

No more Kamikazes

Duck basketball enters new era

By MIKE BAER
Of the Emerald

Even during the off-season Oregon basketball has stirred up excitement, disappointment, frustration and anticipation usually not experienced until the Far West Classic in December.



Jim Haney

Oregon heads into the upcoming season with more than just new uniforms. The Ducks will have a new head coach, three new assistants, a new philosophy, and a new Pac-10 Conference. A quick glance into the recent stormy past will explain the new look of Duck basketball this winter.

The Ducks had a difficult sea-

son last year. Despite the strongest recruiting class ever, the loss of main-man Greg Ballard from the previous year's conference runners-up couldn't be overcome.

After the season, former Duck coach Dick Harter, (the man most responsible for packing the "Pit" and creating the Kamikaze image) went back home to Pennsylvania to coach at Penn State.

Upon Harter's departure, the search for a new Oregon coach was short lived. Harter's right hand man, Jim Haney, with the endorsement of returning players, became the youngest head coach in the Pac-10 conference when selected to replace Harter.

Haney quickly announced that the past was to be forgotten, and his Oregon teams would shed the hard-nosed, all-out defensive play of the past for a more productive offensive style.

It's yet to be seen if Oregon basketball will remain the phenomenon of the last decade.

In the past years of Oregon basketball there are many fond memories of the mania that captured Eugene each winter.

As the teams warmed up, so did the crowd. As the roaring began and the frisbees began to fly, the band played a seemingly endless version of "Mighty Oregon" to the 10,000 standing and clapping spectators.

This tumultuous applause continued throughout the games, and the seasons.

Those seasons, full of narrow victories and defeats, were highlighted by three victories over



Emerald Photo

Masterminds of the 1977-78 Ducks basketball season, coach Dick Harter and captain Mike Drummond are both now gone. Kamikaze basketball has gone with them, as new coach Jim Haney begins a new era of Oregon basketball.

perennial conference champs UCLA.

Record books tell the facts, but

what of the distinctions that have made Mac Court so feared by opposing schools?

The style of all out play, along with the tense physical battles and the amazing amount of close games would support the excitement and interest any good college team would expect, but Oregon fans are still unique. All important games the last two years have involved overnight waits for those after front row seats. The UCLA game two years ago found over one hundred bodies bundled in sleeping bags at both front and back doors. Last season, all conference games found lines taking shape in the early mornings for 8 p.m. games.

Oregon basketball games are more than just a sporting event, they are the major social happenings of winter term, a time for staying indoors and taking heavy study loads.

On the court the Ducks return with a veteran squad, missing only the Bulldog, Mike Drummond, the play-making guard who carried much of the weight of last year's disappointing season on his 5'8" frame. Dan Hartshorne and Kelvin Small return to the middle along with center Rich Davis, so Oregon should be strong here.

Hartshorne must come back from an off-year if Oregon is to have more offensive punch. Small could see some duty at forward along with sophomores Mike Clark, Phil Barner and possibly Felton Sealey. Clark played strongly and aggressively last year and Barner and Sealey both have the tools to go at either guard or forward.

Rob Closs, injured on the verge of a fine season last year, should help cover the loss of Drummond along with the hot-shooting John Murray. Murray must also shake off a disappointing year if the

Ducks plan to put more points on the board. Stu Lyon and Sealey will also be called on to contribute from the outside.

Despite the limited time Haney and his assistant had for recruiting, they did come up with two impressive recruits.

Forward Jerome Williams from Pasadena, California, brings his 17-point average and his rebounding strength to Eugene along with Barry Walker, a 16-point-per game play-making guard from Gardena, California.

While Jim Haney looks for more offensive power and a faster tempo, the new and old students, along with those fortunate enough to get season tickets, look toward the balconies and the band to see Oregon basketball and feel the famous atmosphere of Mac Court.

1978-79 SCHEDULE

HOME GAMES, Away games

Nov. 24	SAN DIEGO STATE
Nov. 29	SACRAMENTO STATE
Dec. 2	ATHLETES IN ACTION
Dec. 4	Pepperdine
Dec. 7	DETROIT
Dec. 9	NORTHERN ARIZONA
Dec. 16	Vermont
Dec. 21	Oregon State
Dec. 27-30	Far West Classic
Jan. 5	USC
Jan. 8	UCLA
Jan. 12	ARIZONA
Jan. 13	ARIZONA STATE
Jan. 18	Washington
Jan. 20	Washington State
Jan. 27	STANFORD
Jan. 29	CALIFORNIA
Feb. 1	UCLA
Feb. 2	USC
Feb. 10	Arizona
Feb. 17	WASHINGTON STATE
Feb. 19	WASHINGTON
Feb. 23	California
Feb. 24	Stanford
Mar. 3	OREGON STATE

All games at 8 p.m.

Page 5 Section D

U notated & spg9

Ask About
Our
**CONVENIENT
LAYAWAY PLAN!**

Select from
these
SKI LINES

- HART
- HEAD
- K-2
- DYNASTER
- KASTLE

ALSO
X COUNTRY

- SKI BOOTS**
- MUNARI
 - DOLEMITE
 - GARMONT
- SKI CLOTHING**
- HEAD
 - NUMBER 1 SUN
 - SPORTSCASTER
 - LEVI
 - HOT GEAR

BE SURE
TO SEE
OUR COMPLETE
LINE OF

**TENNIS
CLOTHING
AND
EQUIPMENT**

**Downhill and Cross Country
Ski Rentals Available!**

SKIING

TENNIS

RACKETBALL

SKATEBOARDS

MOGUL MOUSE SPORT SHOP

2504 Willamette St., Eugene 686-1918
615 Main St., Springfield 726-1919

OPEN DAILY 9-6