

Are these our Ducks?

I made the trip to Wilsonville High School last Saturday to watch the latest Oregon football squad take the field, and I was confused by what and whom I saw.

With the sun fighting off the clouds, I had a sense of hope that this game would be a good one. The football field was impressive, and the team seemed ready to play.

So with a great setting, a nice day and two stands full of fans, I thought this game would be like the ones in the fall.

But things were dramatically different.

Despite drawing more than 5,000 fans, the players were grunting louder than the fans were cheering. But spring games are hard to get into. After all, who are you going to root for? You want to see both teams score, but you want to see the defense do well because "offense wins games, and defense wins championships."

You could cheer for the players, but they were constantly changing between green and white uniforms, so they were difficult to keep track of. In order to cheer for players, you also have to know who they are, and this team is full of newcomers trying to make names for themselves.

Gone are the major players from the recent roads to the Rose and Cotton Bowls. Chad Cota, Herman O'Berry, Dino Philyaw, Silila Malepeai and Danny O'Neil are long gone.

Alex Molden, Cristin McLemore, Jeremy Asher, Rich Ruhl, Troy Bailey, and Ricky Whittle have all moved on. Tony Graziani, Reggie Jordan, Bryant Jackson, Josh Wilcox and Tasi Malepeai will soon be playing their final game in a Duck uniform.

The Oregon line-up will soon feature another Wilcox, who has neither tattoos nor dreams of becoming a professional wrestler, and another McLemore, who hasn't starred in local commercials.

Looking through the roster, you can find names such as Ausama Zarrugh, Tauheed Jermany, York Frierson and Deke Moen. I am sure these guys can play football, but I pity Jerry Allen when it's time to announce their names.

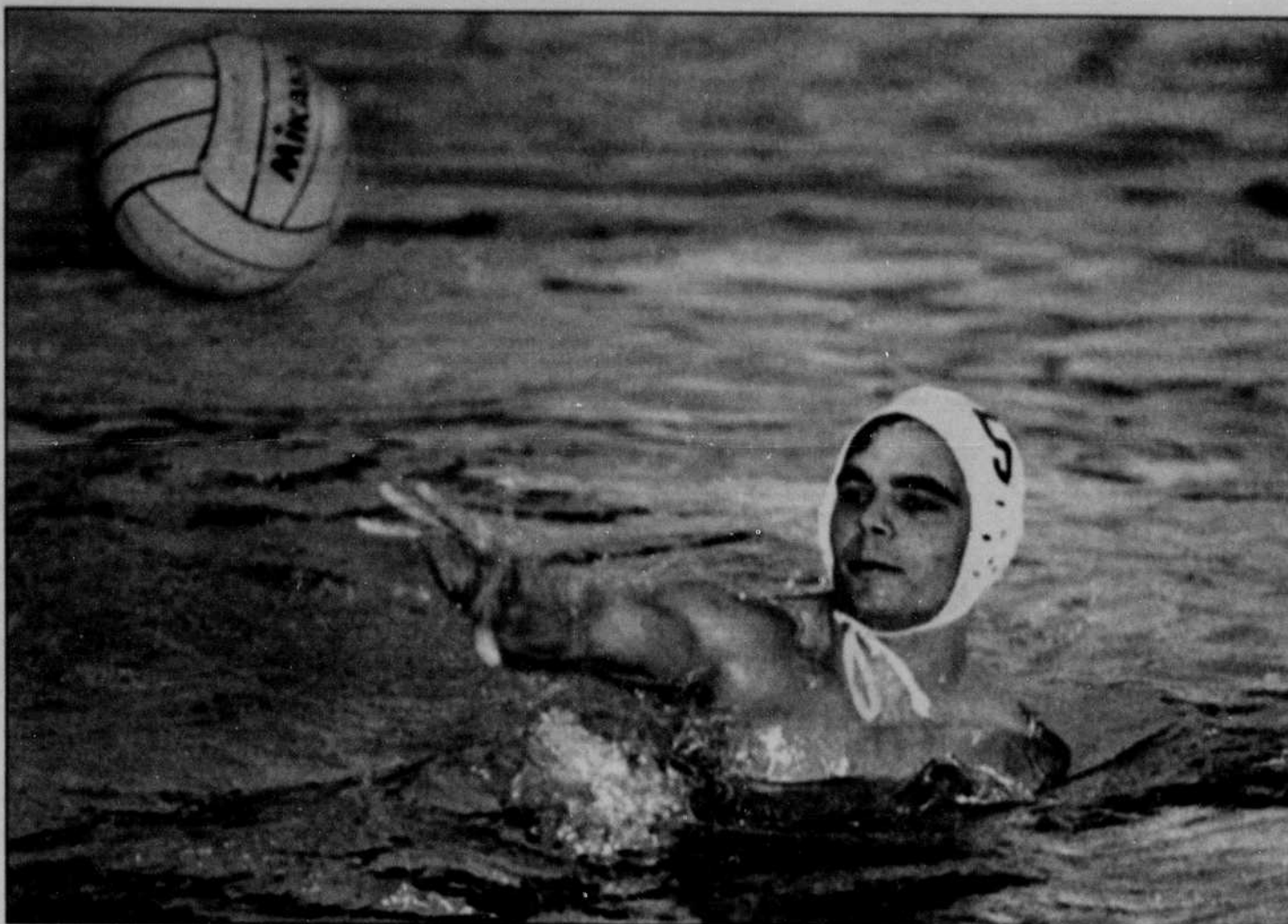
So the Ducks will soon be moving into a new era. And the spring game was a big

OPINION



Andrea DeYoung

Marco Polo



Biology major John Hagg puts the ball in play during his water polo class on Tuesday afternoon. The one-credit class is on Tuesdays and Thursdays from 3 to 4 p.m.

Mariner's new stadium will be one block south of Kingdome

SEATTLE (AP) — The Mariners got their wish Tuesday when the Public Facilities District Board chose a site one block south of the Kingdome for a new baseball stadium.

The board voted 6-0 in favor of the Acklerley site, so-called because Seattle SuperSonics owner Barry Acklerley once proposed building an arena there. The location, across Royal Brougham Way from the Kingdome's south parking lot, is vacant and often used to store bleacher seats from the domed stadium.

Although the board made its preference known Tuesday, environmental-impact reviews of all three sites being considered will be conducted over the summer, with final selection scheduled for Sept. 9. The Mariners hope to have the stadium open in time for the 1999 season.

Jackson finally gets NBA coach of the year honor

CHICAGO (AP) — Phil Jackson, philosopher, author, laid-back proponent of Zen meditation and former flower child, faced perhaps his greatest challenge as a coach this season.

His object: Take a team with the game's greatest player and its strangest player and mesh the personalities, characters, abilities and temperaments into a championship run.

Jackson did that and more, leading the Chicago Bulls to the NBA's best-ever regular season with 72 victories. His reward Tuesday was being selected as the league's Coach of the Year. It's an honor that escaped Jackson during the Bulls' run of three straight titles from 1991 to 1993.

"He lets you be yourself," said forward Dennis Rodman, the man of many hair colors and body piercings who head-butted a referee for a six-game suspension, led the league in rebounding and recently released a provocative book.

Jackson kept moody and talented players

like Rodman, Scottie Pippen and Toni Kukoc satisfied and productive as they surrounded and complemented Michael Jordan.

Jackson received 82 out of a possible 113 votes from a panel of sports writers and broadcasters.

Baseball manager pleads ignorance to cocaine charge

PROVIDENCE, R.I. (AP) — Former Boston Red Sox manager Butch Hobson was bewildered when he received a packet of cocaine in an express delivery package, his lawyers said Tuesday.

"He was surprised to receive it. He was upset to receive it. And he wasn't sure what he was going to do with it," said Hobson's attorney, Stephen Famiglietti. "... It did not occur to him to take it to police."

Hobson, 44, was arrested Saturday in a Pawtucket hotel on a charge of cocaine possession. The charge carries a maximum three years in prison.

Police were led to Hobson when they intercepted an overnight letter mailed from the Birmingham, Ala., area to The Comfort Inn, where Hobson was staying with the Philadelphia Phillies' Triple A team he now coaches, the Scranton-Wilkes-Barre Red Barons.

Hobson is scheduled to appear July 10 in Providence County Superior Court.

Soccer fan commits suicide after favorite team loses

TRABZON, Turkey (AP) — A 12-year-old boy committed suicide Tuesday because he was despondent over the loss in a crucial league game by his favorite club, Trabzonspor, police said.

Husnu Civelek hanged himself at a construction site in the town of Akcaabat near this Black Sea port city.

It was the second suicide of a Trabzonspor fan since the team was beaten 2-1 Sunday by Istanbul's Fenerbahce. The result dropped

Sideline

TODAY IN SPORTS

Trabzonspor out of first place and virtually ensured that Fenerbahce will win the title.

Pregnant Kerrigan will keep skating competitively till July

BOSTON (AP) — Figure skater Nancy Kerrigan will soon be trading her skating dresses for maternity outfits.

The two-time Olympic medal winner and her husband and manager, Jerry Solomon, are expecting their first child in December. The two were married last year in Boston.

Kerrigan, 26, is traveling with the Tour of World Figure Skating Champions and will continue to skate at least until mid-July, when the tour ends, said Elena Doyle, of P.S./StarGames in Boston, which represents Kerrigan.

"She will be skating for the time being, and she has spoken with her doctor. Right now she will continue until he tells her otherwise," Doyle said.

Throat cancer may threaten Butler's baseball career

CINCINNATI (AP) — Los Angeles Dodgers center fielder Brett Butler has throat cancer and may not play again.

Butler, 38, had a tonsillectomy in Atlanta, and a cancerous tumor the size of a plum was found, the club said Tuesday.

He will have surgery May 21 to remove lymph nodes and will require radiation therapy. The survival rate for his type of cancer is 70 percent, doctors said.

"We're very, very stunned with the news," said Dodgers manager Tommy Lasorda, who broke the news to his team before a 3-2, 12-inning loss to the Cincinnati Reds.