

sports

Commentary

The new scoreboard lights up our lives

Mike Marino

A friend told me the other day that there are better things to get excited about than a new scoreboard at Hayward Field. After all, a scoreboard is an inanimate object, as incapable of feelings as are most computerized metal boxes.

Still, while Oregon's new \$80,000 wonder donated by the Osaga Shoe people may not merit a parade down Franklin, it at least deserves a little notice. Along with the artificial track and the electronic timing, the board will definitely cinch Hayward Field's spot as the number one track place in the country.

Which brings up an interesting question: What of the U.S. Olympic Trials in 1980? Eugene was a more than gracious host in both 1972 and 1976, but three times in a row and you might as well make it permanent, like the baseball Hall of Fame in Cooperstown or the White House in Washington.

"The people at the Olympic House (the folks that make these kinds of decisions) are going to have to take this into serious consideration," Oregon's athletic director, John Caine, said Tuesday after the announcement. "No one else has anything like this (scoreboard), and now that we have it, the other cities are hurting."

The people at the Olympic House obviously look for certain things in deciding who is to hold the trials. The city must be big enough and interested in track and field; the facility must hold a good-sized crowd; the track surface must be top-quality; and the people in charge must be able to run the whole thing.

Oregon apparently passed the tests in both '72 and '76, and with its new toy, might just pass it again.

I know. A scoreboard is a scoreboard. But this one is pretty special. Not only is it hooked up directly to the Accutrack timing system, but this baby can be programmed for lane assignments (up to eight), and can show the split times in the longer races (so you can tell if anyone's on a world-record pace). The board (built, incidentally, by Specialty Instruments, Inc., the Accutrack people) will also serve as a message board, so if Jeff Stover puts the shot for a record or if hot dogs go to half-price, you'll know about it almost immediately.

Except if you're in the cheap seats. You people in the south bleachers will see about as much of the new scoreboard as you currently see of the old lap board — nothing. But there really isn't much of a choice. If it was placed outside of the stands, it would sink into the mud at the south end — and there's no room at the other. So the new board will be placed just where the old lap board — and the rest of the fans will get a clear view of the "alpha-numeric" characters. Majority rules, I guess.

Hopefully, it will be installed in time for the Pre Classic — and fittingly, the first message the board will carry will read, "Dedicated to the everlasting memory of Pre." A lot of us weren't around to see Prefontaine in his heyday, but at the mention of his name — Pre — we feel like we were. If it is in by the Classic on May 31, Steve's parents will likely assist in the opening ceremonies.

It depends on the timing. The machine is so complex, and so hard to work, that the timing is touch-and-go. "The Accutrack people will be here to see the initial phase through," said Lew Cryer, the Ducks' associate AD. "They have a contract that runs through the NCAA's and that'll give us time to train someone to run it full time in the future."

The national meet in June will be a helluva showcase for the board they call "the best this side of Montreal." (That one, you'll remember, was about the size of PLC and could do everything short of run the races for the athletes).

What made the whole thing possible, was, of course, the donation of the Osaga people and Bill Combs, the founder. Until now, Blue Ribbon Sports (NIKE) has had its way in Eugene, but Osaga, the idea created by Combs, the owner of Burch's, is looking to change that.

"It was a natural marriage," Cryer said. "They are in town — and they support our programs."

It's nice to have friends.

Blazers lose

SEATTLE (AP) — Rookie Jack Sikma scored Seattle's last seven points, including a baseline jumper with nine seconds left, to the SuperSonics to a 100-98 victory over the Portland Trail Blazers Wednesday night and into a 3-1 lead in their National Basketball Association playoff series.

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Oregon blasts OCE behind strong singles showing

By STEVE JETT
Of the Emerald

Oregon men's tennis coach Buzz Summers revealed the evidence why his squad continues an upward trend, after the Ducks blitzed Oregon College of Education 7-2 Wednesday afternoon.

"One of the reasons why we are improving over our opponents is because we have been using the indoor facilities an awful lot," explained Summers, after the Ducks swept five of the six singles and succumbed in only one doubles match.

"None of the other teams have the facilities (indoor courts) like ours so sometimes they are actually going down in strength because they have not had the chance to practice due to the rain," continued Summers, who saw the Ducks improve to 6-7 on the year.

Straight set victories came from all five singles winners. Tom Goldman recorded an easy 6-0, 7-5 triumph in the number two singles, while number three man Steve Bolstad routed OCE's Mark Clements 6-4, 6-2. Jim Lowell, Don Holman, and Mike Demong added wins.

Goldman and Lowell teamed to win in the number two doubles, losing only three games in the process. Demong and Holman buried their opponents 6-1, 7-5.

The only Oregon singles loss came at number one when Idaesta Jawer ousted the Duck's Eric Lehto in three sets. Jawer and Chuck Brown were also responsi-

ble for the other Oregon setback in defeating Lehto and Bolstad 6-7, 6-2, 6-3.

Summers explained the singles loss.

"Eric did not play quite steady enough to win. He was a little erratic at times," explained Summers of the freshman. But overall, Summers sounded content, and he had reason to be.

"We were not really tested in any of the singles matches today but the number one spot. This is also the first time we have played

OCE in a couple of years," explained Summers.

There were obvious reasons for Oregon's domination of the visiting Wolves. OCE does not have a senior on roster, with both its top two singles players being juniors. They also lost the previous number one man, Bill Hathoway, with a bad knee.

The Ducks travel to Seattle this Friday for a three-day tournament which will feature Washington and the University of Portland, both winners over Oregon this year.



Photo by Neil Gruenfelder
Jim Lowell, awaiting a serve, won his number four singles match, 6-3, 6-2. Lowell was one of five Ducks to win singles matches yesterday in Oregon's 7-2 dual win over OCE.

Ganoë, Thetas lead IM track

Ganoë dormitory and Theta Chi fraternity have taken the early lead in the intramural track and field championships with nine points each.

Fraternities Sigma Phi Epsilon and Kappa Sigma follow the leaders with seven points.

400 run — 1. John Wells, Sandy Bay Harriers, 4:24.8. 2. Mark Farley, Chi Psi, 4:25.0. 3. Mark Lansing, Bong Brothers, 4:27.4. 4. Clark Harris, SPE, 4:33.8. 5. Keith Bodner, Ganoë, 4:34.8.
800 run — 1. Keith Bodner, Ganoë, 2:04.5. 2. Lance Baughman, Theta Chi, 2:06.0. 3. Clark Harris, SPE, 2:06.1. 4. Mike Lehman, Sigma Chi, 2:06.1. 5. Mark Wojahn, Unattached, 2:09.0.
Long jump — Jerry Wolfram, Kappa Sigma, 20-4½. Kelly Umanhoffer, Pi Kappa Alpha, 20-1¾. Kevin Simmons, Theta Chi, 19-9. Mike Paulson, Unattached, 19-8½. D. Dinsmore, Watson, 19-8.

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