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Oregon gets new scoreboard; might be ready by Pre meet

By MARK STEWART
Of the Emerald

Osaga, Inc., announced Tuesday it is giving Oregon a new track scoreboard valued at \$80,000.

The scoreboard, built for the Eugene-based Osaga by Specialty Instruments of Grand Prairie, Texas, will be the most electronically sophisticated track scoreboard in the country. According to Specialty Instruments (Accutrack), the only comparable scoreboard in the world is the one that was used for the 1976 Montreal Olympics.

"I believe the scoreboard will become an institution to the university, athletes who compete at the local, national and international level at Hayward Field and to the super fans of Track City U.S.A.," Bill Combs, founder and chairman of the board of Osaga,

said in presenting the scoreboard to the university.

"It's a vehicle as I see it to really make the city more the track capital of the U.S.," Combs said. "We have the fans, the facility, and a super track. This is just icing on the cake."

The scoreboard, 23 feet high and 31 feet wide, will be placed on the existing clock standard at the south end of the field. Though no firm date has been set for installation of the board, it is hoped by both Osaga and the Oregon athletic department that the board will be operational by the Prefontaine Classic on May 31. Dedication will be at that time.

The board will have eight rows of alpha-numeric characters capable of displaying a competitor's name, team, lane assignment and scoring for events.

Lane assignments can be pro-

grammed into the mini-computer that controls the board. Timing will be controlled by the same Accutrack system that is currently installed. Another feature of the board is that splits of leaders' times can be shown and the clock re-activated to pick up running time.

The computer can store the final results of up to 25 events and an attached printer can given event or meet results. Results can also be redisplayed on the board at any time during a meet.

According to Associate Athletic Director Lew Cryer, the board will be dedicated at the Prefontaine Classic to the efforts of Steve Prefontaine, one of the best distance runners to ever run for Oregon.

Cryer said the scoreboard would also be another asset to the university's repertoire used for attracting national meets.

Blazers need two good halves

SEATTLE (AP) — Better-and-longer will win it for the Portland Trail Blazers, says forward Larry Steele.

Give-and-take is the secret of the Seattle SuperSonics' success, says assistant coach Les Habegger.

The Blazers and Sonics meet Wednesday night in game four of the best-of-seven National Basketball Association playoff quarterfinals. Seattle has a 2-1 lead.

"We have to play better longer is what it amounts to," said Steele. "We've played a good half every game. We're going to have to get as close to a good 48 minutes as we can. If we get a good 35 to 40 minutes we'll have a good chance to win."

Habegger, spending his first year in the pros, said the genius of the Sonics' climb from the cellar to contender is "coaches and players talk back and forth very freely" under coach Lenny Wilkens.

"I've been very free to contribute during time-outs, pregame, postgame, whatever," said

Habegger, who spent 18 years as head basketball coach at Seattle Pacific University.

Wilkens shaped a rather stumbling bunch of players into a shooting machine largely through personality, Habegger said.

"Lenny is under control of his emotions. When he says something to a player during the game, it's said in such a way it's not a putdown. No one is ever personally attacked," Habegger said.

"I guess I've always been a believer in the positive image," he said. "If you're constantly told you're no good, that's the kind of player you'll be."

Portland is playing without some key shooters, including center Bill Walton, who is out with an injured foot.

The Blazers also activated reserve forward Willie Norwood and removed injury-plagued forward Lloyd Neal from the team's roster.

"That doesn't help, not having all of our players," Steele said. "If it gets to be a real physical game and they get in foul trouble and we get in foul trouble, then it's going to hurt us more."

Blazer coach Jack Ramsay said some rebounding "can be handled with just attention to the detail of blocking out. That's what we have to do. They outsize us by a pretty fair margin, and they're deeper than we are, so we have to really pay attention to our blocking out assignments."

Asked if his team has to play its best to beat Seattle, Ramsay said, "Yes, but that's not impossible to do. We have played some excellent games being short of personnel. This is a time we're going to have to do it."

Assistant Blazer coach Jack McKinney said, "I thought we've played well in all three games, but there were periods of letdowns. We're taking a lot of their offense away, things that we know we can stop. In the third game they just beat us with power. They out-muscled us and rebounding was the difference between the two teams."

He added, "Now we just have to concentrate very, very hard on blocking out. That will be the key to this game, the fourth game, to beating Seattle."



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