

Plenty of blame for seating fiasco

I am not used to writing the Thursday column, but Mims stole my space earlier in the week because he got kicked out of his seat at the basketball game and was pretty damn mad.

I, on the other hand, was nestled in my lovely press row seat and was busy sipping my free cola without any viewing obstructions whatsoever.

Because I usually have the Tuesday column, I get first crack at commenting on the week-end's happenings. However, this week I am forced to give my opinion on old news.

Sure, I could have gone out and dug up some touching human interest piece, but give me a break, I had two mid-terms this week, and everyone knows sports always takes a back seat to school. So we'll call this Dave's "I-Had-Two-Mid-terms-This-Week" column.

Students seats, see ya! The letters continue to pile up at the Emerald from irate students who got the boot at Saturday's basketball game.

You have five options on who was to blame for two rows of students being asked to find different seats after blocking the view of others.

First, there's the basketball team. If it hadn't been playing so



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well lately, no one would even want to stand up, let alone go to the games. Maybe Brooks should fire Jerry Green and rehire Don Monson. No one would be standing then.

Second, you could blame the students at courtside. The root of the problem begins with those crazies who arrive at Mac Court two to three hours before the game to get front-row seats. Once they stand up, which is usually during warm-ups, the second row has to stand and the chain continues until everyone in the student section is standing.

Or you could blame Rich Brooks for ultimately making the decision to boot the students.

And what about public address announcer Don Essig? Essig has been a one-man rally squad all season, constantly telling students to get rowdy and make some noise. Rumor has it that the athletic department told

him Saturday to tell the students to sit down midway through the first half, but he would only go as far as telling the students not to stand on their seats.

Blaming any of the aforementioned groups would be a cop-out.

The problem lies in the bunch of saps in the first four rows of the reserved seats. They sit up there in their green and gold sweaters and pants feeling proud about their \$100 donations to Oregon athletics and spend more time bitching about spirited students than they do watching the game. God forbid they have to get up off their tired butts and get with the program. It's amazing any of them had enough energy to actually leave their seats and walk all the way down to the floor to complain to the members of the athletic department.

I realize some of the fans in those seats may be physically unable to stand, and maybe they should be given seats that aren't behind the student sections. But for those people who can't fathom the idea of eating a hot dog and standing at the same time, I have no sympathy. Unfortunately, Rich Brooks does.

Dave Charbonneau is a sports reporter for the Emerald.

A past decision could be back to haunt Green

By Steve Mims
Oregon Daily Emerald

When Oregon coach Jerry Green was an assistant coach at Kansas two years ago, the Jayhawks finished second in the recruiting battle for prize high school senior Jason Kidd.

Tonight, Green will be reminded of Kansas' failings when the Ducks face California, the school that won the Kidd sweepstakes.

California beat Oregon 81-61 last month, in a game that was much closer than the final score would indicate — until Kidd took over. Cal led only 43-39 with 15 minutes remaining in the game, but then the sophomore sensation hit a trio of three-pointers in a five-minute stretch, and when he was done Cal's lead was up to 57-41 and Oregon was done.

Fittingly enough, Green says the biggest improvement Kidd has made in college has been the outside shot, which he killed Oregon with. Green says he has seen improvement in Kidd this year compared to last year, but there has been no questioning his

talent since high school.

"Jason's been an NBA player since high school," Green said. "The only question was who would get him for his college career. He is going to be a wealthy man someday."

Kidd is close to averaging a triple-double per game in the Pacific-10 Conference, racking up 16 points, 10.5 assists and 7.8 rebounds in conference games. Kidd has already broken his own school single-season assist record with 244 this year and will break the Cal career assist record if he returns next year, to go along with the career steals record he already owns.

Kidd has been a steady force for a Cal team that has suffered through so many injuries that it's been forced to go with a seven-man rotation. Kidd and junior forward Lamond Murray make up the best 1-2 combination in the country. Murray is averaging 25 points per game and is an outstanding outside shooter, but Green says that's not where he's most dangerous.

"They play Ryan Jamison and Michael Stewart inside,

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