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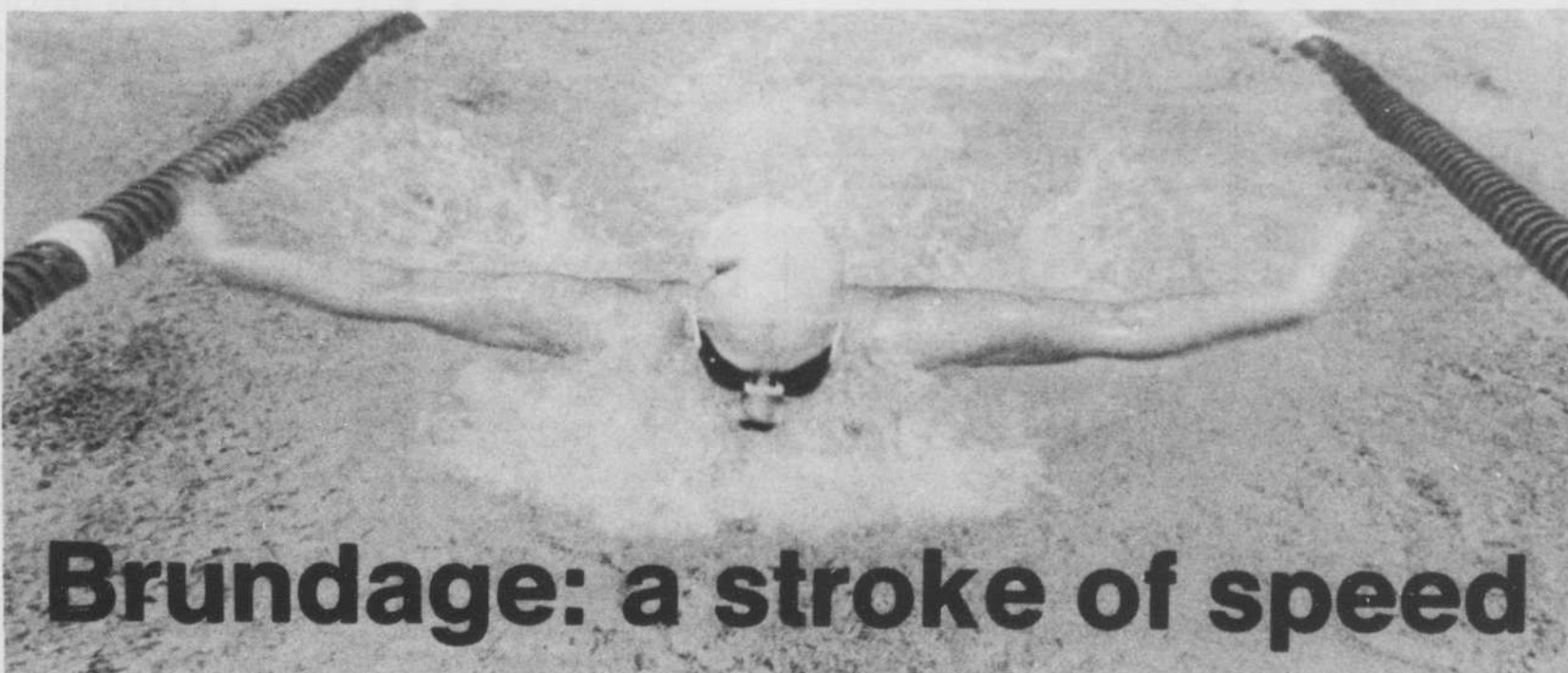
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Sports



Brundage: a stroke of speed

For Babette Brundage the adjustment to college has been a fast one. And in the pool, where she spends much of her time, it has been even faster.

The freshman from Enumclaw, Wash., has been swimming for six years, and has been a winner for most of those years. She is now a winner for the Oregon swimming team, and no one is happier than her coach, Dan Cole.

"She fits in (to the program) real well. She is a very determined person both athletically and academically. She is a hard worker, as well as a good competitor," Cole says.

Brundage started her competitive career on a swim team in her hometown when she was 13 years old. Her coach, knowing Brundage was not just another swimmer, contacted Andy Hathaway, coach of a Seattle-based amateur team. She was soon under his guidance.

"I went a lot further with him (Hathaway) than I did with a small team, because I was working out with kids my age and not little kids. That helped a lot," she says of her experience with the United States Swimming team, formerly a Amateur Athletic Union club.

Her prowess with the USS team took her to the national championships in Gainesville, Fla., and the senior regionals in Austin, Texas, both last March.

"That was a lot of fun," she says of the trip. "There wasn't a lot of pressure there (nationals), because I was on a relay team, and it was neat to see the best swimmers in the United States. When I got back I had to choose a school."

Luckily for Oregon, Hathaway and Cole were acquaintances with similar styles of coaching. With this in mind, Brundage became a Duck.

"My coaching hasn't changed a lot because Andy knew Dan, and I also talked to a few people about coming down to Oregon," she says.

"Academically I was a little scared, because I didn't know what to expect. Swimming helped a lot for that. Just getting to know people a lot faster through swimming. The team is really great. I like them a lot."

She knows what to expect now, and is getting used to college life. But her adjustments in swimming have been plentiful.

"The training is a lot more than I am used to. My team at home worked out as much, but I didn't make workouts, because it took me a hour to get there," she says.

The word "success" basically sums up her first season at the college level. She has been consistently in the top three in her dual meet events (distance freestyle) and performed well at the Husky Invitational in Seattle Dec. 3-5.

"I got first in the 500 (yard freestyle) up there (Seattle) and that was a big thing for me. I also got a lot of fourth's, fifth's and sixth's," she says.

Did she think her year would be so productive?

"No, I didn't," Brundage says with a smile.

Did her coach think her year would be so productive?

"No, I didn't. I'd hoped she would be this far along, but I didn't think she would be," Cole notes with a grin.

"Ninety-five percent (of success) is mental," says Brundage. "If you have your mind into it, you can do anything. I have to feel confident about it (race), and sometimes I'll even be worried before it. By the time I get on the blocks I have to be confident. I have to feel like I'm ready to do it, and I want to do it."

Even though the blonde added three individual first-place titles to her pile of first-year medals in the Ducks' dual meet with Oregon State Saturday, she remains a team player to the end.

"The people on the team are really supportive. It's not like mom and dad, but if you're upset or have a problem, they're always there for you. Our team is really close and I think that is beneficial to our success," she says.

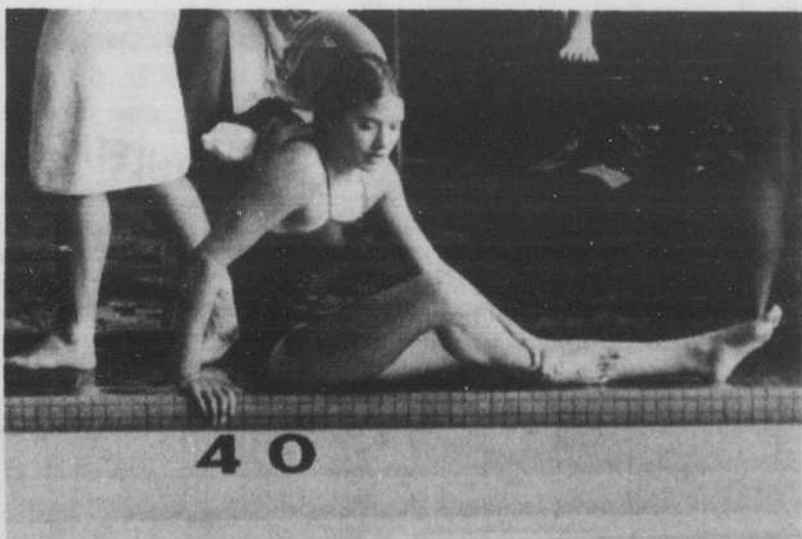
With team support, Brundage has lowered her distance freestyle times from last year, and with the tapering of upcoming workouts those number could drop even more — and just in time for the season-ending meets.

"It's a good sign. I'm pretty happy with where I am now."

The question now is what it is going to take to keep Brundage happy in the future. She still has the most important part of the season left and three more years of swimming eligibility to come. What is it going to take to keep her happy and successful?

"I don't make goals. Like some people say, 'Well, I'm going to make senior nationals.' I have things like that in the back of my mind, but my goal is to constantly improve. I don't want to get to a plateau."

**Story by Marcus Prater
Photos by Bob Baker**



Freshman swimmer Babette Brundage relaxes after chalking up another first place finish in the Ducks' swim meet with Oregon State.

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Vermeil resigns Eagles' coaching post

PHILADELPHIA (AP) — A teary-eyed Dick Vermeil, saying he was "burned out" after seven seasons as head coach of the Philadelphia Eagles, ended weeks of speculation Monday by resigning.

Leonard Tose, owner of the National Football League franchise, immediately named Eagles' defensive coordinator Marion Campbell, former head coach of the Atlanta Falcons, as Vermeil's replacement. Tose also firmly denied rumors that the club was for sale.

"I'm my own worst enemy," Vermeil, 46, said at a hastily

called news conference. "I'm far too intense, far too emotional and I put too much into trying to get things together."

His decision to quit came at the end of a season in which the Eagles, one of the contenders in Super Bowl XV two years ago, compiled a 3-6 record.

Vermeil, standing at the same lectern in the Veterans Stadium press club where he usually sparred with reporters at Monday post-game briefings, appeared pale. Tears glistened in his eye as his emotions forced him twice to

stop while he made his announcement.

"I've made a lot of mistakes and probably the most vivid mistake is I've set a pace for 23 years that it may not be possible to keep through the 10 years of the professional contract," the former UCLA head coach said.

"That's why I say I'm burned out. . . I think it's time. I have never coached football for a living. Coaching football has been a way of life for me and my family," Vermeil added.

Tose, 66, the businessman-owner of the Eagles who once

described Vermeil as his "last coach," firmly denied that the end of Vermeil's reign meant the end of his ownership of the club.

Vermeil, whose contract ran until 1985, said he would work in the club offices for several weeks to help Campbell get oriented and indicated he might also serve the Eagles as a scout.

Otherwise, Vermeil said, "I don't have a job," although he added that he would be interested in offers to serve as an announcer for NFL network broadcasts.