

# Doing It his way

By Dave Charbonneau  
Emerald Sports Editor

When the referee's whistle blows, Jeff Edom has his cue.

Known by most Duck basketball fans as "that guy who sings during timeouts," Edom has at times been the most entertaining part of Oregon basketball games this season.

Edom, 27, is the director of the Oregon basketball band, but he has taken his job a step further. Besides leading the band through the ritual "game songs" like "Mighty Oregon" and "Louie, Louie," Edom occasionally breaks up the silence during timeouts by picking up the microphone and singing a few bars of his favorite songs.

Edom has done his own renditions of Cab Calloway's "Minnie The Moocher" and Screamin' J. Hawkins' "Riot In Cell Block No. 9," but Edom has gained an almost cult following for his version of Frank Sinatra's "New York, New York."

A former student at the University, Edom originally joined the band in 1983 as a freshman trumpet player. It was during his stint as a band member that he got his shot

at stardom.

"One year at the Far West Classic in Portland, the band was playing 'New York, New York,'" Edom said. "It was the afternoon bracket, so we were kind of just playing around. Halfway through the song, I picked up a mike and just started singing. It went over real well with the fans in Portland, so we started to do it more often."

Ten years later, after singing the song hundreds of times, Edom said he still enjoys the crowd's reaction to it.

"It may not be as fun as singing some of the stuff that, say, Harry Connick Jr. is doing," he said, "but my feeling is that the band is there to entertain the fans. And if that's the song the audience wants to hear, then we should do that."

Edom graduated in 1990 and took over as assistant band director at New Mexico State. Edom returned to Oregon and is now a "consultant" for the basketball band this year, as well as directing the band department at Hamlin Middle School in Springfield.

Edom said he does not expect to return next season, but said he would have to




Photo by Jeff Paslay  
Jeff Edom, Oregon's basketball band director, sings his rendition of "New York, New York," at a recent Duck basketball game.

Turn to **SINGER**, Page 12

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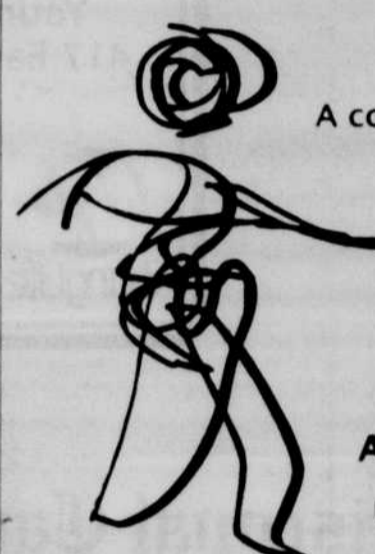
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## Ducks to compete in Reno meet

Oregon's track and field teams will complete their short indoor seasons at the Mountain Pacific Federation Indoor in Reno this weekend.


Neither the men's nor the women's team will take full squads to the meet, which features teams from the Pacific-10 and Big West Conferences.

The Ducks will have no entries in the distance events, limiting participants to jumpers, sprinters and hurdlers.

Among Oregon athletes competing in the meet are Kelly Blair, high jump, 55-meter dash and 400-meter dash; Julie Beck, shot put; Todd Bleakney, triple jump; and Lisa Bedwell, 200-meter dash.

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