

Three games does not a season make

"Get him outta there!"

Yes, it's started already. The guy two rows behind me hasn't been satisfied with any of the lineups Jim Haney has put into the game this season, my friends are already erecting tombstones in McArthur Court, and a woman who says she's had season seats for basketball for the last 20 years thinks this is the worst Oregon basketball team she has seen.

Despite the fact the Ducks have compiled a 2-1 record going into tomorrow night's game with Athletes in Action, the wolves are out to get Oregon basketball.

I was at Valley River Center yesterday, garbed in a green and yellow Oregon athletic department sweat-shirt. A saleswoman at one of the clothing stores asked me if I was disappointed that the Oregon-Rhode Island game had been postponed.

"What do you think of this year's team?" she asked, implying she had plenty to say about the team. "I'm sorry," she continued, "but I think there is something lacking. It's as if there was no discipline out there (on the court)."

I admitted the Ducks had not been as impressive as many had hoped they would be in the games I had seen them play. But hey, the season was still young, just as many of the Ducks players are still young.

To put it bluntly, Oregon has not played well. Haney attributed the latest Duck effort to his team's inability to be ready emotionally for a team on the order of the St. Martin's College Saints. Still, the Ducks have not been impressive in any of their three outings because of poor ball handling, poor shooting and poor defense.

"I beg your pardon, Haney never promised you a rose garden," you say? That's exactly right. The Oregon coach reminded everyone at the beginning of

the year that the Ducks would be leaning toward the inexperienced side.

With so many things going wrong for the Ducks, it's hard to blame any one player or point to any one deficiency for Oregon's dismal performances on the court. So, when all else fails, joining the football bandwagon and blame the coach.

That's exactly what the naive, but well-meaning lady did. I told her that the Ducks had some fine talent and that it was only a matter of time before Haney's program came together at Oregon.

"That may be," she said, "but I think we need to get a new coach. I know some of those players are good, but a new coach might be the answer. I've been going to games for 20 years and this is the worst I've ever seen them play."

Wow. Three games into the season and we already know the answer to the problem.

No matter what happens the rest of the way, I have a suggestion for Oregon basketball fans. What was it that ruined this year's football season? No, it wasn't the 2-9 record. It was the disappointment after hoping to go 9-2.

Give the Ducks a break and don't expect so much. Nobody, not even UCLA, can beat someone like Oregon State, Brigham Young or even Stanford every time in every season. The Ducks have a chance to win some games this year. How many they win depends on how much they improve. And that takes time.

It takes time to learn a system and time to adjust to one another. It looks as if it will also take time for Oregon's established players — John Greig and Fred Cofield — to show some of the promise of last year.

But that's O.K. — there's still some time left.



Jim Haney

Photo by Bob Baker

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JP GEORGE GERB SWOPE Did I do it? Yes! Hope you had as much fun figuring it out as I did in being part of your 'Ohana. 12-8

BOB P. Thanks for all your help last Thursday. Willy, Pat and Susy Smith think you're the greatest. 12-8

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MAXIE Meet me at 1 pm for an egg salad sandwich at Lenny's Nosh Bar in the Courtyard. **LUIGI** 023-tfn

ATTENTION MARKETING MAJORS Actually just one. We met at Chuck's party, but I was too drunk (I forgot your name). I sure enjoyed talking - if you felt the same... 741-1744. **JOHN** 12-8

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