

Anderson trying to stay optimistic

By Dave Charbonneau
Oregon Daily Emerald

For Jimmy Anderson, this is the type of season nightmares are made of.

As coach of the Oregon State men's basketball team, Anderson has been faced with the gruesome task of trying to make the best of a season with a team virtually destroyed by injury.

Three of the Beavers' top six players went down with injuries before the season had even begun, forcing Anderson to use a cast loaded with freshmen, inexperienced veterans and even a Rec Center gym rat to try and compete in the Pacific-10 Conference.

The result has been a season that has seen the Beavers finish the first half of the Pac-10 season with a 1-8 record, the start for an Oregon State team since 1952.

The scenario is not unlike the story of Don Monson, former Oregon coach who was fired two years ago after going 6-21 with a team riddled by injuries and lacking in talent.

Last season, media speculation was that Anderson would be gone following the Beavers' disappointing 13-14 season. Anderson, however shrugged off the rumors and athletic director Dutch Baughman kept Anderson on as head coach.

Without the injuries that hit the Beavers this season, Oregon State may have had a chance to at least crack the upper tier of the Pac-10. Instead, the Beavers have been lumped in with perennial cellar dwellers Oregon and Washington.

Anderson, a diehard optimist, continues to insist that some good can come out of this season.

"It's nightmarish in that we're not winning many games, but we're constantly improving," he said. "You never give up on the season you're involved in, but you also have to look toward the future and realize that a lot of players are getting some good experience that can only help them and our program in the future."

For much of the season, the Beavers' starting lineup has consisted of two freshmen, center

Jerohn Brown and guard David Drakeford, and a junior college transfer, Stephane Brown, in his first season with the team.

All have played well at times, but their inexperience has taken its toll on the Beavers at times.

Stephane Brown, for instance, is the second leading scorer for the Beavers, averaging 14.6 and 5.2 assists a game, but has also averaged over four turnovers a game.

As for the veterans, juniors Kareem Anderson and Brent Barry have been looked to carry the team. Both are averaging over 14 points a game, but Anderson said the season has worn on them.

"They're good competitors who like to win," he said. "They get frustrated when they can't carry the team as much as they would like."

Mustapha Hoff and J.D. Vetter, both expected starters this season, went down with injuries before the season started. Freshman Sonny Benjamin went down as well. Benjamin was expected to be the sixth man for the Beavers this season.

Coming into Oregon State's game with the Ducks Saturday at Gill Coliseum, the Beavers lineup is made up of six walk-ons and seven freshmen.

Anderson, a former assistant under former head coach Ralph Miller, has watched the Oregon State program slowly deteriorate since Miller's retirement following the 1989-90 season.

During Miller's 25 seasons at Oregon State, the Beavers failed to finish above .500 seven times. In Anderson's four seasons as head coach, his team has finished above .500 only once, and this, his fifth year is quickly turning into his worst season as head coach.

The Beavers are now 5-13 overall this season. In 1952, Oregon State finished 9-19 and 3-13 in the Pac-10. With games remaining at home against Arizona, Arizona State, UCLA and USC, and road games against Washington State, Washington, Stanford and Cal, the Beavers are in jeopardy of finishing worse off than the 1952 team.



FILE
Oregon State head coach Jimmy Anderson is trying to remain positive about the Beavers' 1-8 start in the Pac-10 this year.

Arizona State booster investigated by Pac-10

TEMPE, Ariz. (AP) — The family of a former Arizona State football player has filed a grievance with the Pacific-10 Conference, alleging that the universi-

officials have looked into the allegations and found nothing improper.

Livingston, from San Marcos, Calif., transferred to Arizona State from Palomar Community College but played in just two games for the Sun Devils last season. He has since transferred to Nebraska.

The Arizona Republic reported Tuesday that the Livingston family's grievance alleges an Arizona State booster provided improper housing benefits to some football players.

The booster, John Bebbling, was interviewed last Friday by David Price, assistant commissioner of the Pac-10, and Jerry Kingston, ASU's faculty athlet-

ic representative.

Bebbling said he shows no favoritism to athletes in renting apartments at his two Tempe complexes and recently evicted two football players for non-payment of rent.

Bebbling denied offering Wood free tickets or hotel accommodations to see her son play at Arizona State but did admit inviting her to watch a game from his luxury skybox at Sun Devil Stadium.

"That's the one that could get me in trouble," Bebbling said.

It is against NCAA rules for a booster to provide an athlete or his family with benefits not available to the general student

body.

Price declined comment on the Pac-10's investigation, citing conference policy.

cent from the field.

Woods became the first Washington athlete to earn player of the week honors since March 1991.

PACIFIC 10 NOTES

ty violated NCAA rules.

Samieh Wood, the mother of ex-Sun Devil wide receiver John Livingston, said the grievance includes allegations that Arizona State committed recruiting violations and provided improper benefits to players.

ASU Athletic Director Charles Harris said Monday that school

WALNUT CREEK, Calif. (AP) — Washington center Maurice Woods has been named Pacific-10 Conference player of the week, officials announced.

Woods, a senior, totaled 16 points and a career-high 11 rebounds in a Feb. 3 loss to Arizona State. Two days later, he hit a career-high 20 points and had 10 rebounds in a victory over Arizona.

For the week, he shot 60 per-

The Pac-10 is now 64-30 (.677) in non-conference competition this season, which is ahead of last season's showing of 71-39 (.645) and against tougher competition than in recent years. Two out-of-league contests remain during the regular season: California vs. Cincinnati on Sunday, February 20 at the 7UP Shoot-Out in Orlando, Florida and Louisville at UCLA on Sunday, March 6th.

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