

Women's b-ball opens season in Alaska

Oregon's Womens basketball team travels to Alaska to open its season this weekend, with two games each against Alaska-Fairbanks and Alaska-Anchorage.

The Fairbanks contests, Dec. 1-2, are non-league games while the two with Anchorage, Dec. 3-4 count in Northwest women's basketball standings.

The coast division of the newly-formed NWBL figures on paper to a tough race for the crown, including the following teams:

Western Washington— Although graduation claimed their two top scorers, the Vikettes are hoping for their fourth AIAW national tournament appearance.

Two starters are back from coach Lynda Goodrich's 21-7 team of a year ago, namely rebounding specialists Jan Johnston (6-2, 8.6 rebound avg.) and Keri Worley (5-11, 10.5).

Washington— It can only get better for coach Kathie Neir's Huskies, who return everybody from a 22-4 team that averaged 74 points a game.

Leading the squad is leading scorer Margie Nielsen (6-0, 16.1 avg) who is joined by Inger Bakken (5-7), Lori De Camp (5-11), Carol Hanshaw (5-10), and Jeannette Johnson (5-10).

Nielsen, who also led the region in rebounding with 14.7 per game, will be backed up by freshman Joanna Norton.

Portland State— It's been two years since the powerful Viks have been in the regional tourney, but things look good as only one starter was lost from a 22-5 team that placed third in the region.

That one loss is a tough one though, 6-2 center Karen Strong, who averaged 19.4 ppg.

The number two scorer is back, however, in the person of 6-1 forward Sue Smith (18.0). Also returning are Jan Hannam (6-4), Terri Prouse, (5-5) and Pam Yoder (5-9, 12.0).

Oregon State— The outlook is pretty dismal in Corvallis, as only two players return from a 5-22 team.

Coach Mary Covington (8-44 in two years previous), welcomes back 5-2 guard Cindy Dubs and 5-9 forward Coral Eastes.

The Beavers were hurt dearly by the loss of center Marilyn Wilson, who graduated. But three fine freshmen, Betty Collings (5-7) Kitsy Hall (5-9) and Jani Pretty (5-9) could make things easier.



Photo by Steve Schneider

Oregon's Julie Cushing (25) will be a key performer for Oregon as it travels to Alaska.

Heisman ceremony to receive new image

NEW YORK (AP) — "Well," says producer Bob Wynn, "we start out with 18 dancers on stage ... then Connie Stevens and Leslie Uggams join them and they do a thing called 'Football Fever,' which is a lead in for about 10 college fight songs ... then our kids

say something like 'Ladies and Gentlemen, your hosts for the evening,' and they all point ... then Elliott Gould and O.J. Simpson come on and then ..."

The Follies Bergere? The mid-night show at Caesars Palace? The USO Christmas Show?

Wrong, wrong, wrong. It's the Heisman Trophy Dinner.

Trans World International and CBS, the folks who brought you "The Battle of the Network Stars" and "The Celebrity Challenge of the Sexes," now turn their talents to the Heisman Trophy, and the hallowed award will never be the same.

Next Thursday night, live and in color from 10-11 p.m. EST, CBS will present "the Heisman Trophy Show" with all the subtlety of the crackback block. There will be singing, dancing, comedy, acceptance speeches, presenters ripping open envelopes guarded by a trusted firm of accountants, the whole Show Biz routine.

This is the first time the Heis-

man Trophy, which is awarded annually by the Downtown Athletic Club to the nation's best college football player, will be presented on TV. Since it only takes a matter of minutes to give the award, the show has been elongated with all the above mentioned hoopla plus six new awards called "DACS", short for Downtown Athletic Club.

These awards will go to the top offensive back and lineman, pass receiver, defensive back and lineman and linebacker. The top three or four vote-getters in each category will be flown in so the cameras can pick up the reaction of each winner and loser.

Wynn swears the names of the winners are known only to the ac-

countants, and with the trouble CBS has had of late concerning misrepresentation, you can bet it's true.

But, Bob, how can you tamper with THE HEISMAN TROPHY! The symbol of excellence with its mystical connotations, its revered tradition, its hallowed place in the world of sport, its special significance...

"We're not doing anything that unusual," says Wynn. "Football teams have cheerleaders. We have cheerleaders. Football teams have bands. We have a band."

"If the 'old grads' don't like it, that's their problem. Times have changed. The caravan passes even though the coyotes howl."

sportfolio

Wrestlers hit the road

A season opening victory over Hosei University of Japan behind them, the Oregon wrestling team takes to the road for a 10-day, six-meet trip which will include some of the finest teams in the country.

The Ducks face Minnesota, which finished fourth in the nation last season, tonight and then competes in the Arizona Invitational Friday and Saturday.

Also on the agenda for the Ducks before returning home are Arizona State (Dec. 5) Oklahoma (Dec. 7), Oklahoma State (Dec. 8) and Portland State (Dec. 10).

Softballers set meeting

An information meeting has been scheduled for all women interested in trying out for the softball teams this spring. The meeting will be today at 4:30 p.m. in Gerlinger Annex B-50.

Racquetball club gets together

The Racquetball club will hold a meeting today at 6:30 p.m. in the EMU.

No more trampoline

Wednesday night was the last night for open trampoline for fall term. Sessions will resume Dec. 10 for winter term, on Tuesday and Wednesday nights. The coed sessions are open to all students of all skill levels.

Rugby club visits Coos Bay

The University Rugby Club will travel to Coos Bay for a game Saturday. Interested players should attend a practice at 3:30 p.m. on the intramural field.

Ski team to meet

The University ski team will stage a meeting tonight at 5 p.m. in the EMU. The room number will be posted. The team will stage time trials at Mt. Bachelor this weekend to determine who will be eligible for discount passes.

Inept Sonics fire rookie coach Wilkins to step in as replacement

SEATTLE (AP) — Bob Hopkins was fired Wednesday as coach of the Seattle SuperSonics of the National Basketball Association. He was replaced by Lenny Wilkens, the team's director of player personnel, a team spokesman said.

Hopkins, who succeeded Bill Russell last May, was given a one-year contract by team owner Sam Schulman.

The Sonics lost a 115-99 decision Tuesday night in Denver to drop to 5-17, 12½ games behind Portland in the Western Conference's Pacific Division cellar. Only the New Jersey Nets have a worse record than Seattle.

Hopkins will remain with the club as head of scouting, according to Zollie Volchok, the team's executive vice president and general manager.

Volchok and Wilkens flew to Kansas City today, where the Sonics face the Kings tonight, to meet with Hopkins.

Wilkens will begin his coaching duties immediately, Volchok said. Assistant coach Les

Habegger will remain in his present job, Volchok said.

Volchok said Wilkens will coach until the end of the season at which time he will have the option of either continuing as coach or resume his fulltime duties as personnel director.

Wilkens becomes the Sonics' coach for the second time. His last team compiled a 47-35 record, which stands as the best record in the franchise's 11-year history.

"For all of us, it was a very difficult thing. I want to change our mental attitude immediately," Wilkens said. "Sometimes we've been playing what looks like a defeatist attitude. We will change some things we do on the court, but it's nothing that will show up as fast as tonight."

Before assuming his first NBA head coaching job last spring, Hopkins served for three years as Russell's assistant with the Sonics. Hopkins did most of the scouting for the college draft prior to the 1974-75 season. Russell named Hopkins his assistant immediately after that draft.