

Gymnasts set mark in regional meet

The men's gymnastics team established a new NCAA team record while capturing the Pac-10 regionals over the weekend. The Flying Ducks garnered a 442.60 team total to win its third straight conference title, and set the highest score in collegiate history.

"The excellent score," said coach Bill Ballester, "was a surprise. Winning wasn't, but the team was near perfect. Everyone performed excellently; they proved we could beat anyone."

The Ducks' total was more than two points better than the qualifying marks of the other seven squads entered in the national finals. Nebraska followed with 440.20; Indiana State, 439.7; defending champion Oklahoma, 438.3; and Arizona State (the other Pac-10 entry) scored 438.2.

The record-setting score also gives the Ducks the number one ranking until the national meet. "For two weeks we're number one," said Ballester. "No one can take that away from us, and we will try to keep that distinction at nationals."

Seven Duck gymnasts will be competing in 13 events at the NCAA finals. The two individual titlists are Randy Beard in the high bar and Gordy Hocking in the pommel horse. Larry

Zankowski was second behind Hocking. Miki Moyal broke a Duck record with his second place finish in the all-around competition, scoring 111.25, behind California's Warren Long with 113.25. Gene Christensen helped Oregon's point total with a 108.55, giving him fourth place in the all-around competition.

The totals from the optionals and compulsory, 222.0 and 220.6, put the Ducks more than four points ahead of second place Arizona State. California, the only team to beat the Ducks in dual competition, was a distant 432.7.

Ballester is pleased with the national title and the school records. "We're a good team," he said. "I've never had a team compete so well with such strong competition."

Ballester, who was voted the Pac-10 coach of the year, said the team's depth may carry it far at the NCAA meet. "We don't have the international athletes that other schools do, but I think our depth is as good as any team in the country," he said.

Oregon has placed fourth in the nationals during the past two years, but Ballester predicts "if we repeat our Pac-10 performance, it'll be tough for anyone to beat us. We're number one right now and we think we'll stay number one."

Sycamores felled as Michigan State wins basketball title

SALT LAKE CITY (AP) — Michigan State threw a net around Larry Bird with a brilliant zone defense and Earvin "Magic" Johnson scored 24 points as the Spartans defeated the Indiana State Sycamores 75-64 Monday to win the NCAA basketball championship.

The loss ended a Cinderella season for the Sycamores, who had stormed out of nowhere to the top of The Associated Press poll and had won 33 straight games before the final.

Bird, who shot an astounding 16-of-19 from the field in Saturday's semifinal game against DePaul, had to work hard for his 19 points against the Spartans' two-three zone, which sagged on the blond bomber every time he went to the basket.

The national championship was the first for Michigan State in its fourth appearance in this tournament.

The Sycamores never led after the opening minutes and trailed by as many as 16 points several times early in the

second half. But they made it interesting with a late 12-2 flurry behind Bird that chopped Michigan State's advantage to 52-46 with 10 minutes left in the game.

Johnson then spearheaded a rally that put the Spartans in command and quieted the raucous Indiana State fans in the noisy crowd of 15,410. Johnson scored seven points in an 8-4 burst that moved the Big Ten Conference co-champion's lead to 61-50 with 5:06 left in the game.

The Sycamores never came within striking distance of the Spartans after that.

Bird, who had been a terror in this tournament in four previous games, was so stymied by the rugged Michigan State defense that at one point he went more than 13 minutes without a field goal.

Greg Kelser, who scored 19 points for the Spartans, put the cap on the game with an enormous slam dunk at the end.

Baseballers nab win; women split

The women's softball team split a doubleheader with Chico State while the men's baseball team improved its season mark to 4-9 with a 7-5 victory over Oral Roberts in the first round of the Riverside National Baseball Tournament.

The women, who now own a 5-2 record, won the opening game 5-2 on a one-hitter by freshman pitcher Lori Sweet. The women earned their runs on three triples — one by shortstop Lynne Conroy, another by second baseman Allyson Smith and the last by outfielder June Liu — and a double by first baseman Amy Rickman.

Sweet, a freshman, now has two two-hitters and two one-hitters for a 4-0 win-loss record in the Duck's seven games so far this season. She had experience with two summer league

teams before coming to Oregon, the Lebanon Merchants and the John Deere team in Eugene.

In the second game, pitched by Vicki Lesh for the Ducks, Chico State came through with their hitting and scored four runs on six hits to take the game in six innings before it was called for rain.

In the men's game, the Ducks got off to an early start against Oral Roberts with a grand slam by sophomore infielder Kirk Cameron, his first career home run, in the first inning.

Oral Roberts, the NCAA 1978 World Series fifth place finisher, scored three runs in the third inning, but the Ducks also scored another run in the third and the two teams traded two more runs each in later innings for the final 7-5 score.

Men netters go 1-4 on California trip

The men's tennis team netted its first win of the season in a shutout victory over Shasta College on its California tour. The 9-0 win gives the Ducks a 1-4 record.

"When you win by 9-0," said coach Emory "Buzz" Summers, "you deserve to win. We deserved to win."

The Duck netters lost their other four matches to California schools. Final scores include Foothill College, 7-2; West Valley College, 6-3; California State-Hayward, 9-0, and American River College, 5-4.

"The team was playing better at the end of the tour than at its beginning," said Summers.

"Although we lost four of the five matches, we came back a much better team."

"We could have won the American River College match," he added. "The teams were 4-4 going into the third doubles match. Then the two doubles teams won one apiece. We lost the match in the third set of the game."

Although disappointed by the team's poor start, Summers said he feels the team has a good chance for a winning season. The netters open at home Thursday against Southern Oregon State College at 1 p.m., followed by three other matches over the weekend.

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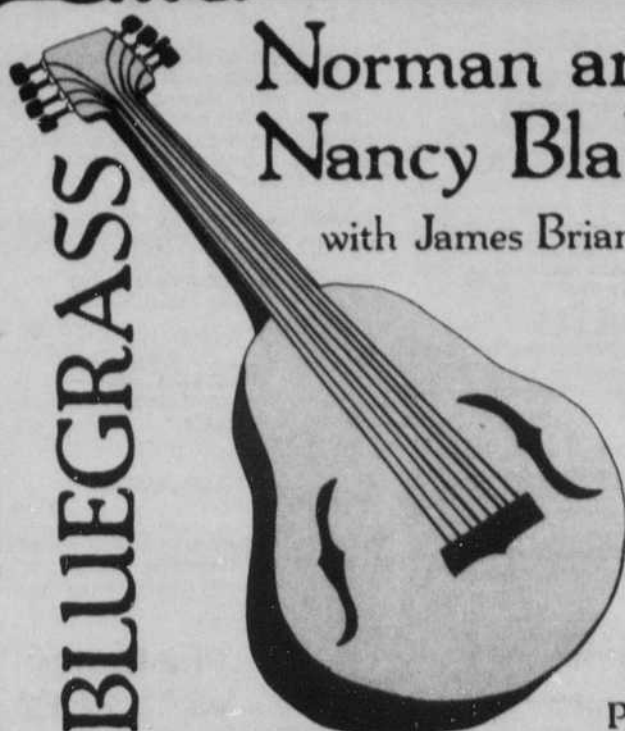
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