

Read gets the axe

Weeks of speculation were put to rest Friday when University President William Boyd announced that Don Read would be fired as football head coach. (See story page one)

Read leaves Oregon with a three-season record of 9-24. Seven assistant coaches — Fred VonAppen, Gene Dahlquist, Joe Schaffeld, Steve Sogge, John Marshall, Don Cortez and Dick Arbuckle — will also be hunting new jobs after their current contracts expire Jan. 31, 1977.

Tight end coach Jack Roche will remain in the athletic department to help smooth the transition between coaches.

Stickers drop three in national tourney

Oregon's field hockey team, facing a repeat of last year's opponents, dropped all three of its games at the USHFA-AIAW National Championships last week.

Despite the losses, Oregon coach Diane Smith said, "I'm very, very satisfied and pleased."

"They played their hardest in all three games."

Opening against number-two seed, Ursinus College (Pa.), Oregon was no match for the red-hot Eastern school as they lost, 10-0. Ursinus went on to finish second nationally.

"The girls played their best hockey of the season, even though the score was 10-0," Smith said.

In the consolation bracket, Oregon tied Bemidji State (Minn.), 2-2, but eventually lost the game in penetration time. Allyson Smith and Anne Hassert scored both Oregon goals, and the Ducks held as their lead until the final 14 minutes.

Oregon lost its final contest to Springfield (Mass.), 4-0.

The final national standings ranked West Chester State, Ursinus and Lockhaven first, second and third, respectively. All three teams are from the Philadelphia area and finished in identical positions as in their own league.

Stanford, the only other West Coast team, also was knocked out of the competition in its first game.

V-ballers nationals-bound

Oregon's volleyball team lost to an old foe — but it still played well enough to clinch a sixth-straight trip to the Association for Intercollegiate Athletics for Women (AIAW) national tournament next week in Austin, Tex.

The Ducks romped through

their pool play and advanced to the championship game, but Portland State continued its unbeaten string by handing Oregon a 15-8, 15-6 defeat. The Vikings go to the national tourney as the top Northwest team, while the Ducks, with a season record of 25-8, claimed the second-place spot.

WSU's Thompson sets records

(AP) — Washington State quarterback Jack Thompson finished the football season as owner of three Pacific-8 passing records.

Thompson, a sophomore, set records with his 2,715 yards passing, 208 completions and 447 plays over-all. He also tied three Pac-8 records, including one with his five touchdown passes in the Nov. 20 season-ending loss to Washington.

Mike Levenseller, also re-

turning to the Cougars next year, led Pac-8 receivers with 67 catches for 1,124 yards and eight touchdowns, this week's statistics show.

Southern California's Ricky Bell has claimed a second straight rushing title and can add to his season total of 1,342 yards in Saturday's final regular season game against Notre Dame. The All-American tailback also is the Pac-8 scoring leader, with 14 touchdowns and 86 points.

Ballard, Ducks 'find it,' 53-51

By JOHN HENDERSON
Of the Emerald

Ronnie who?

The Ducks momentarily silenced those skeptics who say they can't contend without Ron Lee when they knocked off a star-studded Athletes in Action team 53-51 in a non-counting basketball game at McArthur Court Friday night.

"This win proved we can play against excellent teams," said Oregon Coach Dick Harter. "We got our feet wet."

It took a back-door lay-in by Ernie Kent with four seconds left to put away AIA, which beat highly-ranked Maryland and came within four points of beating traditionally strong Marquette. The Christian-based AIA is no longer the Philadelphia House intramural team they resembled in the past. With 7-2 Ralph Drollinger and 6-10 All-American Bayard Forrest, the Ducks were badly out-matched on the front line.

But Greg Ballard held the two alternating centers in check as Drollinger and Forrest combined for just 13 points while Ballard led all scorers with 16.

"GB played the post well, and he played the big guys well," said Harter. "AIA played him close, but he was taking good shots."

The biggest lead AIA could produce was when Blade Freeman sank two free throws for a 47-43 lead with eight minutes left. Freshman John Murray hit a baseline jumper to tie the game, and Kent made two free throws to put Oregon ahead 49-47 with 4:17 left. Terry Larrew sank two free throws sandwiched around Drollinger's rebound shot for a 51-49 AIA lead with 2:50 left.

After Ballard made two free throws at 2:15, Irvin Kiffin missed a jumper with 1:20 left and Ballard rebounded. The Ducks took a time out, then worked the clock down for one shot. Kent broke around a screen, took a pass under the basket from Rob Closs and put up the winning points over Larrew.

Brad Hoffman's 20-footer at the buzzer bounced off the front rim.

The Ducks' biggest lead was just 14-8 in the first half, but they shot a blistering 65 per cent to stay within reach.

"That's the type of basketball we want to play," said Harter.

Oregon takes that type of basketball to Las Vegas Wednesday to play the Nevada-Las Vegas Rebels.

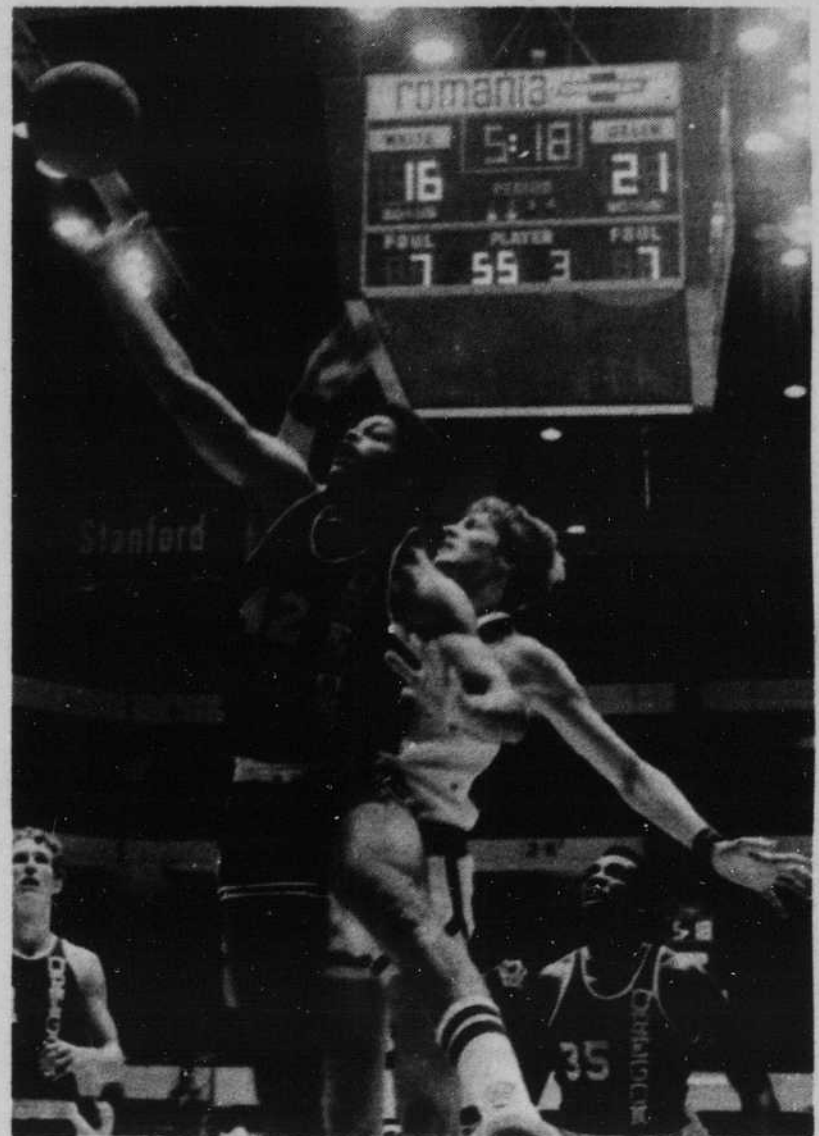


Photo by Mike Marino

Greg Ballard showed his talent Friday as the Ducks defeated a tall Athletes in Action team 53-51 in a non-counting contest. Oregon travels to The City Tuesday to play San Francisco State.



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Athletics in Action	32	19 — 51
Oregon	34	19 — 53

Athletes in Action (51) — Drollinger 7, Hall 14, Hoffman 4, Lawyer 6, Larrew 2, Forrest 6, Kiffin 8, Blade 4.
Oregon (53) — Ballard 16, Closs 13, Kent 8, Drummond 4, Nelson, Murray 8, Small 4, Graham, Mack, Moreck.

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