

Walker's 'canning' another dismal chapter

Letters have been coming to the Emerald all this week concerning the dismissal of senior point guard Barry Walker from the University's men's basketball team. The majority of the letters support Walker and condemn Coach Jim Haney. The Walker incident is certainly an appropriate chapter in the tragedy of another disappointing season for the University's basketball squad.

Walker's remarks following the stunning loss to Oregon State University Saturday were unfortunate. If Walker had it to do all over again no doubt he would tone down his comments.

But Haney's response was equally unfortunate. He remarked in the press that his main concern was with the "well-being of the team, and that well-being must come first." It's possible that "canning" Walker will have an opposite effect on the well-being of the team and Haney's effectiveness as a coach.

There are those who will recall Haney's past seasons and murmur, "Haney never has been an effective coach." That may be true if you use the win/loss column as the grounds on which to evaluate a coach. Haney has, for the past three seasons, stressed collegiate athletics as something other than the training-ground for big-time basketball where winning is everything.

Haney's strength as a coach has been his communication with, and concern for, his players. He has put as much emphasis academic as on athletic performance.

But the Walker incident shows little communication with a disgruntled player by Haney and not much compassion for the senior Walker. The incident may have been mitigated by the all-around frustration with the season. Certainly, this bewilderment at the basketball team's poor showing is causing many to wrack their brains for something or someone to blame.

The Walker dismissal points to a sour situation in the coach/player relationship. Respect is an oh-so-important element in this relationship. The respect goes both ways. A coach can be as an aggressive and demanding mentor — or a peer of sorts, involved personally with the lives of

his players.

Haney's style as a coach is reputed to be as a concerned coach and not necessarily a disciplinarian. Haney gave his players freedom to develop self-confidence in the hopes they would take a measure of this self-confidence onto the court. "The days," Haney said of his coaching style in a Register-Guard interview, "of being a dictator are over. There are better ways of motivating people than having them operate out of fear."

Haney's coaching philosophy may have been a contributing factor in Walker feeling free to express his frustrations to the press.

Walker's dismissal transformed a *laissez faire* Haney to the uncompromising disciplinarian. Is

that an inconsistent response?

Does this indicate Haney no longer has the rapport with the players he had at the start of the season?

Haney's dismissal of Walker hasn't earned him much respect from his players and the fans. It remains to be seen how this will affect the players in the final games of the season.

Rick Bay has promised, "Haney will be our coach." We question Bay's use of the pronoun "our." Haney may have lost his effectiveness as a coach — the record notwithstanding. The Walker dismissal is seen by many as the next to the last chapter in the University's basketball tragedy in which the University, coach, players, and fans lose.



letters

Dominos

Deja Vu
Brown bodies
sprawled around the village
perimeter,
Evening news
showing blood-spattered
palm trees,
Eyes of agony
tears streaming down the
face,
A foreign tongue
speaks of pain, the loss
As the news commentator
translates the "scene" into
English
"Foreign advisors"
are "invited" to help "the
government under seige,"
The "Domino Theory"
is mentioned again and again
and...
VIETNAM 1972
L
SALVADOR 1982
Carol S. Bostick

Precipitated

University basketball Coach Jim Haney was quoted as saying that senior guard Barry Walker's comments in The Sunday Oregonian "precipitated" his dismissal from the team. Perhaps Coach Haney is not aware the the word "precipitate" means "to hasten the occurrence of." It is quite obvious that Haney was looking for the opportunity to dismiss Walker.
As a student at the University for the past 3 and a half years, I have supported the basketball program, from being one of the few who remain in Mac Court for the last few seconds of the game to enduring the endless speculations of Haney's ability as a coach. I have since concluded that they are no longer speculations. Haney remarked that he had thought about the

decision for a long time. The fact that the announcement to Walker of his dismissal came less than two days after the "detrimental" remarks were published leads to further speculation about Haney's decision-making ability as well as his impartiality.

Perhaps Haney should take a long, hard look at his coaching philosophy, his inability to deal with players who are bewildered by his tactics, and his quickness to take such drastic action against a player who was only trying to understand why he was singled out for such humiliation.

In my opinion, Haney reacted merely to Walker's untimely remark that the coach was "ignorant." It is unfortunate that such a fine player would be punished so severely for speaking the truth.

Kim Maree Johannessen
junior, political science

Grasswalkers

Hey, you grass-walkers! That pathetic little sign between Susan Campbell and Gerlinger Halls has a point. Let the campus' lawns recover from a hard winter by staying off them. Who wants to see our beautiful grounds reduced to mud in rainy weather and bare, hard-packed dirt in dry weather by marching hordes of shortcutters?

You say you'd like to change the world? Here's your chance to save the beauty of a small part of it. You say you'd like to do something about the University's woes? Then help its depressed areas. Walk and ride on the surfaced roads and paths.

Glen A. Love
English

Eating habits

I am just curious as to a couple things I heard this weekend. It concerns our men's basketball team and oddly enough their eating habits. My questions, which I may add I would appreciate answered by a qualified source are: 1) Do the members of our basketball team eat a meal at Oh Susannah's restaurant daily? If so, then 2) Why do they eat there instead of possibly another place of lesser expense? Providing the above two questions are true, my third and most important question is 3) Where does the money to feed a number of six foot eight inch appetites daily at an expensive restaurant in Eugene come from?

Tim Schmidt

staff

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