



john harris

Playing for fun

Rob Closs began his fifth year as a member of the Oregon basketball team when the Ducks commenced practice this week, and for the first time he expects to enjoy the workouts.

"I think we're going to have fun this year," said the amiable guard from Portland's Sunset High School at Oregon's basketball media day on Saturday. "This year we're not going to dread going to practice."

The difference, of course, stems from the change from the regime of Dick Harter to the era of Jim Haney. Under Harter a typical Oregon practice consisted of constantly diving for loose balls and running until you dropped. With Haney as head coach, the Ducks will spend the early season practicing learning to adapt to a new basketball philosophy, a philosophy which encourages individual initiative and a faster pace.

"The players are more excited this year," says Closs. "Like I said, we used to dread practice. It was a long month and a half before the first game. This year we'll be learning something every practice."

Among the things the Ducks must learn is to take the open shot without fear of retribution. Harter's five pass rule before a shot is no longer in effect under Haney.

"It's going to be a different year," Closs says. "We're gonna be able to do things we haven't been able to do in the past. We'll have the opportunity to take shots on our own, and we're gonna be running more."

"We've been so regimented in the past; it was militaristic."

Closs's enthusiasm for Haney's approach to basketball is important, since he and forward Kelvin Small are the Ducks' co-captains this year. Equally as important is whether or not Closs emerges as

a team leader as the season progresses.

"I think I can handle it (leadership role)," he says. "I did it in high school. I did a good job there, and I think I'll do a good job here. I've got good court sense and maturity, and I know I can handle it. I've had a lot of experiences the past five years."

Closs is a candidate for the point guard spot vacated by the graduation of Mike Drummond, but he may return to the other guard position where he started much of last year.

"I'm very optimistic of the play of Closs," Haney says. "He should be a leader, though there will be a period while he wonders how much effective leadership he should take."

Closs's situation is similar to that of the entire Oregon squad. During the first few weeks of practice Haney will spend most of his time implementing his offense, and it may take the Ducks a while to adapt to their new roles.

"I think we'll become a very good team, but to be honest with you, I don't know when that will be," states Haney.

Vying for playing time at guard in addition to Closs are sophomores Felton Sealey and Stu Lyon, junior John Murray and freshmen Barry and Marvin Walker.

Barry is one of two freshmen on scholarship, while his brother Marvin made the team as a walk-on.

Small and sophomores Phil Barner and Mike Clark, all three lettermen, return at forward, and will be joined by junior walk-on Don Hayes and 6-8 freshman Jerome Williams.

The center position is manned by returning lettermen Dan Hartshorne, a junior, and Rich Davis, a sophomore.

Oregon opens the season Nov. 14 with an intrasquad game in Mac Court.



Rob Closs

Duck golfers preparing for southern migration

By LEN SCHVANEVELDT
Of the Emerald

The Oregon Duck golf team will soon be joining the other migratory fowl in their annual exodus South.

Having recently completed a fall qualifying tournament, Oregon will open their off-season schedule at Stanford on Oct. 24.

Oregon coach Jim Ferguson feels that the Ducks should be as strong as last year, despite the loss of All-Americans Brent Murray and Scott Tuttle.

"It's hard to replace players like them (Murray and Tuttle)," Ferguson said, "but we have a strong nucleus back. We should be as good as last year."

Leadership on the Duck squad is to come from senior three-year lettermen Jon Hesselwood and Jeff Sanders. Hesselwood, who set a course record 66 in the NCAA golf tournament last year, is expected to have an "outstanding year" ahead of him.

Junior Scott Krieger and senior Doug Hixson will be returning to the line up for Oregon; both are two-year lettermen. Also back from last year will be sophomores Dave DeLong and David Wallace.

After sitting out a year, junior Glen Luikart and sophomore Mike Marcum become eligible to play this season. Luikart is a transfer from Houston and Marcum was last year's freshman red shirt.

After Stanford, the Ducks will head to Los Angeles for an invitational tournament involving the top twelve teams in the nation. They will then return home for winter training.

Oregon will start its official season in Hawaii during February. The Ducks will play their entire schedule away from the Pacific Northwest.

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early morning treat

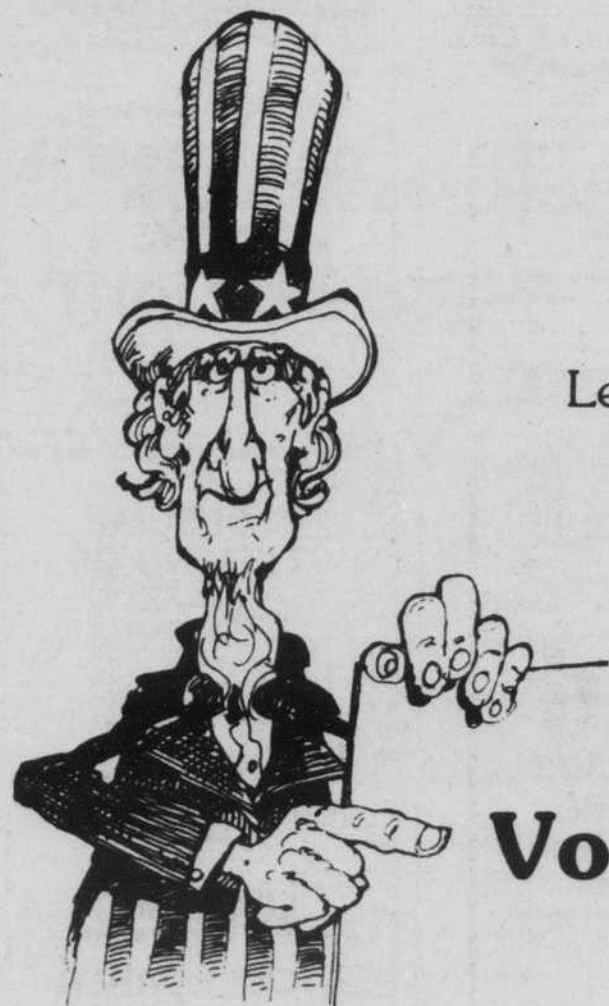
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