



The basketball band has finally found a more stable home at Mac Court that doesn't disrupt as many fans as their previous seats. The basketball band had played this musical chairs charade three times in the past three years.

Basketball band shoots, scores big with new seats

By Jayson Jacoby
Emerald Sports Reporter

The Oregon basketball band is known for its musical abilities.

But for the last few years, musical chairs has been the tune for this group of students who entertain fans at McArthur Court.

The band has been moved three times in three years in an effort to ensure it doesn't disrupt fans' views or play over the Ducks' huddles during timeouts.

Finally, though, it looks as if the band has found a home, where it doesn't seem to be bothering fans or the basketball team.

That new home is in the end-zone seats at the northwest corner of Mac Court, which were formerly reserved for students. The spot puts the band far away from the Oregon bench, but it is almost directly across from the visiting team.

Sandy Walton, the University's senior associate athletic director, said all the moves have been the result of a variety of complaints from students and other fans concerning previous band locations.

"It's just an effort to try to do what is best for the most people," Walton said.

Last year the band was located in the west bleachers, also part of the student section. In the past, the band had occupied that same spot for more than 30 straight years.

Although last year's move gave students 16 more seats than they had before, students weren't happy about losing prime seats, going so far as booing the band at several games.

Two years ago, the band had been moved from the west

bleachers to section GG in the southeast corner under one of the baskets.

But Walton said that spot angered many reserve season ticket-holders, who complained that the band was standing during the game and obstructing their view.

When the students complained about the subsequent move back to the west bleachers, Walton said the athletic department decided to try a different spot, which seems to have made everyone happy.

In its current location, the band is only directly in front of a small portion of seats in the mezzanine section.

During the men's basketball team's last home game against Stanford, fans in the affected seats had few complaints about the band, saying the band members sat down during the game and weren't a nuisance other than being a little loud.

Through all the moves and all the controversy, the University's director of bands said the basketball band just wants to be close to the action, regardless of what side of the court it sits on.

"The band needs to be down on the court where they can be heard," director Dave Booth said. "The energy and the visibility the band creates is helpful to the home team. For the visiting teams it makes the arena an intimidating place to play."

That's the image that has made The Pit famous, and coach Don Monson likes the band right where it is — near the visiting team's bench.

"It's loud in there anyway," Monson said. "If it's going to be as disruptive as it is at most of the other schools (in the Pacific-10 Conference), at least it's toward the visitors."

inate a game."

Jordan will get the task of guarding Miner, and if he can keep him in check, the Ducks could have a chance against USC.

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Saturday in a victory over Arizona State.

"USC doesn't possess the mismatches UCLA does," said Monson, "but Miner can dom-