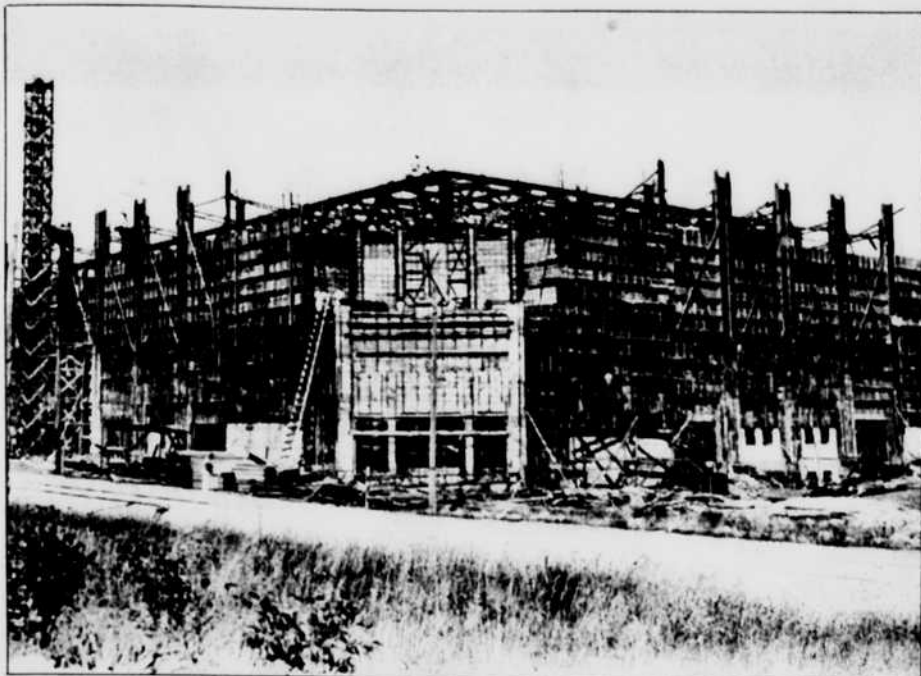




Mac Court is still under construction in this photograph (top left), with its bare framework still showing; notice that University Street was yet unpaved when the photo was taken in 1926. Soon after its completion, Mac Court served as an auditorium as well as a gymnasium (top right). Eager fans (right) stampede cross-court to get the pick of the courtside seats prior to the 1984 game between the Ducks and the Bruins in which sixth-ranked UCLA was upset by Oregon. Washington men's basketball coach, Marv Harshman, considered his trips to Mac Court as something similar to going to the circus and he would wear a Groucho Marx getup. Not to be outdone, these Oregon fans (above) spitefully wear their own fake noses and eyebrows.

so hard and intense that the fans would react the way they did," said Harter, now an assistant coach under Jack Ramsay of the National Basketball Association's Indiana Pacers.

"The noise level would be extremely high when we were playing well. Even when we weren't playing that good, the fans didn't quit on their team. They were not at all fickle."

"As I traveled around the league (then the Pac-8), I came to realize Mac Court was the best place in the world to play basketball," he added.

Not all opposing coaches would agree. They despised the Pit's atmosphere, which was more applicable to a boxing match in New York City rather than a basketball game in Eugene.

"I think it's bad for basketball," declared UCLA coach Gene Bartow after his team was upended here, 64-55, in a 1977 game. "It's a sad, sad situation when those people act like they do." Bartow, always a sore loser, also was the one who dubbed Duck fans as "deranged idiots."

UCLA seemed to be, and still is, a favorite target of the Oregon fans. Before the 1971 Spectrum magazine

matchup between Oregon and the number one-ranked Bruins, UCLA guard John Vallely reportedly was so awed by Duck boosters, that before player introductions he reportedly "gazed with an awed expression around the three-deck circumference of Mac Court." The noise worked, because the Ducks toppled the undefeated Bruins 78-65 in the year's biggest upset.

More recently, a crowd of a little over 9,000 paid homage to the Bruins during Don Monson's first year as coach in 1984. Monson probably wondered what he was getting into when he saw fans streaming down to the court after Oregon's 62-51 upset over the sixth-ranked Bruins. "I've had a team cut down the nets before, but never at mid-season," mused the coach in an Emerald article after the game.

Larry Farmer, now the head coach at Weber State University, was asked about his most vivid memories of Mac Court after his game with the Ducks earlier this year. Farmer, who spent most of the last 16 years with UCLA as a coach and player, just shook his head and laughed. "I remember a certain

incident back in 1975 when I was an assistant. Earlier that year I had tried to tell the freshmen, they were Brad Holland and David Greenwood I think, that they had never seen anything like Mac Court, and they wouldn't believe me," Farmer said.

"We finally play a game up here and I remember at halftime we were walking back to the lockerroom—there was security keeping all these yelling fans out of our face—and I looked back at those guys to see their expressions.

"They were almost white they were so pale. Those guys were scared to death," he said.

The crowd has mellowed quite a bit due to the change in times or lack of a winner, but for the Civil War battle against the Ducks and the Beavers you can count on a boisterous turnout. The scoreboard still shakes on those occasions, and all opposing coaches still dread coming to this place; referees still watch what they call, and even the most bold officials wish for eyes in the back of their heads.

But hey, Dominoes Pizza still will deliver under the breezeway at McArthur Court.

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