

He is a true pioneering spirit. "I detest these fellows who say 'we've got a great game, let's leave it alone,'" says Hobson. "We do have a great game, but that doesn't mean it can't be improved."

Among other things, he's credited with popularizing the fast break and as being the first to work with tall, but slow-developing, players. He was one of the first promoters of long road trips and is credited as the first to compile accurate statistics on minor points of the game.

In addition, in a 1945 doctoral thesis at Columbia University, Hobson offered such foresighted ideas as widening the foul lanes (done in 1946), the time clock (adopted by the N.B.A. in the mid '50s) and the three point play (instituted by the N.B.A. in 1980).

But Hobson is not one to rest on past laurels. After his successful coaching career at Yale, he became involved in the U.S. Olympic movement, branched out into editing sports books, and is now enshrined in the Basketball Hall of Fame.

And, of course, he remains a vigorous fan of the University of Oregon teams.

To describe Hobson is to mesh the past and the present together. So it's only appropriate that Hobson has tackled the job of compiling the history of Oregon basketball in a book to be published soon. From the first recorded squad in 1910 to the present day, Hobson presents stats, highlights and game-by-game narratives.

"It's been at the publisher's for a while now," says Hobson. "I'll need to add the 1982 team to the book, but I hope it will be out in about six months."

Working 35 hours a week pouring over old *Oregonian* and *Register-Guard* sports pages, Hobson has produced an invaluable athletic record for the University.

But perhaps even more precious are Hobson's own stories about his stint at Oregon. Many have meaning for some of the problems going on today within the Oregon athletic department.

For instance, if you think today's recruiting methods are ruthless, read on:

"We had recruiting in some ways a great deal more strenuous and more exciting than today's recruiting, but it wasn't on a nation-wide basis.

"I made seven trips to Portland in one week to get Slim Wintermute. He was going to go to Oregon State, and it's too long a story to tell, but we moved his mother to Eugene and got her a job. We got Slim a job and put both him and Laddie Gale up at a fishing camp on the McKenzie River where nobody could find them until school started.

"With Matt Pavalunas (a 1939 reserve) I got his girl down to Oregon ahead of him, and she stayed at our house for two weeks until the boy came trotting along.

"That was the kind of recruiting we did. We did nothing to break the rules at the time, though."

Concerning the money to fund his squads:

"When we were planning to take the train trip back east in 1939, our athletic board said we could go as long as it wouldn't cost the University anything. Well, we ended up making \$4,400 on the trip, which was enough money to pay for everything that year.

"At that time we didn't have a recruiting budget as such.

We had a budget for expenses that covered recruiting and other things. I think the highest it got to while I was here was \$2,500."

From the rafters of McArthur Court, home for the 1939 and 1982 Ducks, hangs the championship banner won by the 'Tall Firs.' Some see it as the last vestige of Oregon basketball greatness in years gone by. But not Hobson.

"I like to think that Oregon boys are the best," he says. "I still think our boys can compete with anyone in the nation."

Hobson says 'our' to describe today's players — as if they're still his own boys.

Howard Hobson likes to think so, and in many respects, he's right.

News of Oregon's only NCAA championship was splashed on the front page of the Emerald in 1939. Throughout the course of the season, the Webfoots frequently made the front page, through league wins and regional playoff games. Thousands greeted the team when they arrived back in Eugene by train.

— sportfolio —

The Oregon cycling team had an outstanding day Sunday in the "Pro Jersey Training Race" in Corvallis.

The Oregon club sport had Bill Randleman finish in first and Glenn Sanders take second in the 45-mile course. Randleman finished the course in 2 hours, a full minute ahead of the remaining 29 racers. Mike Reban finished in seventh for Oregon.

The Oregon crew team meets Saturday to christen its new shell. The Oregon club sport raised \$4,500 to purchase the shell and will christen it the "Don McCarty" — named after the founder of Oregon crew — in ceremonies following races between present and alumni crews.

McCarty lives in Eastern Oregon, but will attend the ceremonies right after the races, which are scheduled to begin at 9 a.m.

The Oregon ultimate frisbee club sport team will participate in a 10-team ultimate frisbee tournament Saturday and Sunday on the lower baseball fields in the 4th Annual "Mudbowl."

Oregon's lacrosse team will kick off their season Saturday, March 6, against Willamette University at the 18th and Agate field. Game time is 1 p.m. Sunday, the Ducks host the Portland lacrosse club, the '81 league champions.

Club Sports announces that a few places are still left for the Lake Tahoe ski trip during spring break. The cost of \$120 includes transportation and five nights lodging. Sign up in Room 5, EMU.

PORTLAND (AP) — Kelvin Ransey scored 10 of his 30 points in overtime Tuesday night to lead the Portland Trail Blazers to a 119-108 National Basketball Association victory over the Phoenix Suns.

The Blazers, down by six points in regulation play with 49 seconds to play, tied the game on two three-point field goals by Jim Paxson and Billy Ray Bates. Phoenix now is 31-25. The Blazers, who had lost seven of their last eight, are now 30-27.

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