Such weekends, of course, don't happen all the time. But they indicate the overall success of a program that's been geared toward totality.

Some schools across the country have sacrificed the "minor sports" for football and basketball. Oregon isn't one of them. And we shouldn't take that for granted.

Those people who can tell you Ronnie Lee's shoe size and Mark Barwig's free throw percentage should also realize that Oregon's swim team is probably the best self-supporting swim team in the country; that Oregon has sent more women's teams to nationals this year than any other school in the country; and that Oregon's golf team is one of the best in the West.

Last year the Oregon athletic program was ranked ninth nationally by the *Knoxville (Tenn.) Journal*. While it's too early to judge Oregon on a national level, a look at how the five Pacific-8 events contested thus far shows Oregon tops in the conference:

	FB	CC	BB	Wr	Gym	Total
Oregon	6	2	2	2	2	14
UCLA	1	6	1	3	5	16
Washington	3	4	4	4	3	18
California	1	7	6	5	1	20
Oregon St.	7	3	2	1	6	21
Washington St.	3	4	4	4	6	21
Stanford	3	5	7	7	7	29
USC	5	8	8	8	4	33

*No team entered.

It's interesting that the wealthy California schools are not dominating the conference. In fact, the four northern schools have the edge, being ranked 1-3-4-6 to the southern school's 2-5-7-8.

I've always thought it strange that a school like Southern California, with its money, its sun, and its recruiting advantages, could win a football championship yet not even bother to field a cross country or wrestling team.

It's encouraging to think money isn't always synonymous with success, that there are other factors that decide the outcome of a game or meet. Whatever those other factors are, the statistics show they favor the Ducks.

Which isn't to say John Caine won't be busy. Nobody rests with inflation around. Title IX implementations must be ironed out. And there's a whole lot of Autzen Stadium seats that need filling.

But at least Caine has the advantage of joining a program that is breathing strong and has potential for improvement.

Let's hope Caine's ambitious personality is authentic, that his go-get-'em isn't just a means to make friends. Let's hope he's the kind of guy who'd rather see some much-needed showers installed in the women's locker room rather than shag carpeting and stereos in the men's. And let's hope he fully appreciates a strong, overall program rather than just the Big Two.

Within a year, we'll probably know if Caine was the right choice. In the meantime, welcome to Oregon, John, home of the umbrella and one of the nation's best total athletic programs.

Let's keep it that way.

Bright spots mark Duck's split

By JOHN HENDERSON
Of the Emerald

Oregon's double-header split with Oregon College of Education Monday may not have turned many heads, but a couple facts emerged from Howe Field which shined out from the cold, overcast day.

- Dave Ulrich continued his torrid batting streak by going two for four, including a triple, a run scored, a stolen base and three runs batted in during the Ducks 9-0 first game win. In his last four games, Ulrich is batting .579 (11 for 19), has 11 RBI's, two doubles, a triple and two home runs.

- Junior college transfer Vic Kelley pitched Oregon's first shutout this year in the opener, and sophomore Mike Jordan pitched six strong innings in the 5-3 nightcap loss to further complicate a scrambled starting rotation.

Ulrich started the Ducks' first game onslaught when he tripled in

the first inning to knock in Glenn Gaboury and Rob Closs and scored on Ray Smith's sacrifice fly.

Oregon scored three more runs in the second inning to give Kelley a 6-0 cushion, and he mowed down the Wolves the rest of the game. The junior from Helena, Mont. struck out eight, walked one and gave up six hits in his second appearance of the year.

"I didn't really know what to expect from him," said Oregon coach Mel Krause whose club's record is now 8-2. "I wanted to see what he could do under fire. I was real pleased the way both of them pitched."

With the exception of Joe Johnson 370-foot two-run homer in the third inning, Jordan was impressive in the nightcap. In six innings, Jordan struck out eight, walked one, gave up three runs and five hits.

Jordan had a chance to win it after Smith's bases-loaded walk

tied the game 2-2 in the fifth inning. OCE's Mark Ross, however, led off the seventh with a double and Ray Paiement replaced Jordan. Kelley Larkin knocked in Ross with a bloop single to left, and scored later when second baseman Gaboury booted Phil Joanis' ground ball.

After Johnson knocked Joanis in with his sixth hit of the day, for a 5-2 lead, Oregon scraped back for a run when Kevin Krueger scored on Smith's ground ball. The Ducks came up short, however, as they left six men stranded in scoring position in the seven-inning contest.

Krause said he is still unsure what his entire starting rotation will be when league play starts in 11 days, and will look at two more pitchers today in a double-header against Linfield at Howe Field.

Starting the 1 p.m. opener will be senior Brian Peterson (2-0), and JC transfer Mark Carnathan (1-0) will pitch the second game.



Dave Ulrich didn't cool off

Photo by John Johns

Golfers continue hot pace

Oregon's golf team continued to blaze, jumping into a comfortable 39-stroke lead after 36 holes of the Oregon Invitational Monday at Eugene Country Club.

The Ducks have 732 strokes, far ahead of second-place Washington State, which has 772. Oregon's second team, interestingly, is in third place, just one stroke behind the Cougars.

Rick Sanders and Peter Jacobsen led the Duck assault with two-under-par 142s, as Oregon placed seven men in the top 11 spots.

Ducks win, play today

Oregon's tennis team successfully opened its home slate Sunday by defeating Whitman College 8-1.

The Ducks, 3-4, host Southern Oregon State College today at 2:30 p.m.

STUDENTS INTERESTED IN COUNSELING:

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