

Payton, Monson stand out in Pac-10 basketball

By Ashley Conklin
Emerald Sports Reporter

With two weeks remaining in the Pacific-10 basketball season until the fourth and final Pac10 tourney, it now seems as good a time as any to take a look back at the season thus far, hand out the awards and take a look at the future.



From The Sidelines

Player of the Year: Need we even say it? Of course Oregon State's Gary Payton is the player of the year. He leads the Pac10 in scoring, assists and steals and is so good, he is the best player in the nation. Enough said.

Runners-up: No one is even close to Payton, but if Payton wasn't playing in the Pac-10, the award would go to either UCLA's Don MacLean or California's Brian Hendrick.

MacLean is averaging nearly 20 points per game and even if he doesn't have the most conventional jump shot in the Pac10, he is an awesome offensive force.

And then there's Hendrick. Just a freshman, Hendrick's numbers are almost as good as MacLean's. It's scary to think about Hendrick being in the conference for the next three years.

Freshman of the Year: With all we've just said about Hendrick, he's definitely a shoe-in for the award. Two other freshman who have had out-

standing seasons are UCLA's Tracy Murray and USC's Harold Miner. It's a shame Oregon's Terrell Brandon can't win some type of Newcomer of the Year award for the tremendous impact he's had on the Ducks this season.

Coach of the Year: For the best coaching job of the year, the award has to go to Oregon's Don Monson. The Ducks might not win the Pac-10 or go to the NCAA Tournament this season, but no one has done a better job coaching than Monson.

Consider what Monson has done this season. He took a team that was 8-21 last season and picked to win maybe four or five games this season, and completely turned things around. Oregon is 13-10 overall, 8-6 and fifth in the Pac-10, and should be headed to the NIT.

Now many will pick Oregon State's Jimmy Anderson for the award since the Beavers could win the Pac-10. But Anderson merely stepped in for legendary Ralph Miller this season, and the transition was pretty easy considering he had a player of Payton's abilities.

All-Pac-10 Team: The Pac-10 usually picks one, 10-player team for the all-Pac-10 team, but as far as I'm concerned, it would be better to pick a first team and a second team.

First team: Payton, MacLean, Hendrick, Brandon and Stanford's Adam Keefe. The most glaring omissions from this team are UCLA's Trevor Wilson and Keith Smith of Cal. Never fear, these two will be on the second team.

However, Wilson really hasn't had a great season to be included on the first team. The biggest problem I had here was choosing between Keefe and Smith for the final spot.

Smith is having a great season, but Keefe's averaging nearly 20 points per game and leads the conference in rebounding. Besides, where would the Cardinal be without him?

Brandon definitely deserves to be on the first team. He's scored over 17 points per game, but his role for the Ducks goes far beyond that. He's definitely an impact player.

Second team: Wilson, Smith, Miner, Arizona's Bud Buechler and Washington's Eldridge Recasner. Buechler doesn't have sparkling statistics, but he's a solid player who is among the conference elite in scoring, rebounding, assists and probably all-out hustle. Recasner hasn't had as good a season as he did last season, but he's still good enough to be on the team.

All-Freshman Team: Hendrick, Murray, Miner, Washington State's Bennie Seltzer and Arizona's Ed Stokes. The future of the Pac-10 looks good with these outstanding players.

Hendrick and Murray are downright awesome, as is Miner who is affectionately known as "Baby Jordan." Miner has given USC hope for the future as has Seltzer for the Cougars.

Stokes has done an outstanding job for the Wildcats. His play has taken some of the pressure off Brian Williams and has made Arizona much better since November.

The Pac-10 Tournament and more postseason: Look for Arizona to win the Pac-10 tourney next month in Tempe. The

Wildcats are playing the best basketball of any team in the conference right now and should win their third straight tournament.

Oregon State is a good team, but their one glaring weakness, inside play, will stand out in the Pac-10 and NCAA Tournaments. UCLA is falling on hard times, and is now fourth in the conference after losses to Cal and Stanford.

Four teams — Arizona, Oregon State, UCLA and Cal — should get NCAA bids unless some other team comes through to win the Pac-10 tourney. Oregon State will probably once again exit the NCAA's early. Sure they have Payton, but if

they run into a team with any height in the NCAA's, they'll be gone early.

The future: Look for Arizona to return to the Pac-10 penthouse again next season. The Wildcats lose only Buechler and injured guard Harvey Mason to graduation. With Williams, Stokes, Sean Rooks and guards Matt Muehlebach and Matt Othick back next season, Arizona is loaded.

UCLA also looks good for the next two years. Oregon could possibly sneak up to third for an NCAA bid next season, if the Ducks continue to improve, and Monson finds someone to replace Keith Reynolds in the starting line-up.

Men tie for ninth

The Oregon men's tennis team took a 6-3 win over Utah State Sunday in the third round of the UNLV Invitational in Las Vegas, Nev. The win salvaged a tie for ninth place in the 16-team tournament.

Kevin Cory started things off for the Ducks against Utah State, taking a 6-2, 6-3 win over Rob Markosian in the first flight of the meet.

Utah State came back with two straight wins in flights two and three. Jim Westfall beat Oregon's Ted Rubin 6-3, 1-6, 6-3 in the second flight followed by a 6-3, 6-3 Utah State win by Jeff Wangsgard over Oregon's James Hazard.

Jon Weinberg of Oregon got Oregon back on track in flight four with a 6-4, 6-4 win over Chris Wright. Kevin

in Settlemyre of Oregon beat Chad Iverson 6-3, 6-2 in flight five.

In the sixth singles match, Oregon's Rob Atkin beat Ryan Kogan of Utah State easily, cruising to a 6-0, 6-1 win.

Hazard and Cory started doubles play for Oregon with a default to Markosian and Westfall. Hazard had to withdraw because of a back injury.

Rubin and Weinberg of Oregon took a tough 7-6, 6-4 doubles win over Wangsgard and Wright in the second doubles match. In the third doubles match, Settlemyre and Atkin took a 6-3, 6-3 win over Iverson and Kogan of Utah State.

Oregon started the tournament by losing to UNLV in the first round by a 6-0 score.

20% OFF

Any Dinner Item

Eugene Store Only
Valid 3:00-8:00 p.m.

Not good with any other discount or promotion.
Good through Feb. 27, 1990

INTERNATIONAL
HOUSE & PANCAKES
RESTAURANT

345-9976
355 E. Broadway

INTERNATIONAL
HOUSE & PANCAKES
RESTAURANT

345-9976

Good things cookin'.
Breakfast, lunch,
and dinner.
OPEN 24 HOURS
To go orders available

355 E. Broadway

WINTER TAN SPECIAL

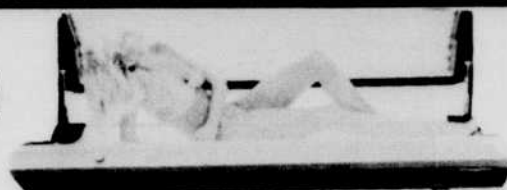
\$5.00 Off

Current Prices



**SunShower
Tanning Center** ON CAMPUS

874 E. 13th Ave. • Upstairs by Kinko's • 485-2323
ONE COUPON SPECIAL PER CLIENT Good Thru March 6, 1990



**SunShower
Tanning
Center**

We are the sun salon most conveniently located for students, faculty and staff. Lunch - study break - between classes - whenever you have a little extra time you can take a 20 minute vacation and relax in our deeply soothing sunbeds. Enjoy the warmth and your choice of music as you regain that luscious summer color. 874 E. 13th Ave. • Upstairs by Kinko's • 485-2323
Air-conditioned
WHERE THE TROPICAL SUN SHINES INDOORS

WOLFF
SYSTEM

\$6.99

Any Two Topping Large (14") Pizza

Good Feb. 20, 21, & 22 only
Take Out Available

We Have Kegs and
Party Balls to Go!!

344-4471



14th & Alder
(790 E. 14th)



344-4471
Open 4-11 Daily
& 1-11 Weekends