

Woman manages football team

Kim Hunter is just interested in football

By STEVE JETT
Of the Emerald

As Oregon football's only woman manager, Kim Hunter has a reason for spending her time tending the equipment.

"I am not a women's libber. It has nothing to do with wanting to prove something. And I am not here to scope out guys. I am here because I like it."

"I am just interested in football," says Hunter. "It is something different than the campus life. You get a different perspective of football."

While she spends her nights packing for road trips and spends hours at each practice, she also finds time to reap the benefits.

"It is a lot of work and it is also a lot of enjoyment. It all evens out. When you are standing on the sidelines in Wisconsin and you see Ed Radcliff running down the sideline, it all pays off," she explains.

Appreciating football may partly come from being a rally girl at McNary High School in

Salem. While she may not be leading cheers, Hunter stresses efficiency as a manager.

"Equipment-wise, you have to make sure there are no hassles. They (the players) should not have to think about that. We do the thinking for them. The night before we leave for road trips, we do all the packing. It can be a long night," she says.

Hunter's role as manager came after Duck trainer Julie Welborn informed her there was an opening.

"She called me and said 'Kim, I have the perfect job for you,'" she recalls.

Just an average practice will take a sizable part of Hunter's time, as she arrives two hours before-hand.

"I have to make sure all the equipment is out on the field and the coaches have everything they need," says Hunter. "Then I have to be here until the last guys leave (at the end of practice)."

During practice, she informs the players when to change drills.

Hunter is joined by two other managers, Pat Conrad and Harold Klein. The trio is under the direction of Mark McBride, who has supervised the team's managers for the past four years. As Hunter says, "He is making sure things go right."

Hunter also could represent another "first" for Oregon football.

"As far as I know, Oregon has never had a female manager before," says Hunter, who may do the same next season. "I am strongly thinking about it."

As manager, she does not worry about enlivening team spirits. "They have enough guys on the team to keep the morale up."

As Oregon's first woman manager, Hunter has not confronted any team problems. In fact, she feels she has become part of the family.

"They (players) are great. But if me being manager really bothered someone on the team I would not be here. And if I could not do the job I would not be here."

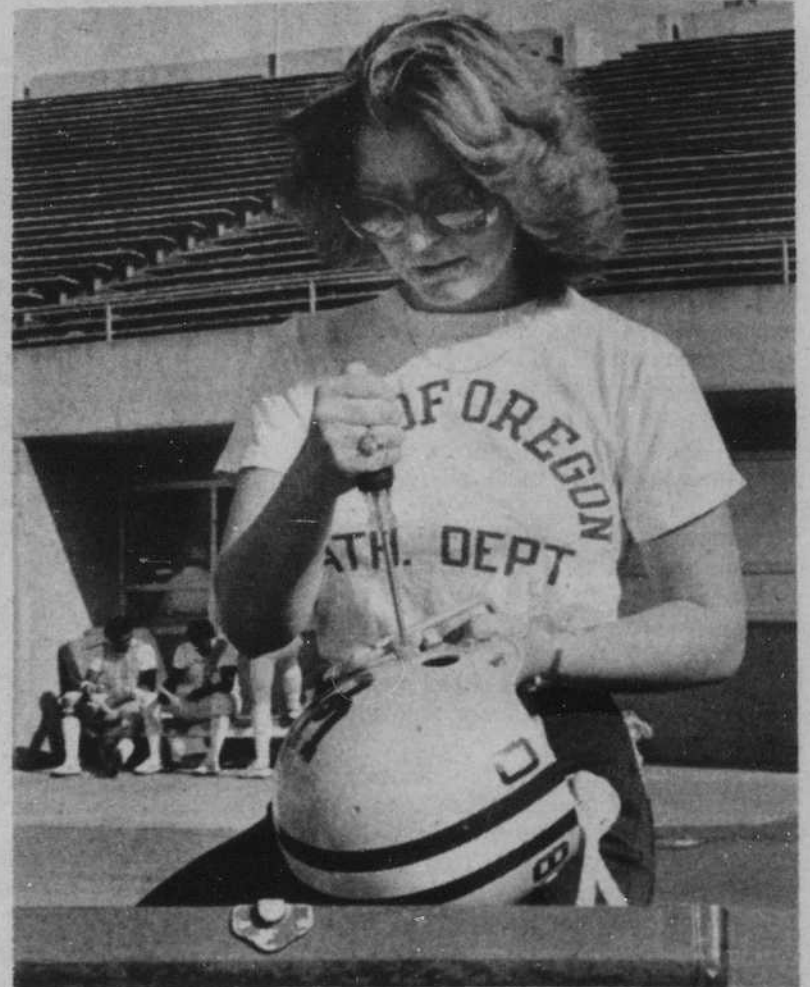


Photo by Keith Allen

Kim Hunter, Oregon football's only woman manager says she's just interested in football. "I'm not a women's libber, it has nothing to do with wanting to prove anything and I'm not here to scope out guys. I am here because I like it." Though the work is hard and the hours long, Hunter says "when you are standing on the sidelines in Wisconsin and see Ed Radcliff running down the sidelines, it all pays off."

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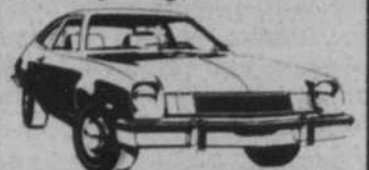
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