

Strutting the stuff

Basketball's wonder boys



Better put the braces on McArthur Court.

Ever since Dick Harter came to Oregon and turned the varsity team into the Kamazaki Kids and the Pit into a packed house, basketball fever has run high on this University.

The signs are already here that fan interest is still strong. Student athletic tickets are reaching a 50-dollar selling price in the Emerald classifieds, hardy souls are preparing their down sleeping bags for cold nights waiting outside Mac Court for the next day's game, and yellow-and-green frisbees are being taken out of storage.

And this year, there will be one more reason for the shakin' and the stompin' at basketball games.

It's called the stuff.

We've all seen Dr. J defying gravity as he rams the ball through the hoop with the greatest of ease. When Bill Walton shoves one through with both hands, oohs run through the crowd. But when Kelvin Small lets go with his two-handed-behind-the-back-dunk — watch out.

Mac Court's rabid fans could go mad.

Sophomore Small uses every inch of his 6-8 height when he goes for the rim. In a recent practice, Oregon coach Bruce Coldren had the Chicago native jumping for rebounds with the practice hoop set almost 12 feet from the floor. And Kelvin likes to stuff.

"It's an individual thing," smiled Small. "If you can do it, you do it." His favorite? "I like the behind-the-back shot best."

Small isn't the only Duck who likes a good rim-rattler. The leapers on the squad, including Ernie Kent, Joe Moreck and Greg Ballard also get their share.

Ballard, however, doesn't take the whole affair too seriously.

"It's not that big of a deal to me," he said, "but it'll make a whole lot of difference in exciting the crowd. People get a kick out of watching it."

Imagine the sights when Pacific-8 competition gets into full swing after the first of the year. The conference big men, such as Washington's 7-0 All-Pac 8 center James Edwards, UCLA's 6-6 forward Marques Johnson and 6-10 center David Greenwood and Oregon State recruit Alonzo Campbell, all have good dunk potential.

Or how about a half-time stuff contest at the Far West Classic? That would keep the fans in their seats.

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On the more serious side, Oregon's 1976-77 edition basketball squad will hold its first home intrasquad match Friday night in Mac Court.

Some familiar names are gone this year — Ron Lee, Mark Barwig, Geoff Nelson and Bruce Coldren, who have all graduated or used up their eligibility; plus Dan Hartshorne and Stu Jackson, who both suffered leg injuries over the summer and won't be playing right away, if at all this season.

But the enthusiasm hasn't gone away. Small and Moreck have both improved from last year, Rob Closs will be trying to crack the starting lineup after redshirting last season and Oregon's three new freshmen, John Murray, Beau McCloud and Earl Williams, are starting to pick up the Harter Hustle method of play.

It's a long season ahead, and several Pac-8 schools are gloating over new players. OSU's Ralph Miller, for example, calls his new recruits "the best all-around crop in one class since I've been coaching."

We'll see. The conference doesn't have Ronnie to kick around anymore, it's true — but with a lot of hard work, the Ducks can still win.

The Pit wouldn't have it any other way.

Sportfolio

Oregon rugby club loses

CORVALLIS—The Old Bulls Rugby Club of Corvallis scored a try at the end of the game to defeat the Oregon Rugby Club 6-4 last Saturday.

Craig Gordon scored Oregon's only try but the team was hampered as six Ducks didn't play because of injuries. The loss puts Oregon's season record at 1-4.

Wang grabs first, second

PORTLAND—Graduate student Paul Wang teamed with Elsie Spinning to win the "B" mixed doubles title and with Tom Berkey to capture second in the "A" men's doubles event at the Portland State Badminton Tournament held last weekend in Portland.

Scuba club meets tonight

Oregon's scuba club will hold a meeting at 7:30 tonight in the EMU cafeteria to plan a Thanksgiving weekend dive.

Looking for a high-paying job?

Pro salaries keep soaring

NEW YORK (AP) — The professional athlete of average ability is doing much better these days. In 1975, the average salaries were \$48,000 for major league baseball, \$109,700 for the National Basketball Association, \$95,000 for the American Basketball Association, \$75,000 for the National Hockey League, \$60,000 for the World Hockey Association and \$42,000 for the National Football League.

In comparison, the average salary of policemen and firemen in cities of over 100,000 population last year ranged from \$10,717 to \$14,001, according to the U.S. Bureau of Labor Statistics.

Until the 1960s, baseball was the leader in high salaries, among the team sports.

In 1939, Carl Hubbell was making \$22,500, Hank Greenberg \$25,000 and Bill Terry \$30,000. They were the baseball stars of their era, and they made much more money than football's Bulldog Turner made 10 years later. Turner, still recognized as the best center who ever played the game, earned \$14,000 in 1948 and 1949.

In 1949, Joe DiMaggio became the first \$100,000 baseball player and Ted Williams was getting \$90,000. Meanwhile, star running back Steve Van Buren of the NFL made \$15,000.

In 1950, DiMaggio again got \$100,000 and Williams jumped to \$125,000. Van Buren still earned \$15,000, while quarterback Sid Luckman got \$20,200.

In 1952, quarterback Sammy Baugh made \$12,000; in 1960, quarterback Norm Van Brocklin made \$22,500, and in 1964, Sonny Werblin, owner of the New York Jets, made quarterback Joe Namath a star and gave him \$400,000 to sign with the new American Football League.

Namath's signing gave the AFL legitimacy, and that authenticity was the breakthrough for the NFL players' salaries. They finally had some bargaining leverage, the same advantage gained by the NBA and the NHL several years later.

Football salaries began to rise.

Jimmy Brown made \$60,000 in 1965, but it wasn't until the late '60s that the bidding war between the competing leagues led to skyrocketing salaries.

Depending on which side of the salaries you were on, the AFL and television were either the angels or the devils in the NFL's escalating salary picture.

"The main thing was that in those days baseball was making much more money than football," says NFL Commissioner Pete Rozelle. "In the early 60s we were getting \$150,000 a team from television. But in the late 60s tele-

vision and the laws of supply and demand took effect.

"The salaries went up when the money became available. The key was 1965 and 1966 when the teams first got \$1 million from television. Now the teams are receiving \$2 million from television and the sport is generating more money than ever before."

Another key was the creation of the World Football League in 1974. The WFL, which expired after 1½ years, did raise the standard of living for some players who jumped leagues and some who were well paid to stay.

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