



Basketball

TIP OFF

► WOMEN'S GAMES

Friday, February 23, 7:00 p.m. at UCLA
Sunday, February 25, 7:00 p.m. at USC

► MEN'S GAMES

Thursday, February 22, 7:30 p.m. at home
Sunday, February 25, 3:00 p.m. at home

Thursday, February 22, 1990

Oregon Daily Emerald

Basketball Program



Photo by Mark Vlen

Seniors to play final home court game Sunday

Reynolds, Dunn, Ranniger concluding college careers

By Ashley Conklin
Emerald Sports Reporter

For Keith Reynolds, Eric Dunn and Steve Ranniger, this week's games with UCLA and Southern California are more than just two more Pacific-10 basketball games.

Sure, the games are very important for the Ducks as they try to position themselves for the Pac-10 tournament and a possible berth in the NIT. But for these three seniors, Thursday and Sunday's games mark the last time they will play a regular-season game in McArthur Court.

Although Ranniger is the only one of the three to play four years for the Ducks, all made contributions in one way or another for coach Don Monson's team.

Reynolds has had the most impact of the three players, starting almost all of last year after transferring from Southern Idaho College. This season he has started 19 of 23 games, missing three games because of a knee injury.

Last season the 6-foot-6 forward averaged 12.3 points per game, good for third on the team, but was inconsistent at times and didn't always play under control.

As the top returning scorer on the team, Reynolds knew he would have to be a team-leader this season, which meant doing all of the things associated with

being a leader, including consistency.

"Last year, personally, it was an up-and-down year for me," Reynolds said. "I wasn't taking it as seriously as I should have been."



Keith Reynolds

Reynolds said he knew what Monson expected of him this season as a senior and set that as his top priority.

"He told me, 'Keith, you will be a senior and coming back as the top scorer with a lot of minutes so take over and be a leader,'" Reynolds said. "That was my goal, to give the team a lot of leadership. I think they see me out there trying my best and it rubs off on everyone else."

Not only has Reynolds given the Ducks the leadership they needed, but he has played under control this season and

used his outstanding athletic ability to its best.

"I'm looking before going to the basket now," he said. "I look for an open shot or look to find the open man."

With a lot of people picking Oregon to finish last in the Pac-10 this season after an 8-21 mark last season, Reynolds admits that he had his doubts at the start of the season, but thought the Ducks had what it took to turn it around after a 68-63 win over then second-ranked Arizona in November.

"When we played Arizona I saw we had a lot more talent than last year because we weren't looking for just one scorer, but all five players to score," Reynolds said. "That was a positive as a team and after we beat Arizona we came together. No one was putting one another down like last year or making rude remarks about one another."

After growing up in Springfield, playing for Oregon was "like a dream come true" for Reynolds. An American Studies major, Reynolds will graduate next year and would like to get a shot at playing professionally either in the U.S. or in Europe.

And what would Reynolds like to do after his playing days come to an end?

"I wouldn't mind being a high school coach," he said. "I'd like to be able to teach other people what I learned."

Things haven't always gone the way Dunn might have liked at Oregon after growing up in Inglewood, Calif., attending

high school at St. Bernard's High School in Playa del Rey, Calif. and playing junior college basketball at El Camino College, but it's not like Dunn to complain.

"I don't really have any regrets," he said. "You always wished you could have done more, but that's just wishful thinking."

Like Reynolds and the rest, last season wasn't an easy one for Dunn. The 6-8 forward averaged 2.5 points and 2.1 rebounds per game last season in limited playing time.

However, the off-season was much tougher for Dunn. Just before school started, Dunn's father, George Dunn Jr. died on Sept. 17. Both father and son were very close before the elder Dunn passed away.

George Dunn Jr. was, like his son, a talented athlete, and was offered a baseball scholarship to Long Beach State, but had to give up the offer to work. It is understandable then why he got so much pleasure out of his

son's accomplishments.

"He was proud of me was always telling me 'you're doing the right thing,'" Dunn said. "When he wasn't at my games I knew he was working, providing for the family, but he was usually in the stands with a smile on his face."

"I have a lot of memories of him and I reminisce a lot," he added. "Just about all of the things he said to me since the age of seven have come back to me in some fashion or another."

It would have been understandable had Dunn not returned to the Oregon this season to stay with his mother, brother and sisters in Inglewood. He decided to come back for his senior season with his mother's blessing.

"She told me that she would support whatever decision I made," he said.

With a year of Pac-10 experience, Dunn has seen more playing time, and his numbers have gone up.

He started the first 12 games of the season, and although freshman Bob Fife has started the last 11 games for him, Dunn sees almost as much playing time every game as Fife does.

Dunn is averaging 5.3 points and 3.1 rebounds per game, ranking fifth on the team in both categories. He has had his share of big games for the Ducks, scoring 17 points and grabbing seven rebounds against Portland and netting 13 points against Utah.

For Dunn, this week's games



Eric Dunn

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