

coaches

Coaching is only part of the plan for Elwin and Henriette Heiny

By KEVIN HACKETT
Of the Emerald

It has often been said that it must be hell living with a college athletic coach. So one must wonder what it's like in a household where both the husband and wife are coaches. Henriette and Elwin Heiny have found it to be hectic, but for now they wouldn't have it any other way.

The women's athletic department probably wouldn't have it any other way, either. Henriette, 31, took over as head women's gymnastics coach three years ago. In her first year she led her team to a twelfth-place finish in the 1976 AIAW national gymnastics championships. This year's team has beaten everybody in the Northwest except Oregon State.

Elwin, 35, seems to be following a Dick Harter-like pattern in rebuilding the fortunes of the women's basketball team. He took over a program last year that hadn't had a winning season in six years. They finished with an 11-6 record. His current team is in contention for a berth in the Northwest College Women's Sports Association Region IX basketball tourna-

ment.

Both coaches have to credit part of their success to Deutsche Sportshochschule. No, Deutsche Sportshochschule is not the European version of EST or even Dale Carnegie for that matter—it is a sports university in Cologne, West Germany. Elwin, originally from Modesto, California, went to West Germany in the mid-1960's to do volunteer work. But being a physical education major, he was intrigued by Deutsche Sportshochschule, which concentrates its programs on physical education and sports training. He enrolled, and not long after met Henriette, a native of Duesseldorf who was also attending the school. The Heiny's were married a year after they graduated from Deutsche Sportshochschule in 1969.

After graduation the Heiny's coached and taught in Germany for five years. During this time Elwin headed a girls' development program for the West German Women's national basketball team. Henriette continued her education, gaining a masters degree in art history from the University of Cologne.

Elwin's desire to obtain a masters degree in physical education from an American university brought the Heiny's to Oregon in 1974. Henriette continued work toward her doctorate in art history. Both taught in the University's physical education department on fellowships before being hired for the coaching positions they now hold.

The Heiny's acknowledge that coaching can be a time-consuming vocation, especially

during the winter months when their teams' seasons coincide.

"This is the time of the year when we go out to eat a lot," Elwin laughs. "Actually it's good that we coach during the same season, because we're going to be gone on the weekends anyway, this way we're both gone."

You would think that their team's fortunes might be one of the leading topics of conversation when Henriette and Elwin get together. But this isn't the situation for the Heiny's. In fact they can hardly get each other to talk about their teams.

"I always ask questions about gymnastics and she doesn't like me to," Elwin says.

"That's right," Henriette agrees. "And he never tells me anything about basketball. The worst thing is that I never know when he plays. I have to look on a schedule because he never talks about it."

They both agree that they don't consciously avoid talking about their sports. "It usually depends on how the workouts go. If one of us feels really excited about something and wants to talk about it, then we talk about it," Henriette says.

Both the women's gymnastics program and women's basketball teams will receive a financial windfall this year as the University strives to comply with Title IX. The Heiny's have been satisfied with the support they've received from the University in the past. The new revenue should not only increase the number of scholarships that can be made available to women athletes, it should improve the calibre of the competition that Oregon's women's teams will have to deal with.

Those Southern Oregons and Humboldt States will turn into UCLA's and Delta States. It has been argued that if women's athletics go "big time" it will result in high-pressure recruiting and countless violations similar to

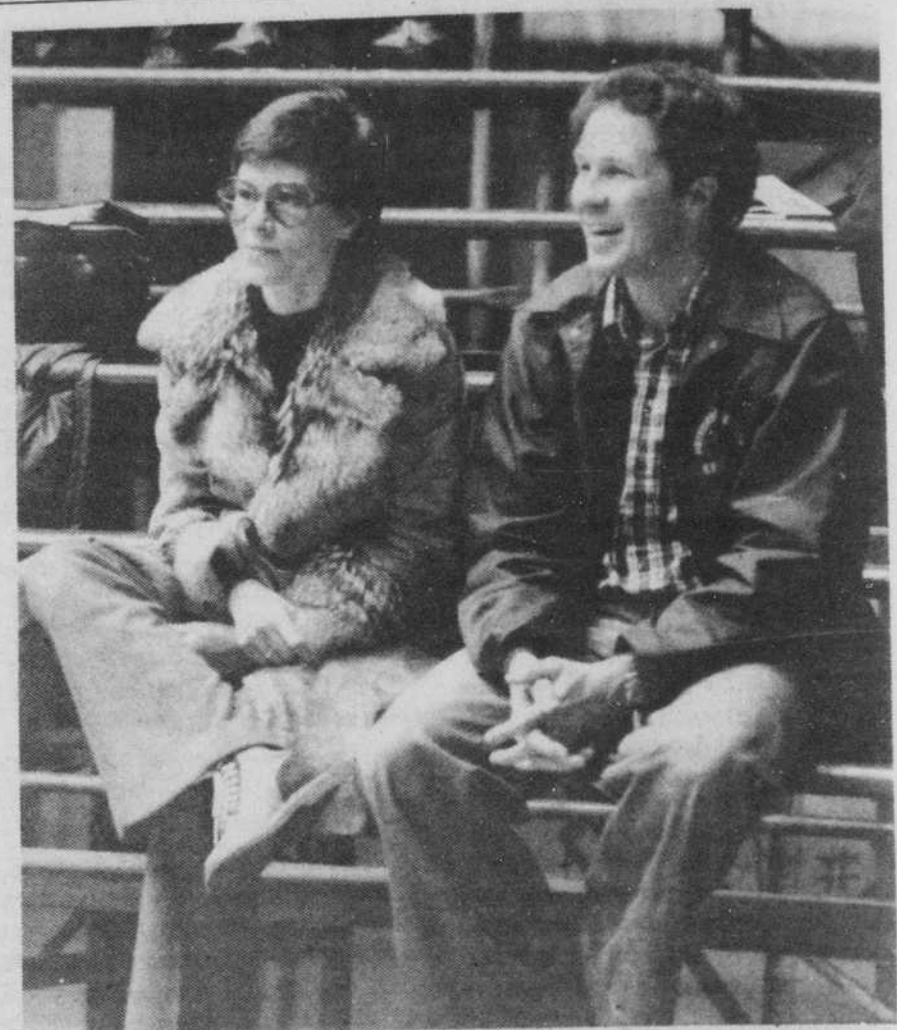


Photo by Mike Marino

The Heiny's got a lot of their coaching background in Germany, but the expertise of Henriette and Elwin has come in handy for the Oregon women's athletic department.

what men's athletics now experience. Elwin said recruiting has always been intense, it's just that now the money and a AIAW rule change that will allow coaches to spend school money for recruiting visits will make it more visible. In the past most recruiting of women has been restricted to letter writing and phone calls, because the AIAW wouldn't allow coaches to use school funds for recruiting visits.

While they both agree that the increased funds will aid their recruiting, it is the program that draws the athletes.

"If you have a median program, you will draw median to good people. If you have a super program, you will draw super people," Henriette observed. "If you work hard on your program, you'll get the better people."

While Elwin seems content to

stick with coaching in order to see what the fruits of his labors can produce, Henriette envisions leaving coaching behind eventually to delve into other aspects of her educational background.

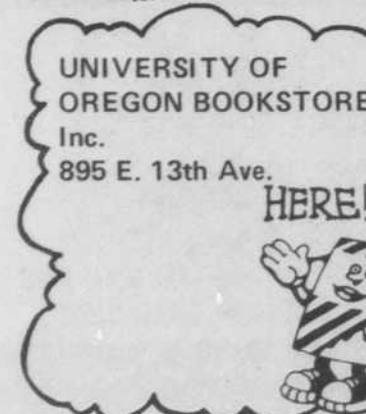
"What I would like to do, and I've been doing some of this in the past year, is concentrate on a combination of sports history and art history," Henriette said. "Whatever I've done in art has been geared toward sports. I would like to continue in that direction. I'm getting tired of so much coaching. I enjoy it right now but I don't want to spend the rest of my life doing it."

Elwin coached both men's and women's basketball in Germany. Henriette calls him "more of the coaching type."

"I enjoy it a lot. For now this is what I want to do," Elwin said.



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