

Former Oregon coach Hobson dies at age 87

Former Oregon basketball coach Howard Hobson, who led the Ducks to their only NCAA basketball title in 1939, died June 9. He was 87.

The former Duck coach reportedly died of congestive heart failure at a Portland nursing home. Hobson had been suffering from heart problems and an ulcer before his death.

Hobson's "Tall Firs" team captured Oregon's only basketball national championship by defeating Ohio State 46-33 in the first-ever NCAA championship game.

Hobson took over as Oregon's basketball coach in 1935 and guided the Ducks to a 212-124 record in 11 seasons before moving on to Yale in 1947.

Hobson was more than just a college basketball coach in his day. He was considered one of the sport's pioneers, being the first to recommend that the three-point shot and shot clock be part of the college game. Those two inventions were part of a doctoral thesis on basketball Hobson completed at Columbia University in 1944.

Hobson also produced a book in 1984,

"Shooting Ducks," that chronicled the history of Oregon basketball during his coaching days.

Oregon athletic director Bill Byrne was elected last week by members of the National Association of Collegiate Directors of Athletics as the NACDA president for 1991-92.

Byrne was chosen president at the NACDA's 26th annual convention in San Diego. NACDA serves as the professional and educational association for more than 3,200 college athletic directors, assistants and conference commissioners at more than 1,500 institutions throughout the United States and Canada.

Oregon women's basketball coach Elwin Heiny will coach a Pacific-10 Conference all-star basketball team in the William Jones Cup International Tournament in Taipei, Taiwan, from June 29 to July 7.

Among the players selected for the team was Oregon's Staci Wallenborn,

who will be a senior at Oregon next season.

Heiny has prior all-star coaching experience, having coached a 1989 group of Pac-10 women's all-stars that toured Hungary during the summer. That was the Pac-10's first-ever international competition for women.

Also joining Heiny and Wallenborn on the trip will be Oregon trainer Kim Terrell.

Wallenborn, from Vancouver, Wash., was Oregon's second-leading scorer and rebounder this past season with per-game averages of 14.5 points and 5.9 rebounds.

The 12-player team will begin five days of practice starting Thursday in Berkeley, Calif., on the University of California campus.

Portland will host the 1992 "Tournament of the Americas," a round-robin tournament that will select four Olympic basketball teams from North and South America to compete in the 1992

Summer Olympics in Barcelona, Spain.

The selection was made last week by the USA Basketball Committee, saying that Portland was chosen largely because of enormous fan support for the Portland Trailblazers. Although Portland's Memorial Coliseum has a capacity of only 12,884, USA Basketball believed the support with which the tournament would generate would outweigh the disadvantages of a small arena.

The 1992 Olympics will be the first time that National Basketball Association players can play in the games. USA Basketball has said that the 12-man roster will consist of nine or 10 NBA players.

No team other than Spain, the Olympic host team, is given an automatic bid to the Olympics in basketball, creating the need for the qualifying tournament. The 12-man U.S. team that will compete in the Olympics, should it qualify through zonal competition, will be the same team fans will see in Portland.

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Berry earns spot on U.S. world track team

NCAA javelin champ Paula Berry continued her outstanding season this past weekend by placing second at The Athletics Congress national championships, earning a berth on this summer's U.S. World Championship team.

Berry threw 191-7 in Saturday's finals to place second behind veteran Karin Smith, who won with a throw of 197-6. Oregon's Kim Hyatt was eighth with a toss of 171-5.

By finishing second, Berry will be on the U.S. team that will compete in the World Championships in Tokyo Aug. 24-Sept. 1. The top three finishers in each event will be on the American team.

No other Oregon athletes made the World Championships team, but Scott McGee did qualify for the World University Games in Sheffield, England, July 19-25.

McGee placed seventh in the hammer with a throw of 211-9. He was the top collegiate finisher, earning the berth in the World University Games.

Oregon's Art Skipper, after placing third in the NCAA javelin competition, placed 11th at TAC with a throw of 224-6. Skipper also qualified for the World University Games by finishing as the second collegian, but likely won't compete because of a season-long ankle injury.

Berry and McGee also took the Oregon track teams' top honors at the team awards banquet two weeks ago.

Berry won the Lynne

Winbigler Performer of the Year Award for the second straight year. McGee won the Scharpf Award as the men's most outstanding athlete.

Berry was the third athlete to win the women's top award more than once. Other multiple winners were distance runners Kathy Hayes in 1983-85 and Annette Hand in 1987-88.

Hurdler Bob Gray and sprinter Rosie Williams were honored as the leading scorers on the two teams.

Gray won the Carl Greve Award and Williams the Mary Officer Award. Gray had an outstanding season that culminated with a second-place finish in the 110-meter hurdles at the NCAA meet. Williams left as the school record-holder in both the 100- and 200-meter dashes.

Winning the Coaches' Awards as the teams' Most Improved performers were Muhammad Oliver and Lucy Nusrala.

Oliver finished fourth at the NCAA meet in the decathlon and improved his personal record in the event by almost 600 points since the beginning of the season.

Nusrala came out of nowhere to qualify for the NCAA meet in the 5,000 meters, running the third-fastest time in Pacific-10 Conference history. She finished 10th at the NCAA meet.

Also honored were Pat Haller, as the men's outstanding cross country runner and Curtis Wilson as the men's Most Inspirational athlete.



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