

Sport Talk

by Ron Sykes, Sports Editor



The NCAA investigating committee has leveled Oregon State University with 13 allegations of recruiting and student athlete "help" violations. Oregon State head coach Ralph Miller has stood erect through it all and so far refused any comment on the alleged violations. For some years now, OSU basketball players, the pride of the university, have been taken care of by sponsor families from the Corvallis area.

To qualify as a sponsor family, you had to be: 1.) wealthy, and 2.) interested in the OSU program.

Beaver administrators had to know that eventually this would get out of hand and bring the NCAA bloodhounds into the hunt. The program in its basics was fine. It was designed to give players a place to eat and sleep during spring break, etc., when the campus is closed and basketball practice is still going on. The university has taken a closed stance on the entire situation. Seemingly hoping that it will all blow away. One has to think that if the NCAA conducted an investigation and came out with so many alleged infractions, that OSU would at least make everything public. That is if there's nothing to hide and we would, as of now, assume as much. It's understandable why they would not want to release any names.

After all, it is the so-called "people interested in the program" that most of the charges are aimed at. A few charges include "former members of the university's basketball coaching staff." The earliest allegations were back in 1980. It doesn't take a genius to figure out that only Dave Leach, who left to coach at Boise State, and Prescott Smith, who went as an assistant, were the only coaches to leave Miller since then. Another alleged infraction was that an assistant, not employed by the university, made unauthorized attempts at recruiting student athletes. At present, Ray Blume, former Beaver All-American guard, is Miller's only unpaid assistant.

Ray Blume, an ex-Parkrose Bronco, has on occasion been seen

talking to the highly sought after Rick Osbourne. But who knows whether the conversation was friendly or serious. Successful programs seem to always bring on the NCAA investigators. Auburn, after winning the 1982 national championship, was hit with a slew of infractions. They now are banned from post season play and television appearances for three years. USC is on its last year of probation for infractions; LSU's basketball and football programs were rocked by the NCAA after both gained national prominence. The list goes on and on. What we get from these allegations is that it appears that the adults and not the kids are to blame. The sponsor program was blown out of proportion by the sponsoring families. Some got caught up in hero worshipping. OSU, at one time during the 1978-80 season, was ranked no. 1 in the nation. With this came instant notoriety. The sponsoring families were bending over backwards to help "their" kid.

Then, each family began to compete with other families. So instead of providing meals and shelter, as was the initial intent of the plan, cars, beach houses and pocket money was given. Which led to the problems. These are all somewhat petty violations. Oregon State is doing what all institutions must do to compete successfully. Nevertheless, rules are rules and they must be followed unless anarchy should prevail.

And those alleged infractions by the football team. If Avezzano's coaches were doing wrong (they still only managed to beat Fresno State and Portland State in four years) then perhaps the whole lot of them should be fired. Supposedly the NCAA frowned on Joe Avezzano and assistant Lionel Taylor for money given to two players. James Burton and Bryce Oglesby were indicted on charges of rape. Reportedly Avezzano paid \$755 to free Oglesby and Taylor supplied \$785 for Burton's release.

College recruitment is a tremendous task. Coaches' jobs depend on blue chippers. It can be a dog eat dog affair. OSU's recruiting policies

are now under investigation. Allegedly two basketball prospects were visited more than the three visits allowed. Most coaches do this in some form or other. But OSU was caught. All that remains now is to see what follows in the way of penalties. The basketball program at OSU can survive, but as much cannot be said for the already decadent football program. A loss of scholarships would be too much for the football program as is.

Demos turn demons in opener

It was a shoot-out that the gun-slingers at the OK Corral would have admired. The Jefferson Democrats carved 11 of 12 clutch-free throws in the fourth period to deal Churchill of Eugene a stunning 77-72 loss. Connecting a 27-34 from the line and 25-55 from the field, the Demos were up to the challenge provided by the Three River Champion, Churchill Lancers.

Jefferson opened with their usual controlled speed game and the Lan-

cers, not in awe, stuck with their P.I.L. rivals all the way. Coach Bobby Harris supplied the strategy and guards, Curtis Penney and Keith Jackson, supplied the scoring power. Penney got off to a sub par beginning, but canned 5 jumpers in the second half when the Jeff squad needed him most. Penney finished at 9-18 from the field and 7-8 from the charity stripe. Harris used a match-up zone throughout the contest in an effort to shut down the Lancers high-scoring forward, Mark Seidel. Seidel used the baseline to drill in a team high, 16 points. The Lancers hung in and never allowed the Demos more than a seven-point lead. Ricky Tanner and Keith Jackson hit clutch free throws with less than two minutes on the clock that provided the difference. Jefferson (17-4) next faces Putnam (19-4) Thursday in the quarterfinals. Jefferson could very well be the cinderella team of the tournament.

Under Bobby Harris, the Demos are a well-coached outfit.



"Sweet" Lou Dunbar takes time out to pay attention to the ball in Sunday's Globetrotters game (they won).

(Photo: Dan Long)

RV campers organize

Families who take to the road in recreation vehicles, trailers and pickup campers and who enjoy sharing camaraderie with other motorists are invited to attend a meeting of a local chapter of the Good Sam Club on Wednesday, March 14, 1984, 7:30 p.m., 7024 N.E. 23rd Avenue, Portland, Oregon.

The Good Sam Club is the largest national club comprised of R.V. and camper owners in the United States. It provides an opportunity for those who enjoy the outdoors and camping to come together for weekend camp-outs, potlucks, tours, and to generally enjoy the company of others with similar interests. In addition, being a member of a Good Sam Chapter entitles you

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If you are interested in "RV-ing" with others, additional information can be obtained either by attending the meeting or by calling Mamie Carter at 288-4961. The Oregon State Director of the Good Sam Club will be in attendance to answer questions.

Elect Jack Reynolds

Sec. of State
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LIST FOR BY JERRY THOMAS, 212 1/2 N. 10TH ST., PORTLAND, OR 97204

Talent search

The men of Omega Psi Phi Fraternity, Zeta Nu Chapter are conducting a public talent hunt competition open to all high school juniors, seniors and college students not over age 20.

Chapter auditions will be held on March 8, 1984, 7:00-9:00 p.m. in the Matt Dishman Community Center, 77 N.E. Knott, Portland. Successful contestants will perform individually before a panel of expert judges at the Chapter Talent Hunt program, March 15, 1984, 6:30-8:30 at Matt Dishman Center. The public is welcome and encouraged to support these talented young adults.

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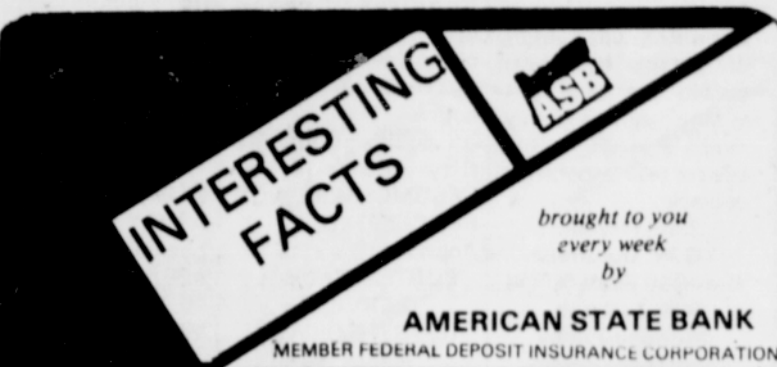
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