

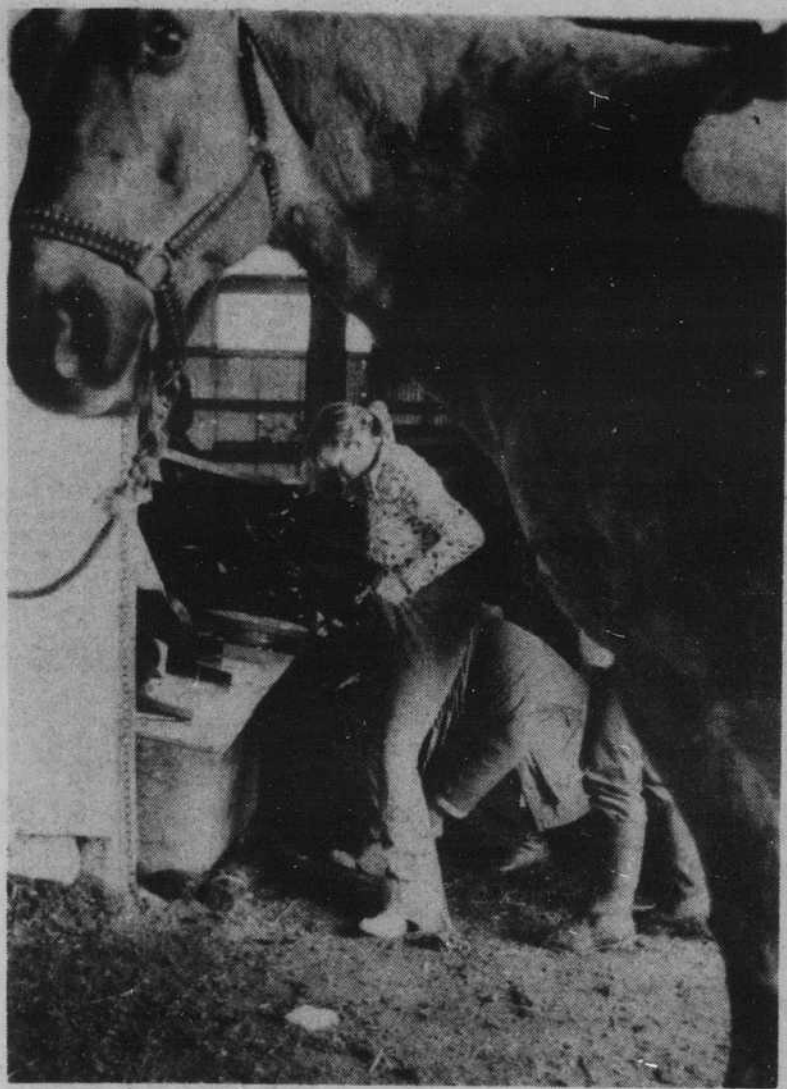


Photo by John Harris

Quick changes were an important factor Sunday at the University equestrian team's "Beer Classic" horse show. This rider is buckling fingered chaps over her English riding pants, in order to enter a western riding class. She's already changed from English riding boots to cowboy foot gear, with a little help from a boot-yanking friend. The horse is patiently waiting for his change of outfit.

Flying Ducks better 220 in rare home appearance

A rare appearance in Mac Court seemed to be all the tonic the men's gymnastics team needed Friday night when the Flying Ducks topped the 220 mark for the second time this season in beating Washington 220.06-207.75.

The victory was coach Bill Ballester's 200th dual meet win and Oregon's 12th victory against one loss this season. The Flying Ducks' loss came at the hands of California Feb. 3 in Berkeley.

Friday night's meet was a joy for the Oregon men, who will perform only three times in Mac Court this season. In addition to Washington, the Flying Ducks have entertained Fullerton State; the final home appearance will be against Washington State Feb. 23 and 24.

Led by all-around champion Miki Moyal, Oregon won every event in the optional competition.

Moyal who also won the vault, registered a 54.10 score and was followed by Flying Ducks Kelly Crumley (53.73), Al Gerber (52.86) and Gene Christensen (52.48).

Crumley's best finish was a third in the horizontal bar, but the freshman reached a career best all-around score.

Junior David Villasenor recorded a career best 9.5 in winning the parallel bars. His mark tied the school record set in 1975 by Bob Rikli.

Other Oregon winners were Mark Knupp in floor exercise, Gordy Hocking on the pommel horse, Christensen on the rings and Randy Beard, who took the horizontal bar with a score of 9.6.

The Flying Ducks next competition will be Thursday at New Mexico.

Ducks earn Arizona split

By KEN SANDS
Of the Emerald

Arizona, as the Duck basketball team found out last weekend, is a nice place to play basketball. So

Blazers rally, conquer Atlanta

PORTLAND, Ore. (AP) — Mychal Thompson scored nine points in the final nine minutes to spark a Portland rally and give the Blazers a 91-87 comeback victory over the Atlanta Hawks in a National Basketball Association defensive struggle Sunday night.

After the game was tied — the lead changed hands 10 times in three minutes — Thompson hit a layup with 44 seconds remaining to give Portland a three-point cushion.

The Hawks blitzed Portland in the third quarter, running off strings of 10 and seven unanswered points to erase a 44-36 half-time deficit.

However, Tom Owens scored eight points in the final quarter as Portland won its fourth straight game and raised its home court record to 23-5, best in the NBA.

nice that the Ducks emerged with their first conference win on the road, and nearly their second.

Last Thursday the Ducks (4-9) surprised Arizona State 70-63, and Saturday afternoon in Tucson, the Ducks took Arizona into overtime before losing 69-67.

"We should have won the ball game, but we let it slip away," said Stu Lyon, who started for the first time against the Arizona schools.

The win may have slipped past the Oregon delegation, but the sun certainly didn't. "It was beautiful — the sun was shining and I had a lot of fun," said Lyon.

College basketball is supposed to be fun, and for once the Ducks had fun on the court as well as off. "It was fun to play two close games like that," said Lyon.

Against Arizona State the Ducks played perhaps their best team game of the year, and they did it against some of the best talent in the conference. The difference was "teamplay."

"Danny (Hartshorne) and Kelvin (Small) controlled the boards against Arizona State, and down the stretch we were tough," said Lyon.

Rob Close and John Murray provided the scoring punch

against the Sun Devils, and the rest of the team filled in. Lyon played small forward, guarding much taller players.

Though the loss to Arizona could have been disheartening, it wasn't. The Ducks have fought back from adversity all year, the low being the loss to USC two weekends ago. Now, as the team regains confidence, the loss to Arizona is put in perspective.

"We came back from the nine down and made some pressure plays," said Lyon. "One can say that it came down to the last play and we blew it, but there were so many other plays that could have won it too."

What it came down to, said Lyon, was knowing how to win. "We've now learned how to win, but we didn't win that game." It's as simple as that.

Though the Ducks are still mired in ninth place, they know how to win — and they know how to have fun. The trip to Arizona showed that.

"Arizona was a nice place to play," said Lyon. "Their fans are fairly boisterous and obnoxious, and I enjoy that part a lot. That's what college basketball is supposed to be all about."

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