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Hansen: Aloha committee snoozing

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son that California got the nod was because of the supposed drawing power of Bears' quarterback Pat Barnes.

"It just came down to Pat Barnes," Klompus said. "You know, he's probably going to be playing on Sundays next year, and it's an opportunity for the people here to see him play in our Bowl game."

Hmm. Once again, I must reiterate that the Aloha Bowl representative must have been snoozing during the Oregon-California game when the Ducks sacked Barnes six times and held him to mediocre numbers.

Has Barnes really reached that level of superstardom where just his name alone will bring droves of people to the stadium just to catch a glimpse of a budding NFL player?

Peyton Manning or Jake Plummer he is not. Besides, from what I understand, Barnes is begging the NCAA to give him a fifth year of eligibility so he can stay at California next year. Obviously somebody doesn't think he is good enough for the pros yet.

When asked how the size of each team's fan base and the difference between Eugene and the Bay Area factored into the decision, Klompus' answer was confusing.

"Oregon's reputation for going to Bowls and the way they bring their fan base along is excellent," she admitted. "They have always been rated a 10 on a scale of one to 10."

But then she followed that up with the comment, "We were just trying to put more people in seats on Christmas morning. We do have a 50,000 seat stadium to fill."

If Oregon has been given the highest mark possible on her rating scale, then she shouldn't have to be worried about filling the stands with Duck fans. So I guess fan support wasn't a factor because Oregon has terrific support from its fans who will travel, but it was a factor because Aloha Bowl officials were worried about filling seats. What?

Equally as frustrating is when Klompus said that the Ducks' loss to the University of Hawaii back in 1994 also was a factor.

"Oregon was here a couple of years ago and got beat by UH," Klompus said, "which is a very big measuring stick over here."

Are you kidding me! In case they have forgotten, the Ducks went on to the Rose Bowl that season. Plus, that was three seasons ago.

The saddest part of this is the message that it sends to the players on the team. It doesn't matter how you finish, or who you beat, or by how much. College football is about politics, money and TV ratings, and unless you have a player on your team whose name carries some weight, you're not going to get very far.

Chris Hansen is a sports reporter for the Emerald. His views do not necessarily represent those of the paper.



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Basketball: Aztecs possess strong backcourt players

Continued from Page 5A

Nelson, who averaged 11.6 points and 2.8 rebounds last season.

After studying the different Oregon lineups during the exhibition season, Green will start forward Kyle Milling, center Rob Ramaker, guard Kenya Wilkins, and guard Jamal Lawrence. But as of before Monday night's practice, the fifth spot had yet to be determined. Green said that either Jamar Curry, Henry Madden or Terik Brown would be chosen after the Monday's practice to fill the fifth spot.

Green also said the team has had good practices since the Lithuania game.

"It's been good, very competitive, and we've been working very hard," he said. "We've been trying to get things down better to a finite state. We're ready to play. We've had 31 practices, so it's time."

The Ducks also spent the practice time working on their weaknesses from the Lithuania game.

After two exhibition games

against teams that were virtually unknown to Oregon, the Aztecs are only a little more familiar to the Ducks.

"We know a little bit about their tendencies," Green said. "We know that their strength rests in their guards. They both had 22 points in the first game they played [against UC Irvine]. Their biggest surprise was their power forward on Saturday. He had 20 points in 19 minutes of playing time."

Oregon will not be taking San Diego State lightly.

"They are coming up to play a Pac-10 school, I'm sure they'll be ready to play," Green said.

But the Ducks are excited about finally starting the regular season.

"[This game] sticks on the record, it's not just a warm up," Green said. "I think everyone is a little more fired up and we hope we'll have more fans here than we've had [in the exhibition games]. We feel like our players will be more excited about playing."



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