

Cunningham looks to end two-year drought

By MARK STEWART
Of the Emerald

First year head coach Gary Cunningham will be trying to end a two year drought at UCLA this year. It's not water he'll be wanting to deliver to Westwood, but an NCAA championship trophy. He'll be trying in what the UCLA press book calls "The opening season of the Cunningham era."

Cunningham replaces Gene Bartow, after Bartow was literally run out of Los Angeles by press and alumni pressure after two years at the helm. Bartow couldn't deliver what Angelenos came to expect under John Wooden — national championships. Ten in Wooden's last 14 years to be exact. Cunningham said he has felt no negativism, and he doesn't feel that John Wooden is looking over his shoulder.

"I haven't felt any pressure," Cunningham said. "Everyone has been very supportive of me. I feel that's an advantage coming in as

a first year coach."

Cunningham, only the 6th coach in UCLA history, has a young ball club, steeped in sophomores and juniors. There's only one freshman (Tony Anderson) and one senior (Ray Townsend) on the squad. 10 lettermen return from last year's Pac-8 championship team, while 4 were lost, including Marques Johnson, now playing for the NBA's Milwaukee Bucks. The team also has one transfer, junior Rennie Kelly, from Independence Community College in Kansas.

Cunningham said his team would run a "high post and low post offense, with much movement. We'll be passing and cutting, and running. But we don't want to be a helter skelter running team."

Defensively UCLA will play "primarily man-to-man" with some zone defense when a player gets in foul trouble, Cunningham said.

Key players for UCLA this year:
— Junior forward/center David

Greenwood, who was first team All District-8, and All Pac-8 last year. He was the second leading scorer and rebounder on the team with 16.7 and 9.7 averages respectively. Cunningham said Greenwood is a "definite starter; he plays good offense, and rebounds well. He's a very complete player."

— Sophomore forward Kiki Vandeweghe, who averaged only 3.6 points per game last year. Of Vandeweghe, Cunningham said "he's young, and has a variety of moves on offense. But he needs more experience."

— Sophomore center Gig Sims, who averaged 4.0 points and 3.0 rebounds per game last year. "He needs to become more intense on defense," Cunningham said. "He is an excellent shot blocker and shooter."

— Senior guard Ray Townsend, who averaged but 5.5 points per game, and missed seven because of an injury. Cunningham calls Townsend "scrappy" and "the best defensive guard on the team. He plays the game at both ends of the court. His game is strong and stable."

— Junior guard Roy Hamilton, the third leading scorer last year with an 11.9 average. Hamilton was also the leading assist man, and 3rd in the Pac-8, with 134. "Roy's a good ball handler. He can pass the ball well. He's the team quarterback. He can take the ball to the basket and score," said Cunningham.



Emerald photo
When Oregon defeated UCLA 65-55 at McArthur Court last season, it set off a wild celebration. The Bruins had the last laugh, however, as they captured the Pacific-8 title with an 11-3 record.



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