

crew

Inexperienced women rowers gaining respectability

By GREG TAUBE
Of the Emerald

It's like a big puzzle and the oarswomen are just pieces of the puzzle. My job is to put the pieces together so that they form the best possible combination."

The speaker is Paul Schultz, coach of the Oregon women's crew. His puzzle — to turn 14 women, 10 of whom are new to the sport, into smooth rowers. In his first year as a coach, dealing primarily with inexperienced athletes, Schultz has inevitably run into some problems.

The team has exactly the number of people to fill a heavyweight eight and a lightweight four. If anyone quit, the season ends for one of the boats.

The Oregon light four rowed fast enough to qualify for the final at the Corvallis Regatta earlier this spring. Schultz didn't realize they'd made the final and drove back to Eugene with two members of the four. Consequently they never rowed the race and were dropped to last place.

"They were pretty mad at me after that," said Schultz, "and I certainly can't blame them. I was just happy to see them show up the following Monday for practice."

Crew began for this year's team in the fall and workouts continued through the winter with distance and stair running, weight lifting and rowing. All of the hard work seems to be paying off as Oregon becomes more competitive each week.

On April 15 the eight boat rowed against a fast OSU boat in Corvallis and the Beavers won easily. The next weekend the gap was narrowed and the lightweight four made the final.

Last weekend in Portland the

Duck eight was leading OSU halfway through the 1,000 meter race but couldn't hold off the more experienced Beavers. Oregon did defeat Lewis and Clark easily.

"Last year we lost to everyone," said Melanie Gant, seven oar in the heavy weight eight. "We are definitely better this year. Paul is very good at explaining technique and that's where the biggest improvement has been."

Prospects in the lightweight four seem to be improving too. Amy Walsh, the only returnee from last

year's four, feels optimistic.

"After the Corvallis Regatta, I knew we were competitive," she said. "We just switched people around and the boat sets up much better than before."

Schultz takes pride in the realization his team has come such a long way since the beginning of the year.

"I think we're accomplishing something just by being competitive," he said. "Oregon has achieved respectability in west

coast rowing. But the thing that makes me happiest is the enthusiasm of the girls. When they got out of the boat in Portland, they were really excited."

Teams from all over the Northwest will row in the regional two weekends from now but OSU is considered one of the favorites. At this stage in the season experienced crews don't figure to improve as much as inexperienced boats like Oregon. If the Ducks keep getting better, they will be competitive.

golf

Murray ties for title; Oregon 3rd in Pac-8

By MIKE BAER
Of the Emerald

Oregon's Brent Murray tamed a very difficult North Ranch Country Club course yesterday in Los Angeles, firing a pair of three-under-par 69s to tie first day leader Mike Peck of Stanford to become the 1978 Pac-8 golf co-champion.

Down by six shots with the toughest part of the course in front of him, Murray came through by going three under on the last nine

holes to rise from fourth place to the top spot.

After experiencing one of his most upsetting days as a coach Monday, Oregon's Jim Ferguson was much happier with his team's second day performance. However, the team could not better its first day standing and it finished the tournament in third place behind Southern Cal and Stanford.

"We played better today but we didn't really play well. We just kind of gutted it out," said Ferguson.

Murray's comeback was not the

only one of the day, as host USC caught up and passed Stanford in the last nine holes, making up 12 shots and winning the team title by six going away. Stanford's title hopes were shattered as it played the final nine in a pitiful 15 over par.

Oregon did shoot the morning's best round, but the team was just too burned out from a rough week in Phoenix and then Los Angeles, where it had to get up at 4:30 a.m. and played from about 5:30 until dark, squeezing in 36 holes on

each of the last two days. The course also played a part in the Ducks' failure to challenge USC.

"USC's home course was the difference; it just wasn't familiar to us," Ferguson said. "We are comparable to them and I think we'll beat them in Eugene (at the NCAA championships)."

Oregon's Jon Hesselwood finished in the eighth spot, but Jeff Sanders again fell victim to a few rough holes that ruined what otherwise would have been respectable scores.

RESULTS

Individual scores: Brent Murray, Oregon, 71-77-69-69 — 286; Mike Peck, Stanford, 69-72-72-73 — 286; Larry Collins, USC, 78-72-70-72 — 292; Steve Schraeder, Stanford, 71-77-73-73 — 293; Rod Commons, USC, 76-77-71-72 — 296.

Other Oregon scores: Jon Hesselwood, 76-73-76-76 — 301; Scott Tuttle, 78-79-76-76 — 309; Scott Kreiger, 82-77-78-74 — 311; Jeff Sanders, 74-84-73-85 — 317; Doug Hixson, 80-83-77-78 — 317.

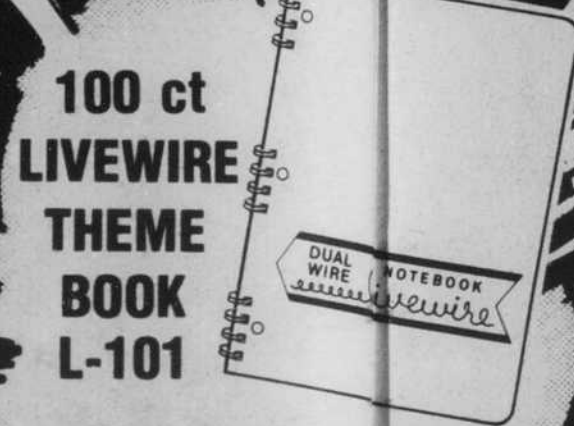
Team scores: USC 1185; Stanford 1191; Oregon 1207; UCLA 1223; California 1232; Washington 1260; Oregon State 1305; Washington State 1341.



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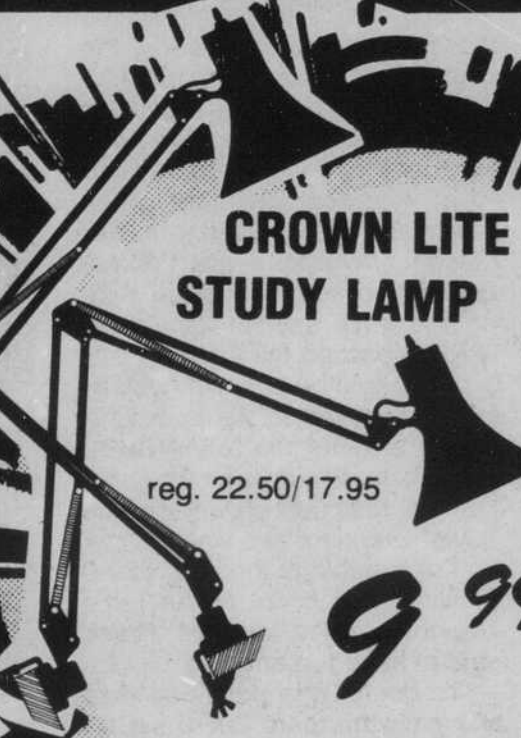
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