

Women challenge Invaders

By MARK STEWART
Of the Emerald

The Oregon women's basketball team opens its season with a non-counting game against the Northwest Invaders Saturday at 5:30 p.m. in MacArthur Court.

Coach Elwin Heiny says the team has been working on being more aggressive on defense and improving offensive execution since the team's second intra-squad game two weeks ago.

"In this game we want to see how well we run the break — the transition game," Heiny says. "Bev (Smith) and Claudia (Eaton) both look for a quick outlet pass to start the break."

Heiny says the team will also use a pressing defense to try to control the tempo of the game.

"We're not necessarily looking for turnovers, but the press should keep the pressure on the opponent and if it promotes turnovers, that's good," he says.

The team had problems with both turnovers and poor shooting in both intrasquad games, but Heiny attributes that to not having his strongest five players together on the floor at the same time.

"Now that we are not splitting

the team, we're putting a pretty solid team on the floor," he says.

"(Shooting was poor because) we knew ourselves too well. We knew the weaknesses of the players and tried to play that way."

The Invaders, Christian-based AAU team, is led by 6-3 Karen Strong and 6-1 Sue Smith, both former Portland State players and

5-7 Cheryl Traner, formerly of Oregon College of Education.

Strong, who graduated in 1976, "carried Portland State to at least three Northwest championships," according to Heiny. She was invited to try out for the 1976 Olympic team and as a player for Dr. Bernard's AAU team last year scored 28 points against Oregon. Smith, as a sophomore last

year, was ninth in the Northwest Women's Basketball League in scoring with a 13.9 points per game average and was seventh in rebounding with a 9.6 per game average.

Traner, who graduated from OCE in 1976, was chosen all-league while at OCE and scored 37 points against Oregon last year for Dr. Bernard's.

Chinese considering bringing track team to Eugene for meet

By the Associated Press

The People's Republic of China is interested in bringing a track and field team to Eugene for a meet with the University of Oregon Sen. Bob Packwood, R-Ore., said Thursday.

Packwood said a date for the competition in Eugene is yet to be finalized, but Chinese officials suggested some time between September, 1979 and the 1980 Olympic Games.

"The Chinese don't want to do it in the summer of 1979, which was the date we suggested," Packwood said. "But they are definitely interested. It's just a question of timing." Packwood, who was in

China last week, said the Chinese will be preparing for their national games marking the anniversary of China's liberation.

Packwood's discussion was with Yu Bu Sheih, the head of the All-China Sports Federation. Yu told Packwood that a tour of the United States would be built around China's visit to Eugene for a track meet, and the visit would be a beneficial prelude to their hopes for participating in the Olympic Games at Moscow.

Prior to Packwood's leaving for China, an aide to the senator contacted University of Oregon Vice

President Ray Hawk regarding the idea of a Chinese track visit.

"Among the things the senator was going to propose to the Chinese was some kind of exchange in track," Hawk said Thursday. "And Eugene would be a natural for a thing like this."

Hawk told the Packwood official that the university would be interested in such a venture, but there could be no financial guarantees.

"We told them we would certainly like to participate," Hawk said. "But we could not invest in the idea."

Husky Invite next competition for swimmers

Nine members of the Oregon men's swim team will travel to Seattle this weekend for the Husky Invitational Swimming Championship.

"The Husky Invitational will give a good indication of the strengths and weaknesses of many of the Northwest schools," Oregon coach, Dick Schleicher, says. "Washington, Simon Fraser, Puget Sound, and Pacific Lutheran use this meet for national qualifying, which means they are rested and tapered. We are going to go into the meet tired. If we can swim with the competition, it will provide us with a big psychological victory."

Schleicher is taking only nine swimmers so that the rest of the squad can prepare for finals. One of the nine making the trip is world class breaststroker, George Koch.

"Koch really strengthens their team," said Puget Sound head coach, Don Duncan, after the Ducks beat his squad 82-31. "I had forgotten all about him, but he refreshed my memory real quick."

The diving team will compete in the Tualatin Hills AAU Invitational this weekend.

Lucas' free throws cap Blazer victory

RICHFIELD, Ohio (AP) — Maurice Lucas tossed in a pair of free throws with nine seconds left to insure the Portland Trail Blazers a 98-97 National Basketball

Association victory over the Cleveland Cavaliers Thursday night.

Lucas poured in 23 points to lead the Trail Blazers to their

come-from-behind victory, ending Cleveland's two-game winning streak.

Cleveland led through most of the game, building margins of up

to 13 points and taking a 79-69 edge into the fourth period.

But the Blazers chipped away, taking their first lead of the game, 92-91, on a three-point play by Bob Gross with 3:09 remaining.

Tom Owens, who kept Portland close with 13 of his 17 points in the third period, made it 94-91 as Cleveland center Jim Chones was called for goaltending with 2:09 left.

Lucas then hit on two of three free throw attempts for a 96-91 edge, but Chones came back with four straight free throws to make it 96-95 with 40 seconds left.

Portland guard Dave Twardzik missed a jumper, but Chones stepped on the out-of-bounds line as he came down with the rebound with 14 seconds left. That forced Cleveland to foul, and Lucas hit two more free throws before Austin Carr, who had 24 points, cut the margin to one with six seconds left.

Rookie Ron Brewer added 20 points for Portland, while Campy Russell had 19 and Chones 18 for the Cavaliers.

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