

# Sport Talk

by Ron Sykes, Sports Editor

The University of Oregon took little time in naming a successor to Jim Haney as Oregon basketball coach.

Athletic Director named Idaho's Don Monson to the post last Monday.

"He's from our neighborhood," beamed Bay, "and was really the only person I offered the job to."

Monson, while at Idaho, took over a struggling, 4-22, team and turned them into a national power.

Monson's first year was 11-17, his second year the Vandals went 17-10, then 25-4 and 27-3. Last year Monson guided the Vandals to a lofty 8th place in the national polls.

Monson was said to be the people's choice and was the overwhelming pick of this writer. Mr. Monson could very well be the "messiah" that is needed to bring glory back to the fast-fading Duck basketball program.

Monson is a proven winner whose basketball philosophy is team oriented and sound defense. And, too, the man is a super recruiter. Let's face it, Moscow, Idaho, is not exactly the mecca for basketball in these United States and if the man can get quality players to play in such a remote area as Moscow, then he should have little trouble bringing players into Eugene.

Monson has power over the years that his program can run smoothly without the so-called blue chippers, for once on hand the man (Monson) can seemingly turn them into blue chip, quality players. By signing Monson to a reported \$52,000 contract the U of O has made a step toward excellence.

While at Idaho Monson's teams were 100-41 in a five-year period. They have twice defeated the OSU Beavers in title games of the Far West Classic. And over the years are 2-3 against Ralph Miller's Orange-men. That should establish quite a rivalry in the State.

Monson plans to go after the state's best players; that should be interesting since Miller has had a strangle hold on Oregon's best for the past seven years.

A quick glance at the two rosters will tell you just how far Ralph is ahead in in-state recruiting. The Ducks signed Bryon Trendell out of Coos Bay; Eugene's David Brantley, and Portland's Dave Bell. These

players, though good, can hardly rate with the "blue chippers" signed by Miller. In the last six years Ralph has taken in Ray Blume and Mark Radford, both of whom made it in the NBA. Blume had a brief stint with the Chicago Bulls, while Mark is currently playing for Coach Lenny Wilkins in Seattle.

Miller next signed all-American Charlie Sitton of McMinnville. Charlie was one of the most highly recruited players in America having had offers from every powerhouse in the country, he chose Ralph's program.

Then came A.C. Green, who also was highly recruited out of Portland's Benson Tech. Green and Sitton are perhaps two of the best all-around players ever produced in the State of Oregon. Charlie is already an All-American and A.C. is not far behind.

And, yes, this year Ralph once again won the in-state recruiting war when he signed 6-10 prep phenom Steve Woodside out of Parkrose High School.

Miller is seemingly far ahead, but look out Monson is here and he will immediately make his presence felt.

The Ducks have three scholarships available and Monson has a commitment from one of the finest players in the State of Washington. Ernie Sanders, a 6-2 guard from Pasco, Washington, had made a commitment to play for Monson at Idaho and it will now be up to the school to release him.

The potential is there for Oregon, and the feeling around Eugene is that Monson is the man to bring it out.

"Attendance is down approximately 50 percent season-ticket-wise," Bay stated, "and that's revenue we urgently need."

If recruiting will bring in the fans, then look out. While an assistant to Judd Heathcote at Michigan State, all Don Monson did was bring in Magic Johnson and the rest is history.

And isn't it sad the way everyone is blaming poor, oops, Herschel Walker for the total ineptness of the New Jersey Generals. After fellow rookie Kelvin Bryant rushed for 176 yards Monday night one reporter was heard to say, "That was about four times better than Herschel Walker."



3 points to go ahead—After trailing for the first two quarters Calvin Natt made two points and drew a foul from San Antonio's Gene Banks to pull the Trailblazers ahead 70-68. They continued to pull away, to win 119-102. (Photo: Dan Long)

Sure everyone expected the Georgia Bulldog to set the league on fire. But that, too, was an unfair expectation. Walker received a million dollar salary to run behind a nickel-and-dime offensive line. While Bryant is blessed with a much better line it is only natural that he'd do better.

With all of Herschel's talents, believe me if he had anywhere near the running opportunities afforded other backs, the young Walker would certainly be standing the USFL on its head.

In the NCAAAs the Houston Cougars appear to be the 7-5 favorites to win it all. The Cougs are a bunch of studs on the floor. They have as much or more athletic ability of any team ever to grace the court in NCAA history. Mr. Olajuwon, 7-0, center, is an ideal physical specimen who simply takes control inside. And his teammate, Mr. Drexler, at 6-8 is good going both inside and popping jumpers outside. Houston's toughest challenge could come from either St. Johns, North Carolina or North Carolina State. That's right, NCS is on a roll. Some will wonder how a team that has lost 10 games could be considered to win it all. Well, you must remember that most of those losses were compiles while hot-shooting guard Derek Whittenberg was recuperating from a broken foot. When Derek returned the Wolf Pack won the ACC tournament by defeating Ralph Sampson and the Virginia Cavaliers, and then went on to defeat both Pepperdine and UNLH in the NCAA tourney.

And how about those Beavers? Oregon State's rousing 88-71 victory over the New Orleans Privateers launched the Corvallis wonders into the NIT's round of eight. The Beavers, behind the outside shooting of senior guard Danny Evans, was devastating before a delighted crowd of 9,800 in Gill Coliseum. Danny hit five in a row outside to loosen it up for teammate A.C. Green, who drilled a game-high 18 points inside to go along with 12 boards.

The Beavers next face Fresno State, a 65-63 winner over the PAC-10's Arizona State Bulldogs. A win Thursday at Gill Coliseum will send OSU to New York and Madison Square Garden.

And the way the Orange Express is rolling the Big Apple will be the next stop.

In fact Beaver fans are already looking for accommodations in the East.

The Big Beaver machine is Orange, hot and rolling, to borrow a phrase used so much during the Blazers' championship game.

Fresno earlier defeated the Beavers 43-42. But that was before Miller inserted his smaller but quicker lineup.

Since then OSU has lost only to WSU in an overtime thriller and that season ending catastrophe to Stanford.

Freshman Daryl Flowers (13 points) and Evans (15 points) are the keys to OSU success. Sitton and Green are reliable and will perform day in and day out.

If Flowers and Evans can continue to contribute, then there's no stopping the Beavers.

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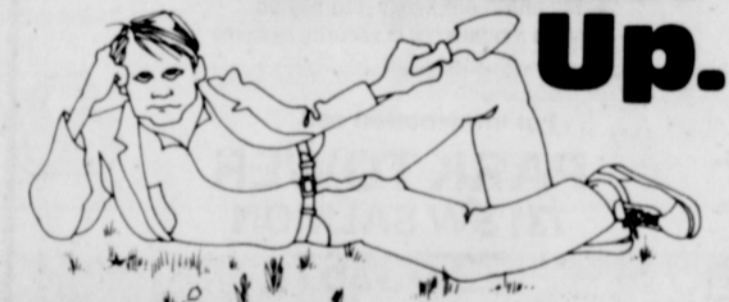
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