

Ducks play with winning attitude

By Tracy Sumner
Emerald Sports Editor

The Oregon men's basketball season is well past midseason and the men are getting a well-deserved rest this week. Sunday's game at Oregon State is next on the schedule, giving the team a seven-day break.

It doesn't take a John Wood-

graduated.

Brandon also has the will (not to mention the ability) to win. Coming from the winning tradition of Portland's Grant High School, he is not used to — and will not accept — losing.

Keith Reynolds— Since coming back from knee surgery in December, Reynolds has been playing the best basketball in his career at Oregon. He has put on some absolutely awesome second-half scoring streaks and has rebounded better than his 6-6,

coach likes in a reserve. He also can surprise with a well-timed rebound or basket to help his team.

Mike Helms— He lacks the creativity and passing ability of Brandon or the shooting of Mixon. But he has experience (he was a part-time starter last season) and doesn't make too many mistakes.

More consistent playing time wouldn't hurt, but that's a lot to ask when you play the same position as Brandon.

Aaron Johnson— The Duck coaching staff expects a lot out of Johnson in the future. Unfortunately for him, the future is not now.

Johnson handles the ball well, has a good shooting stroke and is a solid rebounder. He'll get a chance to show it in the next year or two.

Steve Ranniger— He's kind of a forgotten man with the emergence of Brandon and Mixon. Ranniger is a decent outside shooter if he has the time to set up for the shot, but he lacks individual moves on offense.

Ranniger is nonetheless one of Monson's favorite players because of his tireless work in practice and in games.

David Blair— It's hard to evaluate a player who plays only in spots. Blair is there in a pinch and hustles on the boards, especially on the offensive end.

Brett Johnson— Johnson is a seldom-used, walk-on guard who made the team after Tony Hargain sat out this season (following football team's Independence Bowl trip) and Ulysses Foston left the team early in the year.

He understands his role, though. He's a hard worker who is thrilled just to get in a game.

Coach Don Monson— Monson has to be in the running for Pac-10 Coach of the Year honors. He has taken a team that was a consensus pick for the conference cellar and made it a respectable group with a shot at the National Invitational Tournament.

Monson should be congratulated for his best move of the year: handing the ball to Brandon.

173-pound frame should allow Reynolds has shown the ability to play under control (for the most part) while maintaining his scorer's mentality. That is a tough balance to achieve.

Kevin Mixon— Despite inconsistent shooting and scoring, Mixon has been a tremendous catch for the Ducks. There are times when Mixon seems reluctant to take open shots and times when he seems automatic from three-point range.

Most importantly for the Ducks, Mixon is a threat who can't be ignored when he has the ball. Just ask George Raveling.

Richard Lucas— At 6-7, Lucas is often overmatched size-wise at center. But he knows how to rebound (fourth in the conference as of last week) and can score adequately if he stays within his shooting range (five feet and in).

Lucas' biggest asset is his work ethic. He is the kind of player who works hard to get the most out of his limited offensive skills and hustles on the defensive end. He has also treated the Mac Court fans to some hellacious dunking this year.

Bob Fife— Fife's biggest asset is his defensive timing. He leads Oregon in shot-blocking and, using his extremely long arms, alters many shots without blocking them.

Fife has trouble against bigger, more physical players because of his lack of weight. If he adds 20-25 pounds to his 6-11 frame, he could be a terror. He also needs more confidence on the offensive end of the court — the skills are there.

Eric Dunn— Dunn has played well off the bench lately. He is a player of limited offensive skills and has to work hard for everything he gets.

He has the experience a



From the Sidelines

en to see that the Ducks, 6-5 in the Pac-10 and 11-9 overall, are a vastly improved team over last season when they finished 8-21, for the fewest wins in Coach Don Monson's tenure at the school.

To what (or whom) does the team and its fans owe the turnaround?

The Ducks are getting improved play (over last season) from nearly every position on the floor and off the bench.

There is also the attitude.

Oregon is a team that knows it is capable of competing with just about any team it lines up against — especially in the confines of McArthur Court.

The Ducks also have abandoned the tendency to give up when things get tough. This season's team has won games last season's team would have given up on. In December's Far West Classic, for instance, the Ducks showed their character by coming back from a 15-point second-half deficit to scare the hell out of a heavily favored Oregon State team.

Oregon lost the game, but gained the respect of all observers who saw the Beavers scratch and claw to preserve the 71-68 win.

Last season's team would very probably have rolled over and died in that game. This season, the Ducks kept their heads up and earned a legitimate chance at the upset over the Gary Payton-led Beavers.

For effort, the Ducks deserve an "A" grade for the season. Individually, most of the Ducks earn some pretty good marks, too.

Terrell Brandon— The 5-foot-11 point guard has been the driving force in Oregon's improvement this season. Brandon shows creativity, passing skills and shooting and scoring ability that no Duck guard has shown since Anthony Taylor

& Yogurt Shop

EYE-OPENING SPECIALS

Halley's Comet
Has Great Muffins and Coffee!!

OPEN EARLY—OPEN LATE • Across from UO Bookstore • 345-5566

BUSY? GET TAN QUICK!!!

Fast Convenient Relaxing Affordable

SunShower on campus
406-2323 • 874 E 13th
Operators by Kimba's

★ WUNDERLAND ★
GREAT FOR PARTIES AND BIRTHDAYS

5¢ VIDEO GAMES ALL GAMES WORK WITH NICKELS
ADMISSION *1.50

5TH STREET PUBLIC MARKET
EUGENE • 683-8464

The 1989 5th Nationally
University of Oregon
Men's Volleyball Team
vs.
The 1989 AA Regional Champions
Downtown Athletic Club
Men's Club Volleyball Team
Wed. Feb. 7th 7pm, at Mac Court
Tickets \$2.00 available at the door & club members
All Tickets Go Toward Club Sports Funding

AMBASSADOR TRAVEL

UNIVERSITY BRANCH
831 EAST 13TH
683-5577
Toll Free 1-800-888-3799

Hours 8:00 to 5:30 M-F
9:00 to 1:00 Sat

Lowest Fares Anywhere!
ALL MAJOR CREDIT CARDS ACCEPTED

OREGON WEST FITNESS

POWER AEROBICS!

47 classes a week

- * Low Impact
- * High Impact
- * Combination
- * Pump Cardio
- * Circuit Training
- * Pump Cardio Plus

FULL WEIGHT FACILITY

LOW MONTHLY FEES.

Best Hours
7 Days a Week 6 a.m. - 11 p.m.
485-1624

MasterCard VISA

FREE WATCH!

NOW YOU GET A FREE WATERPROOF WATCH, WITH PURCHASE OF A 3-PACK OF MAXELL XLII-S90 AUDIO TAPES NOW ON SALE FOR 8.95!

Offer Good While Supplies Last

UO-Bookstore
13th & Kincaid M-F 7:30-6:00 SAT 10:00-6:00 686-4331

ELECTRONICS DEPARTMENT