

Men need improvement, so scrimmage again

By KEN SANDS
Of the Emerald

In Tuesday night's intrasquad game the men's basketball team showed its inexperience, and coach Jim Haney says to win the Pac-10, much improvement is needed.

"We made an awful lot of mental errors," says Haney. "We didn't read the fast break situation, we didn't execute our proper offense and we didn't block out on rebounds."

Saturday night the Green and the Gold play again, and Haney hopes for better results. "They'll have a little more composure and they'll try to come out and critically reduce the number of mental errors," says Haney.

Crucial to the running offense is rebounding, and Haney says not blocking out was a big flaw in Tuesday's game. "Most of the time there was only one or two people blocking out, and we need all five blocking out because we need to control the backboard to run," he says.

Haney believes the new offense is responsible for many of the errors, as the players are still learning. "They fell back into some of their habits from last year. At times they threw the ball up at the basket rather than waiting for a good shot," he says.

Although some of the players had impressive statistics, Haney says the Ducks weren't playing as a team. "No one performed as well as will be needed when the season starts. Tuesday night is not how we're going to have to play."

How are they going to have to play? Haney hopes Saturday night's game will be a better indication. "We're going to do some things better and some things worse, but hopefully we will show improvement," he says.

The experience of playing in front of a crowd should help in the improvement process, says Haney.

"Playing for the first time, they got so wrapped up in their emotions that they lost track of why they were there. Haney says the Gold team tried to win as individuals—and lost."

"The Gold team put the ball on the floor a lot, and basketball is a team game," he says. "The Green team performed effectively on offense in the second half though."

Both teams committed many turnovers (47 total) and fouls (56). "The defense didn't make great plays to create the turnovers, we made the turnovers on our own," admits Haney.

With the running offense, turnovers are prevalent but not in such excess Haney says. "There are more chances to commit turnovers but we have to minimize those if we are going to improve."

Haney is not surprised with the progress of his team so far, but recognizes the work that needs to be done. "Right now we are a mediocre team. We have to stop foolish fouls, and we have to recognize our fast break opportunities," he says.

Ducks face national meet

By MARK STEWART
Of the Emerald

Oregon's women's cross country team travels to Denver, Colorado today in preparation for tomorrow's Association for Intercollegiate Athletics for Women national cross country meet.

"Our goal all along has been to be in the top five (at nationals)," coach Tom Heinonen says. "It's not an unreasonable goal. We think we have a chance to win."

But he did mention several factors the Ducks will have to contend with besides other teams. "In a national championship race, the stress is terrific and the cold altitude adds even more stress. Strange things are more likely to happen," he says.

Running at 5,200 feet will be something new to most teams, but not to Oregon.

All seven runners for Oregon—Lori Aizner, Robin Baker, Molly Morton, Katy Mountain, Jody Parker, Ellen Schmidt, and Cheri Williams—have either raced or trained at high altitude this year. Heinonen said Denver's high elevation will be a big factor for most teams.

"Every team is going to gamble on a strategy on how to race at altitude," Heinonen says. "Some teams will hit it just right and some will miss it completely. We could be first or 10th."

"People will make mistakes like running too fast early and going into oxygen debt. You have to try to balance the problem of going out too fast to get in front of the mass of runners and going out too easy."

"At altitude, a good runner who runs a perfect race could do things she might not do at sea level. The results of the race both individually and team-wise could be startling."

Heinonen thinks senior Robin Baker, who is in the best shape of her running career, will finish in the top 15 and be Oregon's top finisher. "Robin ran a very controlled race in the regionals (which she won) and she is tough, really tough," he says.

But Baker and team will have plenty of competition for the individual and team titles on Saturday.

Defending champion Iowa State is again one of the pre-race favorites. ISU was the Region 6 champion, but its top runner, Teri Wierson, from Portland, has a tendonitis problem. The team won all three previous AIAW team titles and was undefeated until this year.

Penn State, with defending individual champion Kathy Mills, has a good chance at the team title, Heinonen says. Mills, a former world record holder at 5,000 meters, won last year's race by 26 seconds. Teammate Liz Berry finished second. Heinonen says the Nittany Lions have been training in an altitude chamber in preparation for the meet, but won't arrive in Denver until just hours before the race.

Wisconsin, which won the Region 5 title by placing its five runners in the top 10, beat Iowa State earlier this fall on the site of na-

tional meet. Number one runner, Marybeth Spencer, an All-American in both track and cross country last year, won her region's individual title.

California was in top shape early in the season but has not "crashed" like some coaches had thought it would, Heinonen says. Top runners are Susie Meeks, Jan Oehm and Susan Richter. Heinonen says California is a team "we would very much like to beat."

Colorado will be running on its home course and has two runners who could challenge for the individual title. Colorado won the Region 7 title and Mary Decker took the individual championship. Jana Slater is the other contender for the title.

North Carolina State had two runners in the top 10 last year in Julie Shea and Joan Benoit. Shea won the Region 2 individual title and NCS the team championship.

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Trojans favored

NEW YORK (AP)—"The big winner this week will be the Bell System," jokes one college football insider familiar with the behind-the-scenes wheeling and dealing of various bowl committees.

But all the finagling to arrange the most attractive post-season pairings will go for naught if the wrong things happen Saturday.

For example, if Missouri upsets second-ranked Nebraska—and the Tigers aren't known as football's upset specialists for nothing—the Orange Bowl can forget about No. 1 Penn State and a possible national championship showdown.

That would free Penn State for the Sugar Bowl, and if Auburn knocks off eighth-ranked Georgia, No. 3 Alabama would be in the driver's seat for New Orleans. But the Crimson Tide still has to play Auburn on Dec. 2 and a loss there would thrust the Auburn Tigers, of all people, into the Sugar Bowl.

It's enough to start Ye Olde Peerless Prognosticator thinking wicked thoughts. And the first

thought that comes to mind—please, Nebraska fans, no letters—is the Upset Special of the Week. Missouri 21-17.

Last week's score was 47 right, 23 wrong and one tie for a .671 percentage. The season score is 431-171-13-716.

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