

women's basketball

Clawson intimidating force for Oregon

By MARK STEWART
Of the Emerald

Any basketball fan who enjoys watching an intimidating forward should watch Kerry Clawson.

Clawson, a 5'10" forward from Deer Lodge, Montana by way of Flathead Community College in Kalispell, has been intimidating other teams all season. Probably her best overall game this year was the Western Washington game on Feb. 10, when she claimed 10 points, 10 rebounds, six blocked shots and five steals in 36 minutes of play.

Clawson averages about nine points and more than four blocked shots per game.

Not bad for someone who has only played on organized teams four years. As a high school sophomore, Clawson learned her school was going to field a women's team.

"When we heard we were going to have a team, we got all excited," said Clawson. "Then we heard rumors that we were going to get uniforms, which we did. But I didn't know what I was doing then."

But apparently she and her teammates knew enough, as the Deer Lodge team became the best women's program in Montana.

Upon graduation, she went to Flathead and the two years she was there the team was regional champion and ended up fifth nationally both years. Clawson said she wanted to go to a junior college before making the step up to a major college.

"A friend and I decided one day (to go to Flathead) and I told my mom," said Clawson, "and she said no. But later my parents were happy about it. I wasn't ready for a large school."

Clawson's home town only had about 5,000 residents, and she said it was an adjustment moving to Flathead CC with its 2,800 students. But moving to Oregon was even more of a shock to her system.

"It was an adjustment moving to Kalispell (pop. 10,000), but here — on 13th there are so many people, other kids. There's always people, and it seems that I can't get away."

Clawson has always been involved in one sport or another as she has matured. Swimming, golf and track were other sports she has been involved in sometime during her life.

"I was on a swimming team in junior high," said Clawson. "But I

"I like golf," she said, "but I just didn't feel that it was competitive. You don't have to get keyed up."

So it was onto basketball for Clawson.

"It was one of the first things they had for girls in high school," Clawson said, "Swimming was

built a court in the driveway my junior year in high school. We dug and dug and finally got it. I dug every afternoon."

Even though her dad is a coach, Clawson said he doesn't try to correct her mistakes. And he didn't push her into basketball.

"He doesn't interfere. He said last summer that he didn't want to interfere with my coaching. But he did say that I was going to school this year and play ball."

Clawson says she really doesn't know what she wants to do after she graduates. But she does know a couple things she would rather not do.

"I would rather not teach," she claimed, "my whole family are teachers. I've heard everything and would rather not teach. I heard that all people in sports go into PE, but I'm not sure I'd be good at it so I thought I'd try something else."

That something else, as of now, is in the health care field. Not nursing, she said, but something in the public service sector.

Clawson enjoys living and playing basketball in Oregon, but at times doesn't always enjoy playing at Mac Court.

"I get mad sometimes at people who walk across the court when we are warming up," she said. She told of one incident where a ball bounced off the court and the fellow who retrieved it dribbled on to the court and took a shot. "They wouldn't have done that at a men's game," she scowled. "That was really discourteous."

Clawson, along with the rest of her teammates, is hoping the team will qualify for the regional tournament.

"If we win the rest of our games, we might have the confidence to win regionals. We'll just have to see."

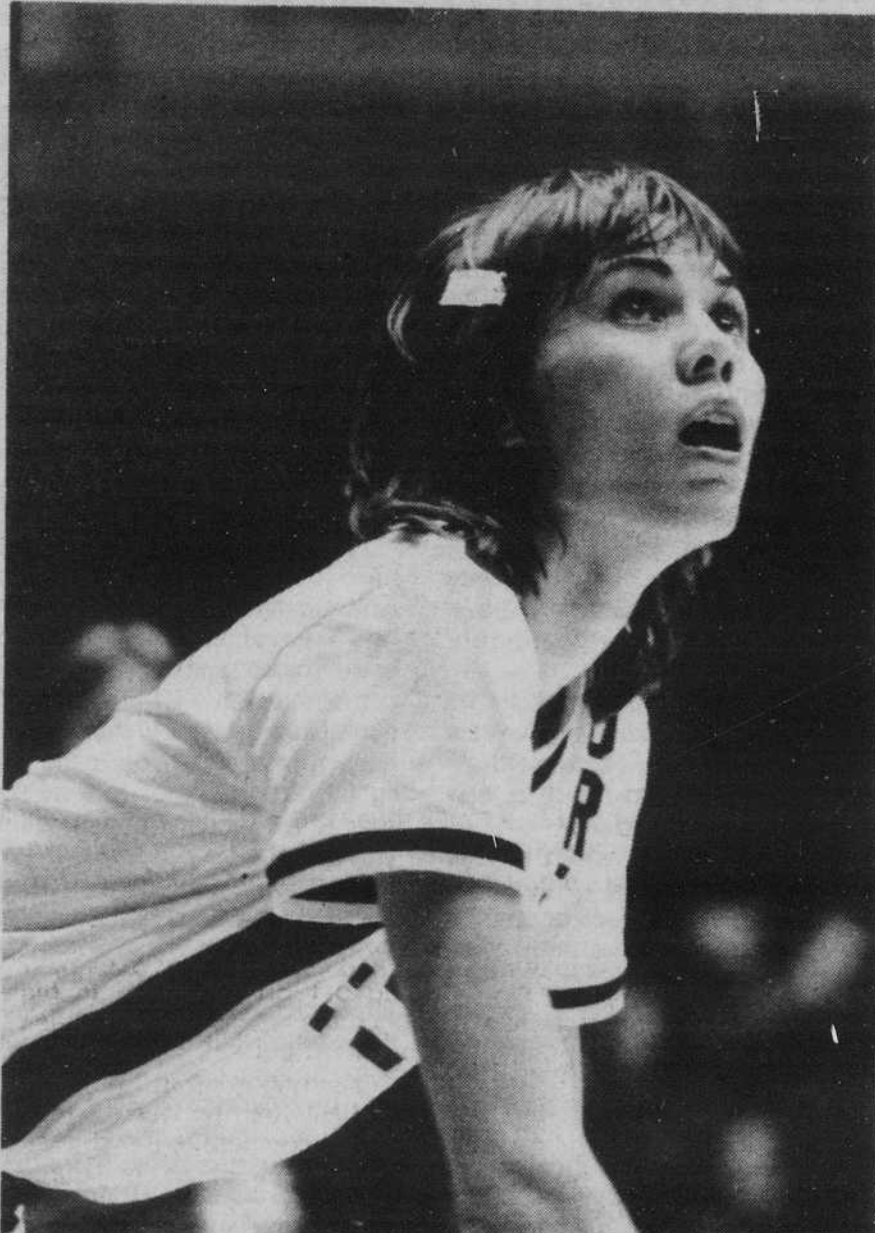


Photo by Steve Schneider

Kerry Clawson has become a major force on the Oregon women's basketball scene in the only year she has been at Oregon. Clawson averages more than four blocked shots a game.

wasn't strong enough and I got nervous before meets. I was terrible until I got into the water. I would get physically sick. I didn't want to go on trips and I wished somehow I would get scratched. But after I swam I was happy."

Giving up swimming for a sport that was easier on her nerves, Clawson took up golf and played on her high school team.

individual and I couldn't handle it. Basketball was competitive, I had friends who played and my dad was happy about it."

Clawson said her dad is a real sports bug, having played football and basketball for Montana State, semi-pro football in Canada and coached basketball.

"I played basketball as much as I could during the summer. My dad

Kentucky regains lead

By the Associated Press

After a two-week absence, the University of Kentucky has regained the top position in the Associated Press college basketball poll.

Marquette, the leader last week, was knocked off by Notre Dame and fell to number three.

1. Kentucky
2. UCLA
3. Marquette

4. Arkansas
5. Kansas
6. DePaul
7. Notre Dame
8. New Mexico
9. Michigan State
10. North Carolina
11. Florida State
12. Texas
13. Illinois State
14. Syracuse
15. Duke
16. Detroit
17. Georgetown
18. Providence
19. Utah
20. Louisville

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