

sports

Big things expected of women cagers

By KEN SANDS
Of the Emerald

With a sudden burst, the figure dribbles past the defender and charges to the basket. Exhorting the good move, the coach says "Let's see some more of that."

There is no roaring approval from the Mac Court crowd, for this is only practice. Nevertheless, head coach Elwin Heiny boasts of players with all-American abilities, and proclaims the level of excitement is paramount.

"People in the community are unaware of the women, and they would be amazed," he says. "The women are really improved. Their size and jumping ability is much greater, and it all makes for an exciting game."

The opening contest is still a month away, but the women are playing and competing between themselves with an intensity not normally expected of a women's team. According to Heiny, each player needs to be competitive in order to gain a berth in the starting lineup. "We're going to be good, and we will probably be favored to win the NCWSA this year," he says.

Teammates encourage successes and admonish failures. This intensity is expected of any team, male or female, that hopes to unseat the national champions. "Our goal is to make it to nationals, but to do that, we will have to beat UCLA," says Heiny.

Once an unrealistic goal, the availability of scholarship money has helped attract national class athletes to Eugene, and visions of grandeur are materializing.

Freshman Bev Smith from Salmon Arm, British Columbia, is proof. The 6-1 forward was a starter on Canada's National Team last year, and is considered by Heiny a prime candidate for all-American status. "Bev is probably one of the best players in the U.S., and she stands a good chance of becoming all-American," he says.

Heiny calls her a complete player, and attributes her poise and confidence under pressure to her international experience of last summer. "She has played against the Russians, and the Canadian team beat the U.S.," he says.

Junior Julie Cushing was named to the Northwest Women's Basketball League all-star team, and was nominated for the all-American team last season.

Debbie Adams and Shannon Kelly were both all-tournament selections in last year's Region 9 tourney. Adams, the team's leading rebounder, is back for her sophomore year, but Kelly will miss her junior year in order to study abroad.

Suzanne Washington, a transfer from Humboldt State, scored 28 points against Oregon last year, and will help the team this year according to Heiny. "She's a good all-around player, and it's good to have her on our side," he says.

Freshman recruit Claudia Eaton from Merced, Calif., has a good chance at the post position, says Heiny. "She has a lot of potential, but she has got to get toughness in the middle," he states.

Kerry Clawson led the team in blocked shots last year, and has good rebounding ability according to Heiny. Tara Smith, Bev's sister, spent the summer in Eugene working out in preparation for her senior year. "She stayed in Eugene on the weight program, and it shows—she's also an excellent shooter," says Heiny.

Freshmen guards Lisa Lewis, Kay Schvaneveldt, Debbie Ware and Toni Middleton, along with transfer Sabrina Dosrey round out the squad.

"We'll be competitive, and a good, strong running team," says Heiny.

Depending on the combination of players on the floor, the prime objective will be to fast break, and wear out the opponent. "We will press, and we hope to break a lot to play up to our potential," says Heiny.

Helping Heiny are two assistant coaches, Sheila Strike and Neil Stenseth, both from Canada. Strike is a graduate student and played for the Canadian team in the Montreal Olympics.

With what looks like a strong unit and experienced coaching, the women are expected to have a good year. The test of the sport's marketability will come when New Mexico comes to town on Jan. 9. There will be an admission charge to the game, and two other games during the year.

Tentatively scheduled for Mac Court is the Korean national team. "We should be able to draw as many people for the Koreans as the Japanese drew for the Gymnastics last year," says Heiny.



Photo by Doug Williams
Freshman Bev Smith, shown here pulling down a rebound in a recent practice, played this summer for the Canadian national basketball team and will be a main cog in Oregon's run at the national championship.

Soccer squad bolstered by return of scorer Zook

Oregon's men's club soccer team will once again have the services of high-scoring Eric Zook when it hosts Seattle University, Saturday at 3 p.m. at Autzen Stadium.

Zook, the leading scorer for the Ducks last year, suffered a leg in-

jury in a match a month ago against Oregon State. His injury evidently affected Oregon, as the Ducks are only 2-3 in Northwest Collegiate Soccer Conference (NCSC) play, and 3-7-1 overall.

In order to improve his team's offense, Coach Mike Davis moved midfielder Scott Meiggs to forward. Meiggs' performance has been impressive, so good in fact that Davis will keep him on the front line in order to complement Zook.

Davis said his midfield of Tom Crist, Tony Roberts and Jim Huff has been playing well enough to allow Meiggs to stay in the offensive end.

"They all work hard on defense," Davis points out. "Sometimes they make some errors, but they really try and work at it. They're willing to listen. In the games we've played they've done a good job."

Last year the Ducks defeated the Chieftains 1-0 in Seattle, but Davis warns that the Washington school has a better team this year.

Seattle Pacific currently leads in NCSC standings, followed by Simon Fraser.

sports haps

Intramurals
Weigh-in for the intramural wrestling tournament will be from 4 to 5:30 p.m. today in Esslinger Hall.

Women's racquetball tournament entries are due today at 5 p.m. in 102 Gerlinger Hall.

Outdoors
The pre-trip meeting for the Santama Lake clean-up project is tonight at 7 in the EMU.

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