

Waiting game over, Harter says he'll stay

By MIKE MARINO
Emerald Sports Editor

Dick Harter apparently had enough of the waiting game. After three days in limbo, Harter made the decision to stay at Oregon over a new job at Penn State.

"I believe my future lies with the fine young players we have now at Oregon," the 47-year old coach said in a brief statement Wednesday morning. He subsequently departed for a recruiting trip to California in hopes of rectifying any damage that may have been done by the Penn State rumors. Unlike the similar situation of two years ago, when he was apparently Colorado-bound, Harter

could not afford to wait any longer. It is only logical that the talk of his leaving wouldn't sit well with his recruits, and thus the need for a decision. The recruiting class of two years back now boasts only John Murray still on the team.

Harter had flown East last Friday for a Saturday meeting with Penn State officials, but he was not offered the job at the meeting.

The Nittany Lion people apparently had others they wanted to interview for the job to succeed John Bach, who announced his retirement in mid-season. It was learned that Harter was definitely the school's number-one choice, but three or four other interviews were nonetheless scheduled.

Harter obviously couldn't afford to wait any longer.

The Lions had been looking to rebuild their program that hasn't seen a winning year since 1974. This year's team at one point was mired in a 12-game losing streak, when Bach announced he would retire at the end of the season.

The search immediately began for a new face, and Athletic Director Ed Czekaj's office reportedly sent over 60 letters to coaches across the country, Harter among them. He was somewhat of the local favorite after having coached at the University of Pennsylvania for five years, up until 1971 when he moved to Oregon.

Penn State has one of the most lucrative football programs in the country under Coach Joe Paterno, and apparently was looking for similar success in its basketball program. But, it seems, they weren't willing to go as far as Harter wanted.

Harter's benefits at Oregon are numerous: his own basketball summer camp, a TV show during the season, a state-wide network to broadcast selected Oregon games, and sellout crowds at Mac Court that generate over \$50,000 in income every game.

The Penn State people were unable, it seems, to equal those benefits. At least not in one year.

And therefore Harter stuck with what he already had.

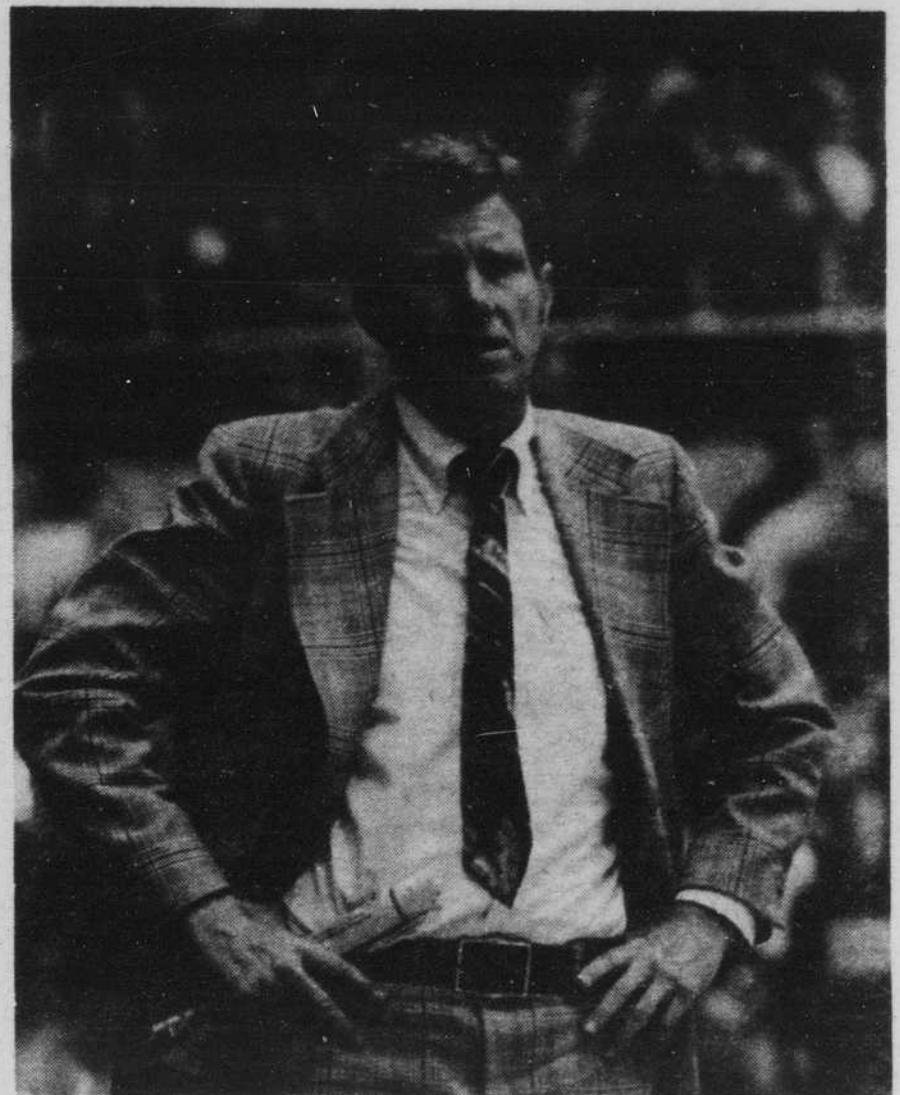


Photo by Steve Schneider

Dick Harter announced he's foregoing the job at Penn State by staying at Oregon.

Women accomplish goal, play in regionals tonight

By MARK STEWART
Of the Emerald

"We've accomplished what we set out to do — make regionals," said women's basketball coach Elwin Heiny of the just completed season. "We would like to have been undefeated but..."

The Ducks finished the regular season with a 12-7 record, good enough for second place in the Coast Division of the first year Northwest Women's Basketball League (NWBL).

When the Ducks won, they won big. When they lost, they lost big.

Over the year the women outscored opponents by an average of 13.2 points per game. In the games Oregon won (including five they later had to forfeit) the average margin of victory was 21 points. Four times the margin exceeded 30 (50,44,41,33) and three other times more than 20.

In the games they lost (excluding forfeits) the average loss was 15, with a low of four and a high of 22 points.

The Ducks had to forfeit the first five games of the season because it was discovered they were using an ineligible player. Because a team Oregon played against in two of those five games also had to forfeit games to the Ducks, the net result was three losses. Oregon turned itself in on the ineligible player violation.

"I would say our size and speed was definitely a factor," said Heiny of the season.

Out of 10 players on the Oregon roster, six are more than 5-10 and another is 5-9. Many teams had trouble matching up with the Ducks size-wise. "We have taller players where others have only average size players," noted Heiny.

Cushing was named to the NWBL's all-league first team. She

was the Ducks leading scorer, field goal and free throw shooter. She also led in assists and steals.

"Julie was a consistent shooter," said Heiny. "Her shooting opened up a lot of others on the team. She had a couple of weak games, otherwise she has been strong all season."

Heiny said the team's most consistent performer after Cushing has been Shannon Kelly. Kelly wound up the season as the Ducks second leading scorer and rebounder.

"We are playing at a higher class than last year," Heiny said. "This year is the first for the league. The competition is better and we are playing at a higher level."

There are a couple of reasons why.

"Players, like Shannon, are not flashy, but effective," Heiny said. Those "others" late in the season have been Tara Smith, Debbie Adams and Becky Paschke.

"One of the main differences this year over last has been the new kids. Kerry's (Clawson) influence in jumping and blocking shots has helped the whole team."

The Ducks left for Bellingham and the regional tournament yesterday. They play Western Washington in the first game of the tourney tonight at 6:30.

DUCK NOTES—Julie Cushing, who led Oregon in scoring for the 1977-78 women's basketball season was the lone Oregon player to be named to the first team on the Northwest Women's Basketball all-league team.

First Team
JoAnn Burrell, Boise State
Jeanna Eggart, Washington State
Jo Metzger, Western Washington
Margo Nelsen, Washington
Julie Cushing, Oregon

Oregon starts season with Pilots

By NICK DAWSON
Of the Emerald

Oregon's baseball team will travel to Portland today to take on the Portland Pilots in the 1978 season opener. Duck coach Mel Krause hopes the doubleheader will turn out to be something positive to build a season on.

Last year the Ducks fell to 14-27 on the year, the first losing season in Oregon baseball since 1932. A sweep of the first two games would get Oregon rolling, which is something desperately needed right now, said Krause.

In early season doubleheaders last year, Krause split playing time between his players as much as possible. This year, he's changing that policy.

"Because of our season last year, I think our guys have to learn how to win again," said Krause.

"I'm going to play every game to win."

Krause will put Glen Fisher and Jerry Cunningham on the mound in the opening games against the Pilots. Krause said both are in good shape and are ready to throw.

Illness may have an affect on the lineup. According to Krause, three infield starters, Glenn Baggerly (shortstop), Jerry Rinella (third base) and Steve Elam (first base), all have or had the flu.

Catchers Pete Wilkinson and Mike Carr also have the flu and might be out of the lineup.

In the Pilots, Oregon will be facing a team that will also be rebuilding.

Portland has two second team all-league choices back in shortstop Nick Kintz and outfielder

Steve Comer. Bill Krueger, the Pilot's MVP as a first baseman last year, will return for another year of action.

The Portland infield is weak overall, though Kintz provides a good glove up the middle. Pitching is also a problem area for the Pilots.

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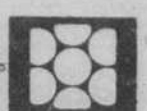


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