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emerald sports

Steve Elam
By Mike Grady
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Last year, Steve Elam followed in the tradition of most Duck third basemen — he was prone to errors. This year, a switch to first base, plus his always potent bat, have made Elam a player to be reckoned with.

Crew
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The women's crew team started the year with ten new rowers, but hard work has brought them to respectability.

Pac-8 golf results
By Mike Baer
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Oregon's golf team competed in the Pac-8 meet Monday and Tuesday in Los Angeles. The Ducks were the pre-tourney favorites.

Track
By Mark Stewart
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Todd Lovell was one of the nation's best prep javelin throwers last year. Though he has started slowly, things should only get better for the Newberg native.

Pro tennis in pictures ..
By Tim Leonard
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A sparse crowd was on hand at Gill Coliseum as pro tennis brought its show to Corvallis.

The Emerald Sports weekly supplement is published every Wednesday and is designed to cover the University's athletic programs.

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Mike Baer, Mark Stewart, Tim Leonard

Cover photo by Neil Gruenfelder

Haney signs transfer guard Wright is Oregon's last recruit

By MIKE MARINO
Emerald Sports Editor

Jim Haney took another step to break from the past yesterday.

Oregon's basketball coach announced the signing of Richard Wright, a starting guard for Old Dominion College in Virginia last season, to a letter-of-intent to attend Oregon is the fall.

The Duck program had recruited no transfers or JC players for the last six years.

"It's not something that I'm going to definitely do every year, I'm not advocating that," Haney said. "But I can't think of anyone I'd rather have if you're gonna do it than Richard Wright."

The 5-9, 180-pound playmaker — the second such player the Ducks have taken this year, Barry Walker being the other — averaged 13.1 points and 4.5 assists

for the college that produced Portland's ace ballhandler, Dave Twardzik. He made the move to Oregon — turning down a visit to Marquette in the process — because he felt he could, in his words, "play basketball for the best college level school in the country."

One drawback accompanies the good news, though. As a transfer, Wright must sit out a year before becoming eligible to play for Oregon. "Sure, I'm disappointed at that," Haney said, "but I knew that going into it. Beside, he'll be a good worker for us in practice next year."

Wright contacted Haney a week after the latter took over the job as the Duck's coach. "I knew him because I knew his high school coach, Jim Wilkinson," Haney said.

Wright played three years for Wilkinson at Abington High out-

side of Philadelphia before moving on to Old Dominion, where he averaged 8.5 points and 4 assists in his freshman year.

His signing is part of Haney's plan to strengthen Oregon's depth.

"We needed some backup strength and someone with ball-handling experience," Haney explained. "Richard is a guy who has played on the college level and he has that experience."

Wright fills the third and last available scholarship spot left in the program, with the other two going to the 6-1 Walker and Jerome Williams, the 6-8 forward out of Pasadena.

Wright is the first transfer to come to Oregon since 1971, when Dick Harter recruited a forward named Chris Thompson from Golden West JC in Huntington Beach, Calif. Thompson stayed at the University for only one year.

Kelch drops out of school

Oregon's top all-around gymnast of this past season has decided to drop out of school and probably will not return next year.

Jim Kelch, a freshman in eligibility, elected to withdraw from school "to sort out his personal problems," according to Ducks Coach Bill Ballester.

Kelch finished 13th in the all-around competition in the NCAA meet held in Eugene last month. He was also the second place finisher in the Pac-8 meet in both the all-around and parallel bars.

"His decision may, down the road, prove to be to his advantage," Ballester said. "There are no doors closed and he will be welcome back to our program whenever he feels ready to come back."



Jim Kelch

Two wrestlers sign on with Oregon

Oregon coach Ron Finley announced yesterday the signing of two California wrestlers to his program.

Modesto's Russ Miller was a third place finisher in the California state tournament two years straight and finished second in the U.S. Wrestling Federation Junior Regionals, held in Eugene last March. Miller, who will wrestle at

216 pounds for Oregon, was 31-2 his senior year.

Craig Schoeny is a junior college transfer from Skyline J.C. in San Bruno. Schoeny was the 1977 Pan-Am Games champ in the 220 pound weight classification and finished second among junior college heavyweights in California last year.

As a junior college wrestler, Schoeny had an 85-7 record.

The Ducks already have two outstanding wrestlers from the Eugene area. Bill Nugent from Marist, last year's 130 pound AA champion and Dan Cook, last year's AAA heavyweight champ, will attend Oregon next year. Cook will also play football for Oregon.

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