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# Hill finds coaching high school ball challenging

By Craig Harris  
Of the Emerald

March 15, 1984: Dehaven Hill is part of a Don Monson staff that has helped turn the Oregon men's basketball program around. After a dismal pre-season prediction, the Ducks have surged to 16-13 and are hosting Santa Clara in the first round of the National Invitational Tournament.

Feb. 19, 1986: Only two seasons later, Hill has left the confines of McArthur Court and Monson's program and traveled to the outskirts of Eugene to take the reigns of a struggling Marist High School basketball program.

Why would someone jump ship from a Pacific-10 Conference program to coach at an AA-size high school? Hill's answer is rather simple.

"I just couldn't be an assistant coach forever, and I wanted my own program," he says.

And there were other factors that lured him to Marist. "It is a lot easier to go into a school without a strong program and have a lot of big expectations put upon you, and there is also a lot less stress."

"On the AA or AAA (size school) matter, it's not that big of an ego thing for me, I also like the Eugene area, and I wanted to stay here if I could," Hill adds. To say the Marist program is merely struggling would be an understatement. Before Hill took the reigns, the Spartans, 1984-85 record was 3-18.

Now, with two-thirds of the season already gone, the Sparts still are in the cellar of the Sky-Em league but have progressed their record to 5-11 — already doubling their win total over last year.

Although a dramatic turnaround doesn't seem to be in the making for Hill, his spirits remain high. "I'm not frustrated with the win-loss record. What I try to tell the kids is winning isn't the only thing. We talk about playing good basketball, and the wins will come."

The wins that Hill hopes are just around the corner for his squad, used to be wins that came year after year for the

Marist program. Marist once was feared in the AA basketball ranks, winning state AA boy's basketball championships in 1978, 1979 and 1982.

But for now, Hill plans on going back to the basics, hoping to turn the program around. And that all starts with fundamentals.

"We want to develop a program to teach kids good basketball fundamentals. Along with this, we are going to have an open gym in the spring and have a camp this summer."

"We need to develop basketball into a spring and summer program, and we need to put time in during the off-season. This is something that has not been done in the past, and it needs to be established."

For the time being, Hill says, Marist is his "number one concern," but indicates he wouldn't mind getting back into the college ranks. "... I would like a junior college or a community college job that would challenge my stability as a coach. But for now, I want to just enjoy basketball, no matter what level I'm at."

He also takes some time to talk about the current situation the Oregon men's basketball team. With an 8-15 record overall and 3-10 in the Pac-10, the Ducks are in the bottom spot in their conference.

As with the Spartans, he feels things may be on the upswing for his former cohorts.

"I think it will get better for Oregon. One thing they need is one or two players to meet their needs. If you don't have good players you can't win. That's not saying the Ducks don't have good players, but you have to look at the other players in the Pac-10, like the Arizona's and the USC's."

A lot of this has to do with recruiting, Hill says. "It's not that Oregon is a bad recruiting school, as a matter of fact they do a very good job in that area, but you have to look at the conditions and factors that a sunny Los Angeles or Arizona may



DeHaven Hill, third from the left, sitting, left the Oregon bench and became his own boss at Marist High School. Emerald file photo

have that Oregon doesn't. It has nothing to do with the coaches, it's all a matter of getting the kid on campus for 48 hours and hoping that you can impress him enough to enroll at your school."

Despite troubles in recruiting, Hill believes the Ducks future success rests with the perimeter shooting that could be supplied by sophomores Rick Osborn and Anthony Taylor and junior David Girley.

But Hill adds that the recent problems may partially be in the high expectations

that have been placed on the players. "Last year with Blair (Rasmussen) there wasn't as much pressure on the perimeter, and they were stronger inside."

Even though Anthony and Rick are good Pac-10 guards, I think the expectations that were put upon them were very high.

Then again, pressure to turn Marist into an immediate contender isn't nearly as high as pressure in the Pac-10 for Hill.

"Most of the community and the parents are pleased because we are developing a program in a positive way. What it boils down to is organization. There is no pressure now, but if we were to get off to a good start next year, some people may get high expectations."

And if Hills' organization and fundamentals begin to prosper, lofty expectations could turn into big realities for the Marist Spartans.

# DAWGS, hup, hup, hup, gapers: just another average day of skiing

Buzz, buzz, buzz, buzz, buzz, buzz. Click. It's 8 a.m. and time for some music. Neil Young sure would sound good this morning. His music is full of emotion and electrical distortion. He talks so straight and lets the listener know that it is OK to be human.

I take a peak outside and spy on the waiting conditions. There's still evidence of old footprints in the snow; it hasn't snowed for quite a spell. The cabin is chilly this morning. I start a fire. I had better get into my uniform.

The first item is my longjohns. Now, my Sun Valley turtleneck sweater; it must be here somewhere. Here it is, all wrapped up in my boot bag. I knew it was there. Next are my ski socks. They should be in my boot bag also. I put on my ski pants next.

By Scott Schauer

I usually keep my hat, gloves, goggles, and glasses in a utility bag. Today, I find them in my boot bag. After I eat, I go put on my boots, but I can't find them either. They should be in my boot bag; I find them under my parka.

I'm almost ready to go. I can feel the excitement build. My heart quickens and a permanent smile for the day is plastered on my face because in a few minutes, I will be skiing down that mountain.

Attitude adjustment optional

Before I leave I run over my checklist. Hat, gloves, skis, boots, poles, goggles, Chapstick lip balm and attitude adjustment. Attitude is important. The adjustment is an optional activity.

Once outside with my equipment, it is important to know how to carry it. There are two ways to do that. One right way, and many variations of the wrong way. I put my skis and poles together on one shoulder. I'm careful of my tips so as not to hit anyone.

Also, I make sure my glasses are lower on my nose to be able to wink at any pretty passersby. The boots are buckled for warmth and less clinkage. I try to walk like I know how, not like a duck or a wino.

As I get to the booth I see the ticket prices. A ride on the chair costs \$26, that's as steep as this mountain. Now, the question comes up: "To buy or not to buy."

I know a technique I could use to beat the cost of inflation.

I could hike up to the second chair. Most ski areas use ticket checkers only at the first chair. They seldom check at higher points, but Murphy's Law is sometimes the only law.

One time, I set out early to make my ascent to the second chair before the employees arrived. I was half-way up when the chairlift above started moving. The employees were in transit to the top. To avoid being seen, I tried to get out of sight. Unfortunately, my orange ski pants gave me away, and I was spotted. Better luck next time.

It's a fashion parade

Today, I decide to pay for my ticket. Now, let's get those skis on and get into the "fashion parade" of a line. It seems more money is spent on clothing than equipment. Designers use every color in the rainbow and some that are not. All different styles and functions, too.

"Single! Single!" By yelling "single," I take my chances. Because my chair status is one, it is likely someone further in line might be a single rider, too. They will reply, hopefully, from the front of the line. Ideally, she will be beautiful, have a good spot in line and will be skiing alone.

Alas, I have to ride up on the chair with a six-year-old boy. Not what I expected, but he's got a great spot in line.

The talk is easy and the questions go something like "How old are you? Where are you from? Shoot, it's cold!" And, of course, "do you have a sister my age?" When we approach the unloading zone, we use the farewell line "have a good run."

Now comes the time for all good skiers to ski hard and stay in control, or in mountain terms "shred heavily." First, I check visibility and snow conditions. Now, I check my equipment and my conditions. I don't see many gapers (slow, out of control skiers). I spot them easily because they look like paralyzed Gumbys on skis.

Hup, hup, hup

OK. Let's go. Hup, hup, hup means control, control, control. I say hup a lot, but a smile is always on my face.

Now I can see the bottleneck part of the run. Skiers



An average day of skiing means dealing with getting ready, buying or not buying a ticket and then hitting the slopes where the real fun and adventure begins. Emerald file photo

usually have problems here. I'd better slow down to first gear. The gapers are falling like flies. This is where slalom technique becomes important, dodging between other skiers as if they were a slalom course.

I'm finally past the last gaper. I switch on cruise control: my weight is centered on the front of my skis, my arms at my side, knees are bent, and I'm smiling uncomfortably once again. The chairlift comes into sight. There is not much of a parade now.

Stopping is important. I could do a hockey stop and spray snow all over or just use common courtesy and slowdown to a nice stop.

"Single!" No one is single now. I slide over to the loading zone and get on. Alone, the ride seems to take forever. Maybe this time, I'll use a longer, wider run. If I see a good skier under the chair, I usually yell

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