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Possibility of boycott looming

DES MOINES, Iowa (AP) — Talk of boycotting college basketball games remains just that, but it's getting louder.

Coaches across the country are lining up behind the Black Coaches Association, which is spearheading the boycott movement but won't say when it might happen.

And while support is by no means unanimous, even those who are reluctant to walk out say they'd go along in a show of unity.

"Sometimes you just have to do what you have to do," California coach Todd Bozeman said. "Whatever the coaches decide, I'll abide by that decision."

BCA director Rudy Washington, the basketball coach at Drake, has said a boycott would be likely and would involve players as well as coaches. It could conceivably last the rest of the season, he said.

Coaches could act as early as Saturday, which would coincide

with the birthday of slain civil rights leader Martin Luther King Jr. Stopping games on a weekend also would knock a number of featured matchups off television, depriving the NCAA of revenue from those telecasts.

"With all the revenue generated from basketball, I really believe the coaches are holding a couple of aces," Oral Roberts coach Bill Self said. "If it came down to that, I think the NCAA would be hurt by a boycott."

Civil War still scheduled

Saturday's Oregon-Oregon State men's basketball game will be played despite talk of a boycott by the Black Coaches Association, Oregon Assistant Sports Information Director Jamie Klund said Thursday.

"As of right now, the game is on," said Klund about the 299th Civil War, scheduled to tipoff at 1:05 at McArthur Court.

However, Klund added that

The boycott plan was triggered by a vote at the NCAA convention against restoring a 14th scholarship to Division I men's basketball. Coaches reacted bitterly to the vote, with the BCA charging that minority athletes are hurt the most by cutbacks.

A reduction of one scholarship means 300 fewer opportunities, the BCA says, adding that about two-thirds of that total would likely be black.

things could change when BCA unveils its plan of action, which could come today or Saturday. When the BCA announces what form of protest, if any, to take regarding the NCAA's refusal to add a 14th scholarship, Oregon will decide what to do.

"We don't know what the Black Coaches Association is going to ask for," Klund said. "There are no guarantees we're going to go along with that."

Hockey season opens up tonight

By Mark McTyre
 For the Oregon Daily Emerald

Come one, come all! It's hockey night Saturday at 6:15 p.m. at the Lane County Ice Arena on West 13th Avenue and Jackson Street in Eugene.

That's when the University hockey team takes to the ice for the first time this season, against the visiting University of Washington Huskies. The two teams will also slap the puck around at 9:15 a.m. Sunday.

The Ducks are looking to improve their solid record of a year ago, 6-4-3, with this opening two-game home stand. Last season, these teams squared off

against each other three times, all resulting in ties.

Helping the Ducks this season are four returning seniors: defensemen Scott Auerbach and Mark A. Liebert, and forwards Brian Clendenin and Steve Melkerson. In addition, freshman standout Greg Schuttenhelm has joined the team. "We'll be looking for much of our scoring to come from Mark (Liebert)," Clendenin said.

This year's team looks to be built around strength, speed and experience.

"We have smaller and faster players," Clendenin said. "So we'll be more of a weaving team, and we'll take advantage of the bigger teams. Our defensive players are big and strong, but quick."

The Ducks second year head coach Paul Ruthurford brings with him a lot of experience. Ruthurford has played hockey for most of his life and extended his hockey career after his senior

year of college, when he was drafted by the New York Islanders. Ruthurford played for one year in the Islanders farm system at Richmond, Va.

Since his stint with the Islanders organization, Ruthurford has taught hockey clinics, played for the Eugene Blues and coached the Ducks.

"We'll play a solid defensive style and take advantage of our speed and playmaking abilities up front," Ruthurford said. "It's going to stem from our defense."

"All three of our lines will be strong, and we're a young and enthusiastic team with a lot of heart," Clendenin said. "I think we'll do well against the Huskies because we're faster than them. For the season, our toughest competition will come from Idaho and San Jose State."

The Ducks' hockey games cost \$2 for students and \$3 for adults. Come early — the average attendance is about 1,100 people.

Wrestlers face a trio of southern opponents

Steve Mims
 Oregon Daily Emerald

The Oregon wrestling team has a busy weekend ahead of them, facing three foes from the south at McArthur Court Friday and Saturday.

The Ducks open against Fresno State tonight at 7:00 p.m., followed by a match against San Francisco at 9:00. Saturday night Cal-State Bakersfield visits Eugene, beginning at 9:00 p.m.

10th-ranked Fresno State, 4-1 after falling at Oklahoma last weekend, is expected to be the toughest test for the Ducks. The Bulldogs are led by NCAA runner-up Gerry Abas, at 142 pounds, but have two other ranked wrestlers as well.

San Francisco State has struggled to a 1-6 record so far, while Cal-State Bakersfield is 1-1 and ranked 21st in the nation.

The Ducks are 3-2 in dual meets this year, with both losses

coming to highly ranked Pacific-10 Conference opponents. The Ducks split 10 matches with No. 2 Oregon State last month, but lost 23-15 after forfeiting two matches. Last weekend Oregon lost to 12th-ranked Arizona State 20-19 on the road.

Leading the Ducks this year has been 118-pounder Kevin Roberts, who at No. 11 is the only nationally ranked Oregon wrestler. Roberts is 13-3 this year, including 4-1 in dual meets.

Mat Sprague has been extremely valuable for the Ducks lately, winning two matches in two different weight classes. Sprague scored a major decision over Ohio State's Nick Nutter at 190 pounds in December, before getting down to 177 pounds and defeating 3rd-ranked Pat Lynch of Arizona State. Sprague has Oregon's most wins without a loss at 6-0.

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