

# Ducks kept running 'til they won

By KEN SANDS  
Of the Emerald

When the Lone Ranger and the basketball pep band ignited the crowd at McArthur Court Friday night, it was just like old times, but a fast break and a 75-64 win over San Diego State, made obvious the changes.

Coach Jim Haney's new "transition game" provided constant excitement, but in the end it was the Duck defense that won the game.

"The complexion of the game changed with 14 minutes left in the contest when our defense forced them out of their offense," said Haney.

Defense had the fans cheering as in years past, but even it was different. "We overplayed one pass away and tried to deflect or intercept passes," said Haney.

Last year's sagging defense resulted in fewer fast break oppor-

tunities according to senior co-captain Rob Closs. "The defense set the tempo for the offense," he says.

Closs led the team with 16 points and made all 10 of his free throws late in the game, as the visitors committed desperation fouls. Senior co-captain Kelvin Small, junior Dan Hartshorne and freshman Barry Walker each added nine.

That's the balanced scoring that Haney was looking for. "Offensively we did not execute well, but we were productive enough to win," he said.

Improvement throughout the game was evident said Haney, as turnovers were reduced from 17 in the first half to 11 in the second half. "I told them at halftime that I thought the first half looked like

the first intrasquad game," he said.

But in the second half the upperclassmen took control. Small brought the crowd to its feet several times with five rebounds, a blocked shot and a full-court pass that resulted in a Stu Lyon lay-in.

What was the difference in the halves? "We didn't block out in the first half," said Small.

Hartshorne blocked out his opponent Steve Malovic well enough to grab 10 rebounds though. The 6-10 postman also passed for six assists. "We had to read the defense and adjust the passes to it," he explained.

It worked to Haney's pleasure. "Of our 13 second half field goals, 11 were off of assists—that's a big difference," he said. "We got four of five key baskets from passes inside."

Walker received several of these passes, and created a few of his own. "Barry is like everyone else—when he was confident he pushed with the ball," stated Haney.

Closs and Lyon controlled the ball late in the game and drew praise from the coach. "In the second half the guards settled down, and they settled the team down."

Closs said the offense improved in the second half. "For the first game, I think our offense was pretty efficient."

Thinking basketball is necessary, said Haney during the pre-season. "We want to become the soundest team in the league mentally. Becoming an effective team, designed to get the ball to the player closest to the basket will be one area of concentration. Shooting improvement will be the other."

Friday's shooting percentage of 58 is a gain on last year's conference mark of 41 percent. Again, Haney was pleased.

With much the same team, why the change? There are several reasons. The nature of the new

offense provides more "easy" shots, and the new coaching philosophy has relieved much pressure. "I was recruited as a shooter, and if I shot and missed last year I was out of the game," explained junior John Murray.

Small describes a change in emotion from tension to expectation. "It's a different kind of feeling. This year you can anticipate something happening, and it gets the adrenalin flowing more and more," he said.

Hartshorne felt the anticipation in another way too. "I'm excited for the whole program. We needed to get off on the right foot, and we got what we needed," he said.

But before anyone begins thinking too far ahead, Hartshorne cautioned, "It's going to take time. This was just the first game in pre-season."

But it was more than just a pre-season for the curious spectators—and for the coach. Said Haney of his coaching debut, "It sure is nice to get that first one."

Haney and the Ducks' next chance for a win comes Wednesday night when they entertain Sacramento State.

## Freshmen come through as wrestlers win opener

Just as coach Ron Finley expected Oregon's wrestlers won their first match, beating Eastern Washington 37-6 Saturday night in Mac Court.

And as Finley had hoped, the Ducks' freshmen lightweights wrestled well, winning three of four matches. But after it was all over, Finley admitted his team's performance reflected its youth.

"I'm pleased with the win, of course, and I'm pleased with the margin (of victory)," he said. "Basically, I wanted to see how the team would perform outside of the wrestling room. For the first performance some of the guys have a lot to learn, but I was really pleased with the younger guys in the lower weights."

Freshman 118-pounder Adam Cuestes, who won 108 of his 109 matches last year (his only loss was a default when he slammed his opponent to the mat too hard), won the opening match by forfeit but did have a chance to display his talents. In an exhibition, he easily outpointed Randy Garcia of Umpqua Community College, who appeared to have a distinct weight advantage over Cuestes.

"Let's just say he (Cuestes) weighs almost 118 pounds," Finley said with a sly grin.

In the second match at 126 pounds, freshman Russ Miller fell behind EWU's Ruben Martinez 8-1 after the first period, but then tied the score 8-8 after two periods before eventually losing 13-10.

Miller, who was third in California the past two years, said the longer periods in college affected him. In high school all three periods last two minutes, while in college the first period is two minutes long, but the second and third last three minutes each. "Tonight was a lot tougher than high school, especially because of the longer periods," Miller said. "I made mistakes in this match I shouldn't have."

Miller was the only freshman to lose, but Finley was still very pleased with his performance. "Even though he lost, he made an excellent effort. He just kept making the same mistake over and over, but I wasn't disappointed in Russ's effort at all."

The error of Miller's ways was his failure to lift his opponent off the mat when he had him by the ankle. Instead, Miller let Martinez stay on the ground and gain a reversal to go ahead for good 10-8.

Freshman Bill Nugent (134 pounds) beat Larry Bush 7-2, de-

spite receiving a cut under his eye that required stitching in the third period.

Oregon's fourth freshman, Jimmy Hildebrand, defeated Jay Breckenridge, a senior, 19-7 in the 142-pound class, while Duck all-American Scott Bliss (150 pounds) was pushed to the end by Dave Rimnitz before winning 9-8 on a takedown with just 48 seconds left.

Barry Boyles and No Neck Brown recorded Oregon's only pins of the night. In the 158-pound class Boyles flattened Tim Bratten with 1:35 gone in the first period, while Brown (190 pounds) pinned Gutierrez with 6:18 gone in the match.

In the remaining classes, the Ducks' Leonard Simon (167) super-decisioned Lloyd Cherry 20-8, Mike Stolp of EWU stopped Oregon's Ryan Kelly 14-3 at 177 pounds and Oregon heavyweight Craig Schoene beat Dan Thew 8-3.

The victory was Finley's 99th as head coach of the Ducks. Wednesday Oregon will go after No. 100 for Finley when the Ducks travel to California for a 7:30 p.m. contest with the Bears.

## Women make national presence felt in volleyball and field hockey tourneys

An eighth place finish in the national tournament by the field hockey team and qualification to the national tournament by the volleyball team marked a highly successful weekend for Oregon women's athletics.

The Duck stickers, under the guidance of first-year coach Nancy Plantz, won their first match ever in a national tournament after failing to register a victory in previous tries the past three years. Oregon opened the tourney with a 3-1 loss to Virginia but bounced back to whip Central Washington 4-0 and Connecticut 1-0 in three overtimes. The Ducks next met St. Louis University, who eventually finished fifth overall, and fell 2-0. In the fight for seventh place Oregon was beaten 2-0 by Long Beach State.

West Chester State won the national title for the fourth straight

year, followed by Delaware, San Jose State (who earlier in the year beat Oregon 2-0), Massachusetts and St. Louis.

The breakthrough into the top eight by three West Coast teams (San Jose, Long Beach and Oregon) and two Midwest squads (St. Louis and Southern Illinois) denotes a change in the balance of power in the four-year-old national tournament that has traditionally been dominated by Eastern schools.

Oregon finished its season undefeated in Region 9 play and 25-4 overall.

The Duck volleyballers, who have a first-year head coach of their own, Chris Voelz, shocked defending regional champion Washington State en route to a third place finish and a berth in the national tournament that will be

held Dec. 7-9 in Tuscaloosa, Alabama.

In the preliminary to the championship match the Ducks defeated the Beavers in five games for third place, and then Portland State downed Washington—giving Oregon the right to go to Tuscaloosa.

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