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Sports

Shorthanded Ducks start up

By Doug Levy
Of the Emerald

It's pretty tough to win when your team is shorthanded — just ask Oregon gymnastics coach Ed Boyd.

"For the first few meets of the season, the Ducks will have only four gymnasts, while NCAA rules have been changed to account for the marks of five. In gymnastics, where scores of four events (vault, uneven bars, floor exercise and balance beam) are totaled on a scale of 1 to 10, that means Oregon will be giving up some 30 points a meet.

"We should be pretty weak," admits first-year coach Boyd. He replaces Gary Vanderhoef, who resigned as coach last year amid much controversy.

The trouble started when Vanderhoef hurt his back early in the season, leaving his wife

Sue to assume much of the coaching load, which didn't sit well with assistant coach Jeff Davis. Davis quit as coach, and Vanderhoef was not far behind him.

Boyd heard about the gymnastics coaching opening through a former Oregon gymnast, and jumped on the opportunity to coach in Eugene. "I plan to be here a long time," says the 27-year-old Boyd, who competed at Illinois State and coached at Illinois State and Iowa State as an assistant.

Vanderhoef left Boyd with some talent, but the Ducks are simply short on numbers. Jeanette Stewart, expected to pace the gymnasts in her senior year, decided not to compete following knee surgery, and junior Lynn Fenton, a pre-med student, decided gymnastics cut into her study time and will not return for her junior year.

That leaves Holly Holmes, Maureen Nolan and Julie Tenenhouse as the only returnees for Oregon.

Holmes, a junior, boasts a best of 9.20 on the uneven bars and finished sixth in the Region 9 vaulting in 1980. Nolan, also a junior, has bests of 9.25 on the bars and 8.90 in the vault and was Oregon's most consistent gymnast last year.

Joining the trio will be Traci Manduchi, a junior transfer from Seattle Pacific who is a two-time Division II All-American, and Jane Patterson, a freshman from Washington. Patterson will miss Oregon's first few meets, as she just recently joined the team.

"We've been working really

hard," says Nolan. "We've had our ups and downs, and I think our first meet will predict our season."

Neither Holmes nor Nolan seems affected by last year's rocky road (the Ducks did manage to win eight of 15 dual meets). "You can't dwell on the past," says Holmes. "This year is a product of what happened last year, but we just have to look ahead," says Nolan.

Boyd is certainly looking ahead. "This year we just want to establish consistency and show recruits that this is a good place to come," Boyd notes that "They (the athletic department) have increased my scholarship money and have really backed me."

Oregon will compete in the NorPac Conference, where sixth-ranked Oregon State is the team to beat, and the rest of the teams will scramble for three additional playoff berths. "I would imagine we'll be at the bottom of the conference," says the realistic Boyd.

But Boyd is also honest about the future of Oregon gymnastics. "When the budget cut-backs were made, people did so much yelling that they didn't see there's still enough money. Our budget is bigger than the one I worked with at Iowa State." Leaning forward, Boyd says, "Next year we're going to be very, very competitive. I already have a lot of verbal commitments from girls, and I think we can qualify for regionals next year."

The Ducks will open their season Saturday with the Washington Open in Seattle.

OSU stops Cardinals

CORVALLIS (AP) — Jamie Stangel and Steve Woodside scored 14 points apiece for Oregon State Thursday night as the Beavers opened defense of their Pac-10 basketball title with a 62-53 victory over Stanford.

Stanford center John Revelli led all scorers with 28 points and kept the Cardinals close through most of the contest.

Diligent Ducks face Beavers

After "some long, hard training," over the Christmas break, the Oregon swimming team starts a long, hard schedule when it hosts Oregon State Saturday at 1 p.m. at Leighton Pool.

The meet features both the men's and women's competition, even though the OSU men's team is a club sport. The

OSU women are a varsity squad as are both Duck teams.

Oregon, with both the men and women sporting 1-2 dual-meet records, did not get a holiday break in their training. In fact, they pulled double duty during the waning days of the break.

"We did a lot of hard training," coach Dan Cole said. "We

trained 2½ hours in the morning — that's one hour with weights and 1½ swimming — and another 2½ hours in the afternoon.

"It's not that we were lacking anything, it's a matter of around Christmas time we intensify training, because we have more time. We're tapering off a little now, but it's (hard training) starting to show in our times," Cole said.

Oregon State is the first of several strong teams the Ducks will meet in the latter part of their schedule, and Cole said his team is ready for the Beavers.

"The men's team is a club sport, but they have some talented swimmers and the women's team is one of the best in the Northwest. We should be able to win against the men, but we'd have to be really hot to beat the women. There will be some good racing," he said.

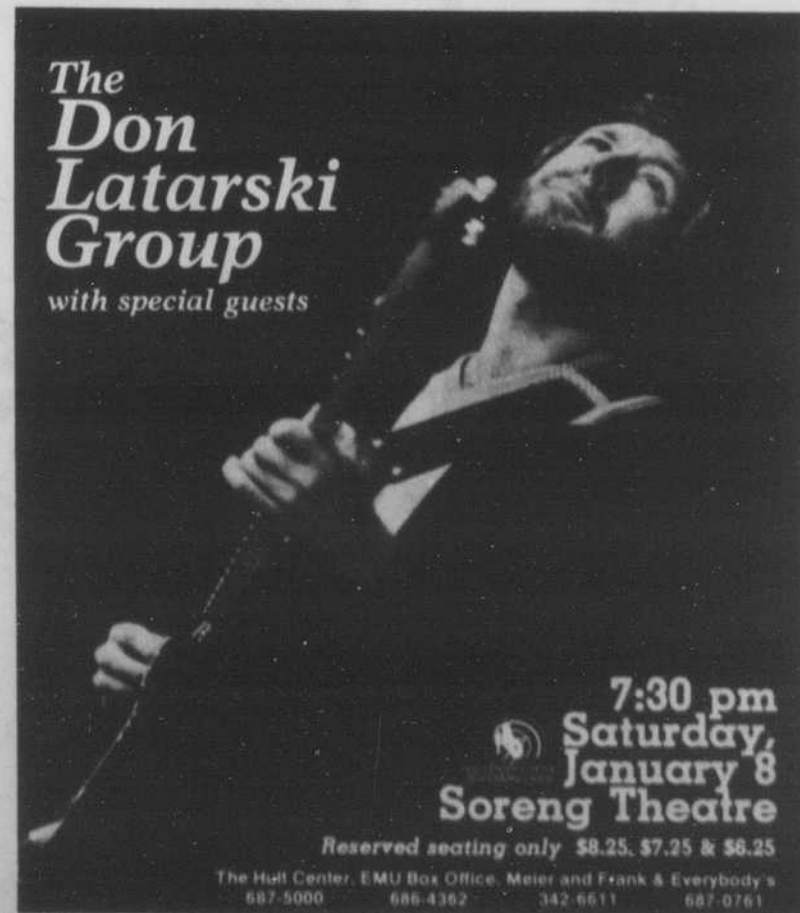
Cole cited the Beavers' short-distance swimmer Becky Blinkhorn and Holly Andrus, swimming long distance, as the two women leaders. Charlie Patton, who swims all the freestyle events, is the mainstay of the men's squad, according to Cole.

After Oregon State, the Ducks travel to Simon Fraser, Washington and Puget Sound before returning to host Sacramento State.

"We must compete from here on in to get through our dual meets, as well as the season-ending meets," Cole said.

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