

sistency, Haney says he is looking to senior forward John Greig (6-7) to be the team leader, a role Greig seems willing to take on.

"I see myself as an intermediary between the coach and the players," says the Ducks' captain, who averaged 12.5 points per game last year. "As a senior, I feel pressure to execute the plays and to give a total effort."

As a starter last year, Greig was an impressive percentage shooter. He hit .552 percent of his field goal attempts - third best in Oregon history - and shot .882 from the free throw line, seventh best in the nation.

"I think I set an example on and off the court as to our attitude - our mental outlook," Greig says. "I'm out there to get us together."

Along with Greig, Haney says his point guards - sophomore Fred Cofield (10.1 p.p.g., 77 assists) and senior Barry Walker (4.2 p.p.g., 68 assists) - will be critical to the team as leaders, "because they help take the tempo of the game."

"My role is to run the show," says the buoyant Cofield, "and to get us into the flow of the game." Cofield adds that he prefers to think of

the Ducks' youth as a positive aspect since "youth brings enthusiasm into a game."

Haney says the point guards, who will be pushing the ball up the court on the fast break more than in the past, and more than just leaders on the floor.

"The play of our centers is dependent on the point guards," Haney says. "Otherwise, the centers never become a factor in the game."

Haney's point was well illustrated in the first half of the opener. Because the guards repeatedly took perimeter shots instead of feeding the ball inside, Oregon's 6-11 center, Blair Rasmussen, never got into the glow of the play.

"The tempo here is much faster than in high school," Rasmussen said after the game. "I can see that I'll have to go after the ball with more aggressiveness."

Joining Greig, Cofield and Rasmussen as starters are two players who redshirted last year because of early season injuries: 6-8 junior forward Jerome Williams (10.4 p.p.g., two years ago) and sophomore guard Gary Gatewood, who averaged 5.2 points last season before a wrist injury sidelined him.

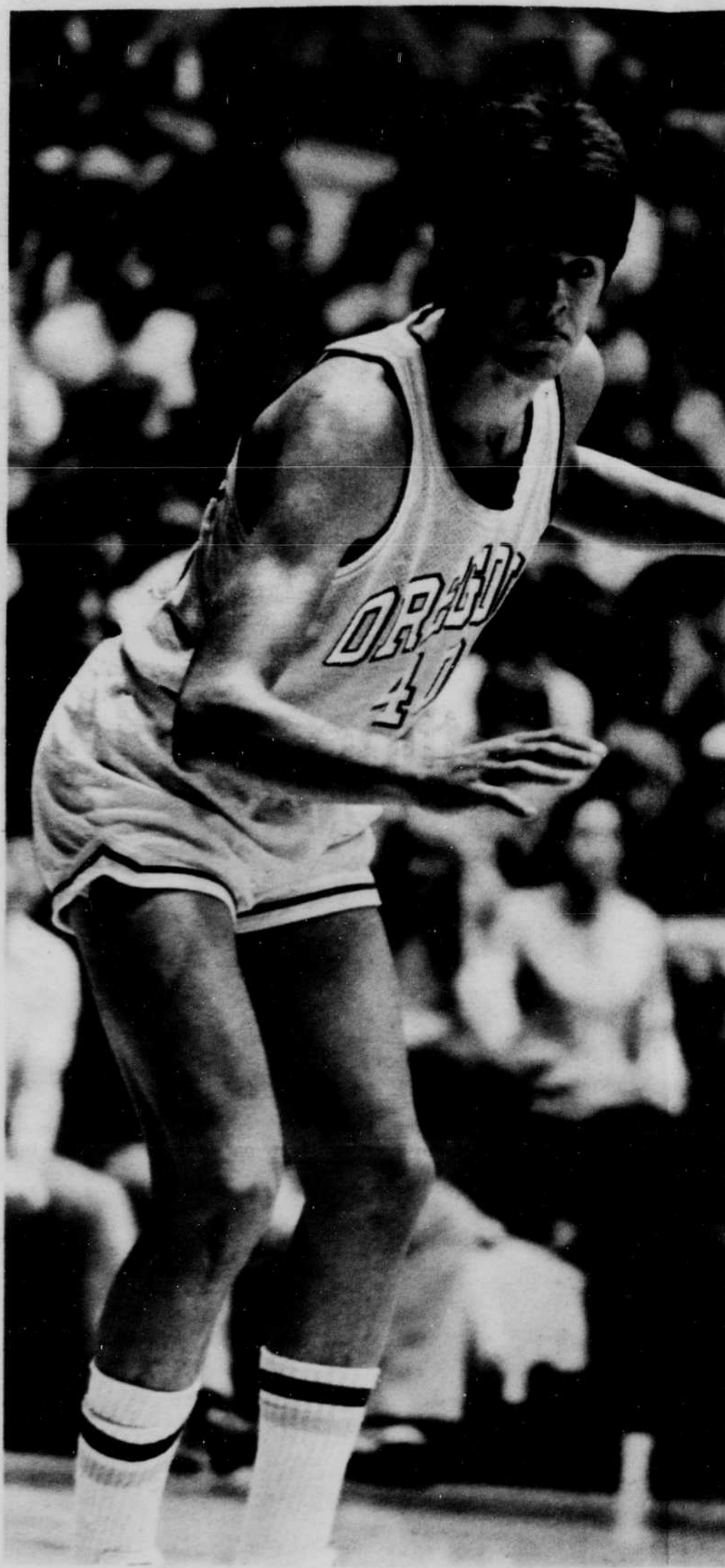
Both Williams and Gatewood showed the effects of sitting out for a year, as the two looked sluggish in the opener Saturday.

In the frontcourt, freshman Jerry Adams (6-8), is behind Rasmussen at center. The forward spots are backed by, (6-8) freshman Rodnie Taylor - who scored 10 points in the opener and 21 in both intrasquads - and 6-6 sophomore David Brantley of Churchill High School in Eugene.

Haney has an abundance of guards to work with. Joining Barry Walker as a backup is 6-4 junior Paul Bain, who played most of the second half Saturday, and walk-on Greg Bell, a 6-3 sophomore from Roosevelt High in Portland. In addition, Haney has freshman Scott Perry (6-1), and Bryan Trendell at guards.

But even Haney admits that the addition of some experienced ballplayers - ones who would select better shots, or not turn over the ball as much.

"We were capable of getting up and down the court on offense," Haney said after the Irvine game, "but we never played consistent defense. That is the challenge that waits ahead of us."



Freshman center Blair Rasmussen has been thrust into the starting role early in his college career.

Women Continued from Page 1B

and the growth of the new people," said Heiny, who is three victories shy of 100 career coaching wins. "Right now we're still going through growing pains."

To speed up the Ducks growing progress, Heiny is experimenting with his lineup and believes his team's versatility will become a big factor in success.

One player who will fit very nicely into Heiny's plans is 6-4 center Helen Higgs. Heiny says the sophomore is the most improved Duck from last year's team.

"Helen has been on a year-round strength program and is really playing her height," said Heiny. "She and Alison may play together, and that's when you may see a lineup of six-footers."

The Ducks suffered a slight setback when Higgs suffered a stress fracture in her right foot. She is expected back late December.

Another advantage the Ducks hope to utilize this season is their quickness and depth at the guard position.

"We can play with smaller, quick guards," said Heiny.

The starters are Smith, who can play anywhere on the court, and surprise junior Diana Transk (5-7), who has been error-free and sharp shooting in the Ducks' early outings.

Coming off the bench as guards will be Lisa Vetter (5-6), Tracy Beckes (5-9), and improving Penny Gienger (5-8).

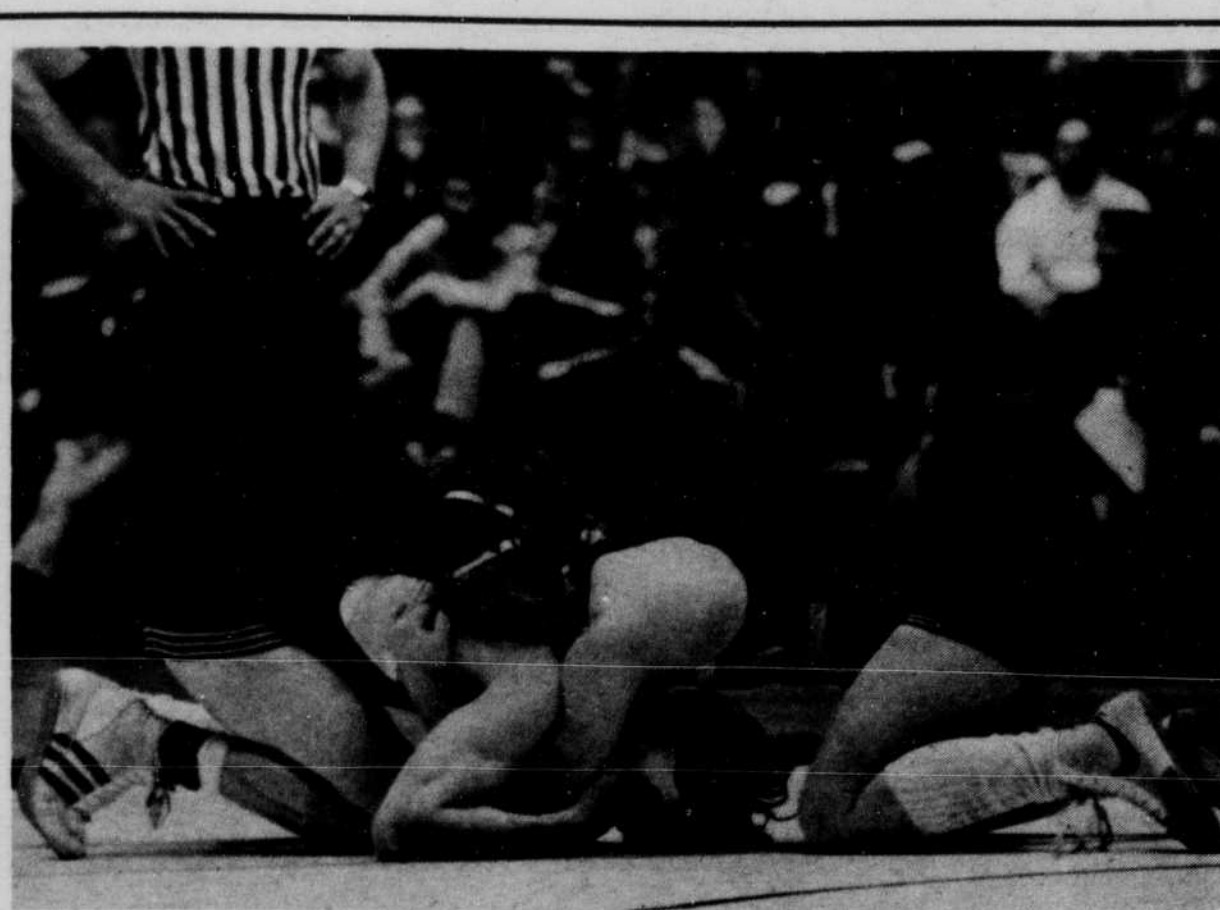
It's their job, points out Heiny, to get the ball inside to Lang, Mary Ann Stoican (6-0),

or Chris Metzger (6-1). Heiny is especially impressed with the ability of Metzger, who was a second-team high school all-American player last year.

"Chris is a strong rebounder, good shooter who gets her shots off very quickly. She's got size, aggressiveness and offense ability. She knows how to shoot and is a constant threat. Beyond that, she's a good all-around player."

It's obvious the Ducks are talented, maybe even more than last year's team. But how they do on the national scale is the big question mark.

"The sky may be the limit for this team, but they're going to have to prove it against some of the best teams in the country," said Heiny.



Bill Nugent returns for his senior year at 142 pounds.

Getting a grip on things

Wrestlers begin defense of its Pac-10 crown

By PAUL DANZER
Of the Emerald

The weight of defending a Pacific 10 Conference championship will fall on the shoulders of the University of Oregon wrestling team this winter. But coach Ron Finley thinks his squad has enough muscle to bear the pressure.

And with a little luck, they might carry away the medal at the Pac-10 tournament on February 28.

"We are not quite as tough as we were last year," said Finley, whose squad finished 21st in the nation last year, "but if we have improvement in the weights where we were mediocre last year we should do well."

Finley has confidence that will happen. "Us," he said in picking the favorite to win the Pac-10 title this winter. "Arizona State, Oregon State and us are all pretty much equal," he added, "it's hard to say who will win right now."

In addition to defending a league title, the Duck grapplers have a tough dual meet act to follow after winning a school record 22 matches last year en route to a 22-3 dual meet mark. That record will go on the line for the first time tonight, when the Ducks host Humboldt State in a 7:30 p.m. showdown at McArthur Court.

One big reason Finley is looking for continued good things in 1981-82 is 142-pound senior Bill Nugent, who defeated four

former national champions on his way to a championship at the Great Plains Invitational in Lincoln, Nebraska two weeks ago. As a result of the showing at Lincoln, Nugent was chosen to compete on a United States team in Russia in late January and early February.

Nugent is one of two returning Ducks who won Pac-10 crowns last season. He compiled a 23-5 record in 1980-81, raising his career record as a Duck to an impressive 84-28-2 in three years on the varsity mat.

The other Pac-10 champion returning to the fold this season is 118-pound junior Mike Erb. Erb improved from a 13-18 mark his freshman year to win 16 of 21 matches last year.

In addition to the two defending champions, the Ducks boast three runners-up from last year's Pac-10 tournament on this year's squad. One of those is senior Cliff Porter, who at 134 posted a 20-9 mark after transferring from the University of Washington.

The other two are 158-pound sophomore Rick O'Shea and junior heavyweight Dan Cook. O'Shea, who was a two-time Class A wrestler of the year at Harrisburg High School, posted a 20-12 mark in his freshman season. Cook was 23-5 last winter and has a career record of 47-16 entering the season. In his two years as a Duck he has recorded

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