



Sport Talk

by Ron Sykes, Sports Editor

The pre-season choice to win it all was the then 6th ranked, nationally, UCLA Bruins.

The Bruins were also the Observer choice to add another championship banner to the already full Pauley Pavilion ceiling. Now, halfway through the season, we find them struggling in fourth place after dropping both games this weekend past. The Bruins were beaten by both Oregon and Oregon State. And that, my friends, will go down as a first ever in Los Angeles. The Observer pre-season choice was OSU to finish behind the Bruins as runner-up. The Pac-10 race was supposed to be strictly between the Beavers and the Bruins. So what happened to change the scenario? First, Washington coach, Marv Harshman, went out and recruited half the West German national team. He got 6'9" Detlef Schrempf, a veteran of international play, enrolled him as a high school senior at a nearby school and promptly signed him to scholarship.

Schrempf, along with fellow countryman, Chris Welp, forms a formidable duo for the Huskies. The 7' Welp has developed tremendously in one year, and now is one of the premier big men in the Conference. There are four new coaches in the Pac-10 this year and that has certainly helped the conference.

Lute Olsen, who moved from Iowa to Arizona, has his Wildcats in ninth place, but they're overall record of 5-15 doesn't really show the complete picture. Last year, the "cats" stumbled to a dismal 2-18 conference record and were continuously being blown out. Not so under Olsen. These "cats" battled OSU down to the wire in Tucson and, just last Monday, gave the Beavers a scare before falling 53-48 at Gill Coliseum. Olsen won 20 games five straight years at Iowa, while taking the Hawkeys into post season play four out of five years.

It's surely the coaching at Arizona. With mainly freshman and sophomores, the future is bright in Tucson. During the pre-season, when we learned that the University of Oregon had pulled the greatest coup in the Pac-10, or anywhere else by signing Don Monson, we knew then that the Ducks would be a factor. The man's (Monson) a proven winner and secondly, the Ducks did



Howard University senior forward, Kevin Scott, 6'6" is the leading scorer for the Howard Bison. Scott, on a recent west coast swing scored 15 points against UCLA and in December garnered 22 before losing to the Oregon Ducks.

have some talent returning. Put the two of them together and you have a Duck team that is contending for the league crown.

Some readers scoffed at our lofty prediction, but those few were quickly made believers by Mr. Monson. With the resurgence of basketball in Eugene, Duck fans are now coming out of the woods.

After the Ducks defeat of USC and UCLA last week, it was almost impossible to find a Eugene Register-Guard in the Portland area. Which attests further to the new interests Monson's program is attracting. Stanford is another Pac-10 surprise. The cardinal was picked to finish last, but Dr. Tony Davis has shown us what a difference a good coach can make. Davis has

dynasty has been the most spectacular thing to happen in the Pac-10 this year. Many experts will say that the Pac-10 is weakening.

But a careful study will show just the opposite. There is parity and strength. Pac-10 coaches will quickly agree. "There are no givens in the Pac-10," Oregon's Monson said, "each night of the season any team can beat you."

Remember, Washington's only defeat came at the hands of undersized Stanford. And the lowly WSU Cougars destroyed Ralph Miller's highly regarded Beavers in Pullman. And Southern Cal 9-15 on the season went into Pauley and played the Bruins in overtime before losing.

The Pac-10 perhaps is not as strong team for team as the Big East, but is surely on the way up. In five years, the Pac-10 will have the best coaches in the land, and with the best coaches come the best players.

It seems that the mild climate of the west is attractive as witnessed by Tom Davis and Lute Olsen coming west. The Pac-10 now needs to get one of its teams to the top four. That would certainly help to enhance the league's image. UCLA is the only Pac-10 school to crack the final four in over 16 years.

Welcome Home Michael

Michael Carter, son of Elvis L. Carter, Sr., led Benson Tech in the 1981-82 season as first team All-City and third team All-State and second in League scoring returns home Thursday and Friday for two basketball games against Concordia and Columbia Christian College. Michael seems to be enjoying a fine sophomore season at Oregon Institute of Technology in Klamath Falls, Oregon, as point guard and majoring in mechanical engineering after also finishing Benson Tech with a 3.5 average. Studies have been good for Michael and right after Christmas, in Chico, California, he was named to the All-Tournament team coming in second in scoring from a field of ten teams and the school came out second best to Chico State. His dad, who resides at Jantzen Beach Village, seems proud of Michael and hopes that, along with his basketball skills, he can also maintain good academic skills. So, welcome home Michael.



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