



john harris

AIA: b-ball with a touch of religion

At halftime of Oregon's men's basketball game on Saturday night a member of the Ducks' opposing team, Athletes in Action, will take the floor and explain the importance of his religious faith to the meaning of his life. He will tell how Christ came into his world and made it more meaningful. It will seem as though he is as much an evangelist as a basketball player and, indeed, he is.

Athletes in Action (AIA) is one aspect of the multi-faceted Campus Crusade for Christ, a non-denominational Christian missionary organization that has been around since 1951. Basketball is just one of 10 sports included in the Athletic Ministry of Campus Crusade, which was initiated 11 years ago. The point of the Athletic Ministry—and the Crusade as a whole—is to first lead people to Christ and then help them grow within their Christian faith. "It's a

very evangelistic movement," explains Kathy Kaiser, an assistant sports information director for Athletes in Action.

The Campus Crusade's work is not limited to athletics alone. The organization's ministry spreads its word in prisons, high schools and overseas. In addition to using sports and a pulpit as a forum for its preachings, the Crusade also has a touring musical group.

All the athletes, administrators and musicians are employees of the Crusade, and the basketball players are paid \$7,500-\$10,000 annually depending on the years of service and size of family. Their salaries are considered scholarships and the money for them is raised by businessmen in the Los Angeles area. (The organization's offices are located in Tustin, near Anaheim.)

AIA is the most visible element of all, largely because of its success winning basketball games. Last year the team finished 37-4, including wins over the Soviet Union national team and the

Coaches' all-American squad.

Although a winning basketball team may on the surface seem to have little to do with winning converts, it is part of a well thought out plan on the part of the Crusade.

"We believe athletes have an already-made platform, and people listen and believe what athletes say," Kaiser says.

"The athletes come on with the idea of how Christ has changed their lives and that they want to spread the word. And when you're successful (playing), you have a bigger platform, so that's why we try to have as good a team as possible."

AIA only recently emerged as a national basketball power, and the team's rise began when Bill Oates was hired as head coach four years ago. Oates coached at Santa Anna Junior College in California, where his squads compiled a 95-55 record and twice won the South Coast league championship. Since taking over at AIA, he has been able to attract

high quality players, some of whom turned down lucrative professional contracts to join the Crusade.

Ralph Drollinger, a center from UCLA, last year refused an offer of a three-year, \$400,000 contract from the New Jersey Nets of the National Basketball Association.

Two other team members were lured away by the NBA, however. Alonzo Bradley now plays for the Houston Rockets, while Bayard Forrest is a member of the Phoenix Suns.

This year's squad is 4-3 thus far, not including a game last night with Cincinnati in Long Beach. AIA has beaten Iowa State, Connec-

ticut, Old Dominion and Marquette. The losses have come to the Soviet Union, Maryland and Long Beach State.

The team's leading scorer is 6-9 forward Irvin Kissen, a four year veteran from Oklahoma Baptist with an average of 16.3 points per game.

The remaining starters are Eugene Parker, a 6-2 guard in his first year from Purdue; Brad Hoffman, a 5-9 four-year veteran guard from North Carolina; 6-11 center Ernest Wansley (in his second year from Virginia Tech), and Tim Hall, a 6-8 forward from Colorado State who is in his fourth year with AIA.

10% off any item not already on sale

Sales Made Between
9:30-11:30 Mon-Fri

The Running Company
27th & Willamette
open Mon-Sat
9:30-6:00
Sun 1:00-4:00

RUNNING OUT OF TIME AND MONEY???
FOR THE FRIEND WHO'S WORTH A DOLLAR.
ODE CLASSIFIEDS BRINGS YOU

NOEL NOTES



15 words for \$1.00 if placed by Dec 7, 1 p.m. (300 EMU, Main Desk, UO Bookstore)

*Noel Notes will appear Dec 11 (Last publication for Fall Term)

COUPON

GOOD THINGS ARE WORTH WAITING FOR
That's why there are waiting lines at Mr. Moto's.

MR. MOTO'S

Good Coffee Fine Pastries

PURVEYORS OF FINE QUALITY
COFFEES, TEAS, & ARTISANAL

In the Atrium 10th and Olive
Open Daily 7:30-11:00, 9:00 a.m. Sat., 10:00 a.m. Sun. ODE

**Bring in this ad and
Receive a Free Cup of Coffee
When You Buy a Pound**

Tune-ups behind them, wrestlers face big time

The Oregon wrestling team warmed up for this weekend's rugged Arizona Invitational by drubbing California Wednesday night 48-2 for coach Ron Finley's 100th collegiate career coaching victory.

Finley expected the Ducks to win the match with the Bears, but he also figured a win over any of California's three top wrestlers would be an upset. Much to his surprise freshman Jim Hildebrand, 177 pounder Ryan Kelly and heavyweight Craig Schoene defeated their favored opponents.

Schoene's win was probably the most startling, especially considering the ease with which he dispensed of the Bear's George Moskowitz, the defending Pac-8 champion. The Duck heavyweight won by a disqualification because Moskowitz was stalling, but at the time the match was called Schoene was leading 18-0.

Hildebrand won his second straight collegiate match at 142 pounds, besting highly regarded Wayne Pouncey 15-9. Kelly, whose loss in the

Eastern Washington meet had disappointed Finley, rebounded by downing Randy Coste 3-0.

The only team points registered against Oregon came in the first match of the night when the Bears' Dave Conti battled Adam Cuestes to a 5-5 tie in the 118 pound class.

Russ Miller, defeated in his first collegiate match against Eastern Washington, evened his season record by pinning Rick Waters, while No Neck Brown moved with one of the school career fall record by pinning Frank Mancoat in 58 seconds.

Other Ducks registering falls were all-American Scott Bliss (150 pounds) and Leonard Simon (167 pounds).

Barry Boyles and Bill Nugent both won big as well. Boyles defeated John Hunter 24-7, and Nugent bested Rick Quon 18-5.

Oregon will receive a sterner test this weekend when the Ducks meet, among others, Arizona State, one of the top teams in the nation.



NOW!
**Pull ring
and throw...a party
Big Mouth from
Mickey's Malt Liquor**
THE MEAN GREEN

The 4½% brew is now available at your local supermarket or tavern.

Patrick Distributing Co. 915 Shelley Spfd. 726-1461

©1978 G. HEILEMAN BREWING CO., INC., LA CROSSE, WISCONSIN AND OTHER CITIES