

Harter, Haney await lawsuit trial verdict

By DAGMAR OBEREIGNER
Of the Emerald

Former University basketball coach Dick Harter appeared Wednesday in Eugene for the start of his trial in Lane County Circuit Court against current coach Jim Haney and two former assistant coaches.

Harter's suit charges that Haney, who was an assistant coach for seven years under Harter, and former Oregon assistant coaches Mark Barwig and Ron Billingslea breached a limited partnership agreement that Harter says gives him full management rights and one-third of the profits of the annual children's summer basketball camp held on the University campus.

Harter left Eugene in 1978 for a job as head coach at Penn State University. What used to be the Dick Harter Basketball Camp became the Jim Haney camp, as Haney took over Harter's job and assumed management of the camp.

In his testimony, Haney said conversations he'd had with Ray Hawk, vice president of

administration and finance, and John Caine, director of athletics, made it apparent that Harter would not be allowed to return, and Haney was now the head of the camp until he left the University. When asked if he could have brought Harter back if he wanted to, Haney replied that it would have caused embarrassment to Caine and Harter, and since Haney was new on the job, he did not want to make waves.

When Haney took over, he mailed letters announcing the name change and Harter's absence, and gave a refund option to those who already registered for the session.

He used funds from Harter's camp accounts to continue operations and started his own account. Harter said he never authorized any withdrawal of funds. He wants his share of the profits from last summer, and an injunction that would prohibit the defendants from participating in any basketball camps except the Dick Harter Basketball Camp.

Haney claimed the camp is a University-controlled activity,

and Caine supported the testimony.

"I looked upon the camp, as I do all our camps, as an in-house operation," Caine said, adding that the camp helps recruit coaches and future basketball players. "It's an additional benefit to our coach and his staff."

Caine maintained the camp was not under Harter's off-campus control. "That would work to the disadvantage of our program. Eventually, they (camp participants) would play for Penn State rather than the University of Oregon."

Caine also testified that if a camp head leaves the University, the University operates the camp until a new leader is hired.

"The University has a direct concern over everything that happens. It was the University's camp from the start — it's inherent."

"Everything that happens on the University of Oregon campus is the University's responsibility. We can take it (the camp) away anytime if it's not run properly," Caine said.

Harter claimed the camp

operated as a private business, and a profit-making operation. Any losses incurred must be paid by the partners, his attorney, Harold Gillis of Eugene, pointed out.

The camp rents University facilities such as Mac Court, Leighton Pool, tennis courts and dormitories for the summer session, at rates for on-campus organizations, testified Steve McBride, events manager of the University athletic department. The on-campus rate for one day's use of Mac Court is \$100. For off-campus organizations, the cost is \$375 per day, or 12

percent of gross receipts, whichever is greater, McBride said.

Testimonies also indicated the camp was using athletic department stationery, bulk-rate postage and the University postage meter for sending out brochures. Marion Reed, athletic department secretary, said she does work for the camp during her regular office hours, and estimated the work ratio to be 50-50. "And about three weeks before camp in June, it's almost totally camp work."

Reed said she did this for both Harter and Haney.

Walker strives for recognition

By STEVE JETT
Of the Emerald

University student Steve Schneider says his ability to walk fast ranks with Rudy Chapa's prowess as a runner — he only wishes others would agree.

Schneider, a third-year student at the University, was the top junior finisher at the national 10-kilometer race in Chicago last weekend and is currently ranked among the top race-walkers in the nation.

But he says running's popularity is eclipsing his sport in Eugene.

Schneider, a former national record holder in high school for the 1,500 meters, feels walking isn't getting the recognition it deserves at the University.

"Walking is such an obscure sport," Schneider says. "It would be great to get as much publicity as (Alberto) Salazar and (Rudy) Chapa. Some people must be plain naive if they don't think walkers are athletes."

Schneider has been walking competitively since he was 15 and comes from an area of New York where race-walking is fairly popular. As an Oregon freshman in 1977, he hoped to gain a spot on the Duck track team. But a lack of track funds and walking competition has kept Schneider off the team.

Regardless, Schneider had a good year, setting personal records in 5- and 10-kilometer races. But he was most impressed with his performance at the Seaside, Ore. marathon this year, which he walked in 4:57.

"Except for the weather, it was great," he says about the rainy marathon. "I was passing runners left and right."

Schneider is more pleased with his performance this year than last year, when illness during winter and spring terms kept him from practicing. "I got really depressed," he recalls.



Photo by Steve Jett

Steve Schneider

"But this year has been really good for me because I have tested my body and mind. Physically, I am in the best shape I have ever been in and that helps improve your attitude." Schneider's love for race-walking came accidentally, during his first year in high school.

"I just wanted to get my varsity letter for track," Schneider says. "I didn't care if it came in pole vaulting or the 400-meter run. The walk was just the escape to getting a letter. When I saw I had some potential in it, I began training everyday."

Walking may be an obscure sport, but Schneider insists it's better than running. "Do you know running is 10 times worse than walking?" he asks. "You exert something like four times your own body weight on your body. That's terrible. Your body isn't built for that."

Schneider says that apart from a pulled hamstring recently, he has never had a serious injury while walking.

But Schneider is more concerned with the reputation — or lack of it — walkers have. "People may say walkers aren't hardcore athletes. Well, I disagree. I put in 70 miles a

week walking, and that is approximately 110 miles running. That's hardcore."

Schneider's hard training may pay off for him. His goal is to win a spot on the U.S. Olympic team. He's looking to 1988 or 1992, for he feels he will not reach his full potential until his early thirties.

"But I don't want to start looking ahead," Schneider says. "The Olympic dream is such a big thing that I want to keep it in the back of my mind for now. I want to take each day as it comes. If I get close to the Olympics, I will really start sacrificing more."

Schneider hopes that from his sacrifice will come recognition — for himself and for his sport.

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