

Harter stays

Now, what about the Ducks in '77?



"Is he or isn't he?"

The frantic lady on the telephone pretty well summed up what was on the minds of a lot of Eugeneans last week as Dick Harter considered leaving for Colorado. A community that goes bananas over anything that's green, yellow and can take a charge does more than yawn when its basketball coach is wooed by others.

But what if Harter had taken the job? Where would that have left Oregon basketball?

For openers, the timing couldn't have been worse. Ever try finding a basketball coach three days before letters-of-intent can be signed? And ever try to sign a recruit without a coach?

A guy like Greg Ballard would have to wonder if it might not be better to take the NBA's hardship route rather than spend his senior year under a new coach. And, who knows, maybe there'd be a few empty seats in Mac Court next year.

As it is, Harter's back in his office and all's well in Eugene's basketball world.

While Harter defined his reasons for staying as "obviously the players and the fans," you've got to think there were others. The timing obviously was a factor; a coach who's had four years of super support just doesn't bail out with a string of recruits left up in the air.

Also, Harter hinted, rather surprisingly, that the idea of starting from scratch wasn't big with him. "As much fun as it's been the last four or five years, there were some tough times the first couple of years," he said. "You don't look at a new situation without looking back four or five years."

Harter's mind now, as you'd expect, is on recruiting.

"A lot depends on this recruiting year, because if we're successful we'll have a good nucleus of veterans and an excellent foundation of sophomores and freshmen."

Recruiting-wise, Oregon lost a valuable asset when Dick Stewart took the Fordham job. "Anytime you lose a good man it's going to effect your recruiting," said Harter.

And Harter's trips to Colorado last week, although he says they didn't hurt recruiting any, certainly didn't help.

Still, Oregon has plenty of things going for it. The 65-45 win over UCLA, though somewhat diluted by the Ducks' unspectacular National Invitation Tournament performance, no doubt enticed some prospects.

Any recruit in Eugene over the winter had to be impressed with The Pit, the fans and the idea of having McDonald's sell posters with his picture on them.

And for a mature guard, there's a good shot at seeing plenty of action next year.

Harter, obviously, is after guards. Players who can give the Ducks the outside threat they've never really had. Players who can score in the clutch. And, above all, players who can shut off the baseline.

Oregon will sign four or five players this spring. One the Ducks are concentrated on is Stan Walker, the 6-5 Sunset swingman. Walker, who visited Saturday along with another recruit, averaged 20.1 per game last season and was the top rebounder in the state AAA tournament.

"We're very interested in him," said Harter.

After Walker, however, Harter isn't talking. There's a fine prospect — maybe two — in the Denver area he refers to and a 6-6 blue chipper from Long Beach, Calif. But if you want names, no way.

Tomorrow is the first day letters-of-intent can be signed and Harter said he "anticipates one or two may sign" before the week is over. "We anticipate fairly quick commitments," said Harter. "It won't be at the end of May like in some past years."

Whether or not the Ducks get their men, it should be an interesting Pac-8 race next year. Can you picture UCLA without Richard Washington and Marques Johnson, both of whom have filed as NBA hardship cases?

Or the thunderous boos when Washington enters the Pit?

Somehow, you know Harter wouldn't miss it.

UO qualifies in two-mile, sets record

Oregon qualified its two-mile relay team for the Association of Intercollegiate Athletics for Women (AIW) meet and set a new school record in the 880 medley relay at the University of Washington relays Sunday in Seattle.

The two-mile team of Kim Conner (2:19), Nancy Alleman (2:25.2), Dala Ramsey (2:18.4) and Cheryl Bates (2:19) ran 9:21.6, well under the 9:45 qualifying standard and more than a minute faster than the school record of 10:25.3.

The Oregon quartet placed second to a star-laden team from the Falcon Track Club which ran 8:50.4, only four seconds off the American record.

The Ducks bettered the school record of 1:50.8 for the 880 medley relay as Mary Officer, Dawna Rose, Carol Amaral and Janice Vernon clocked 1:49.5 for second place behind the Falcons.

Oregon captured the 880 relay with 1:43.9 for Sandy Aikins, Carol Amaral, Dawna Rose and Mary Officer.

Karen Marshall of Oregon took seconds in the shot (45-0) and discus (137-0) while Officer was fourth in the long jump with 18½.

The 440 relay team of Kathi Guiney, Amaral, Dawna Rose and Officer placed second in 49.3, one-tenth of a second behind the winning team.

Ducks rained out, face UP today

Oregon's scheduled baseball game with Pacific Monday at Howe Field was cancelled because of rain. The Ducks travel to Portland today, weather permitting, to play the University of Portland.

Women kickers open with win

The Oregon women's soccer team, coached by Derek Wilkins, opened its season Saturday with a 5-2 win over Oregon State.

Robin Lee scored three goals and Lisa Wilson and Faye Sono each scored one for the Ducks.

Next action for Oregon is against the Thunderbirds of Portland Sunday at Portland's Delta Park at 1:30 p.m.

Crew team debuts Saturday

The Oregon club sports women's crew team will be competing in its first race this Saturday in Corvallis. The team will have one shell entered in the regatta that will include Oregon State, Seattle Pacific and the Oakland California Women's Rowing Club. Race time is 10:30 a.m.

Trampoline sessions underway

Open co-ed trampoline sessions are underway for spring term for persons of all levels. No registration is necessary.

The sessions, sponsored by the Women's Recreation Association, will be held Tuesday and Wednesday nights, 7:30 to 9 p.m. in B-50 Gerlinger Annex. P.E. clothes should be worn at all sessions.

Sophomores,

Last summer I attended a six-week training program in Military Science at Fort Knox, Kentucky. While there I received a two-year Army ROTC scholarship which pays my full tuition, all books and fees and gives me \$100 each academic month of the year.

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