

The past, present, and future: Monson talks about all of it

By Chuck Thompson
Of the Emerald

Since arriving as Oregon's head basketball coach in 1983, Don Monson has amassed a 31-30 record, led the Ducks to a post-season tournament and generally revitalized a once floundering program. On the eve of the 1985-86 season debut, the Emerald spoke to the coach about his past, present and future.

Q: Everyone seems to be picking the Ducks to finish near last place in the Pac-10 this year. How does that affect yourself and the team?

A: Oh, it's been talked about, but I don't think any competitive athlete thinks he's gonna finish last. The picking is done so that people can read something and have something to talk about.

Q: Can this year's team set a post-season tournament as a realistic goal?

A: Sure. I think the only reason it wouldn't be is because people say we're not gonna be good enough and I think that has to be proven by other than somebody who votes or writes it.

Q: How do you think the Pac-10 standings will wind up?

A: I think you have to go with Washington and Oregon State. Arizona State has talent. California I think is gonna have a good ball club.

Q: Who do you think will be the best player in the Pac-10 this season?

A: If I had to pick one player, I guess... Reggie Miller of UCLA. Or Christian Welp (of Washington). Those two stand out right away.

Q: The 45-second shot clock is national this year. Are you glad that it's here?

A: No. I don't like the shot clock. Never voted for it.

Q: Why not?

A: I'm against it because what it's doing is dictating what you can or cannot do as far as attacking or preparing for a team. There're some times when you can run up and down the floor and have the best chance of winning, so you run up and down the floor. There're some times you want to hold the ball for a minute or a minute-and-a-half and then shoot the ball because that's what you figure is the best way of winning. What dictated it, of course, was TV and the crowds. And I'm talking from a coach's point of view and not a spectator's point of view.

Q: Are you ever a basketball spectator? At the end of the season do you sit down and watch the NCAA finals and that sort of thing?

A: I go to the games. That's
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Photo by Ross Martin
At the start of his third year as head coach of the men's basketball team, Don Monson hopes that the Ducks can finish higher than their predicted tenth place in the Pac-10.

Brooks puts success into Duck football

By Robert Collias
Of the Emerald

Rich Brooks is a man who has added the word respectability to the vocabulary of Oregon football. The Ducks have enjoyed only four winning seasons in the last twenty years, and Brooks has led them to three of those.

Currently, he has his team on the verge of another winning season this year as the Ducks stand 4-4 with three games to play in the season.

Brooks is in the midst of his ninth season at the helm of the Ducks program and his record of 34-58-4 is not one that will make other coaches jealous. However, Brooks led the Ducks to their first consecutive winning seasons since 1964, with a 6-5 mark in 1979 followed by 6-3-2 mark in 1980 and is on the verge of accomplishing that again if the Ducks can manage a winning season this year to go with their 6-5 mark of a year ago.

Brooks is a former college player himself at Oregon State University, and he has had the opportunity to coach with such greats as Tommy Prothro and Dick Nolan.

Q: Being a former college player, does that help you motivate and respond to the players you coach?

A: I don't know. I've been through it, through the broken bones, the operations and certain things, but I don't know if that has that much to do with it. I think the game has changed so dramatically since I played. The amount of time that is required to be good off the

field is a lot more today. We didn't spend the time that the kids do today to be good.

I think that any player that is willing to put the time commitment in today should be ready to go on game day. We are trying to point out things that are positive, and that they (the players) can still accomplish and hope that that is motivation.

Q: You mentioned that the game has changed a lot since you played at Oregon State in the 1960's, what do you see as the major changes in today's game?

A: The players are bigger, stronger, faster and better.

Q: When did you first know that you wanted to be a coach?

A: I think probably about my senior year in high school, and specifically, at that time I wanted to be one at the high school level, and teach at the same time. I stayed at OSU after I graduated to get my master's degree and got a taste of coaching at the college level and changed my mind, but I eventually did coach one year at the high school level before starting in the college level of coaching.

Q: Can you give me a little bit about your coaching background?

A: I was a graduate assistant at Oregon State while I got my masters. I coached in high school in

Sacramento for one year and then I went back to Oregon State for five years as an assistant coach under Dee Andros. Then I went to UCLA for a year under Tommy Prothro, then I followed him to the Rams for two years. After that I went back to Oregon State for one year under Dee Andros, then I went to the San Francisco 49ers for two years under Dick Nolan. From there, I went to UCLA under Terry Donahue for one year before I got the head coaching job here in 1977.

Q: You mentioned some pretty big names there. If you had to pick out one coach that you respect the most and have learned the most from who would it be?

A: Well I respect them all obviously, and I learned from all of them, but I think probably my biggest influence as far as the way I coach comes from Tommy Prothro. I spent five, six, seven, eight years under him as a player and coach.

Q: Do you consider yourself a fan of football, and college football in particular?

A: Well, I spent all day Saturday (a bye for the Ducks) watching football. I watched the Huskies get dismantled by Arizona State and I watched the OSU-Stanford game. I would say that I'm a fan. Sometimes I like to look and just enjoy, but most of the time I find myself looking at what other teams are doing.

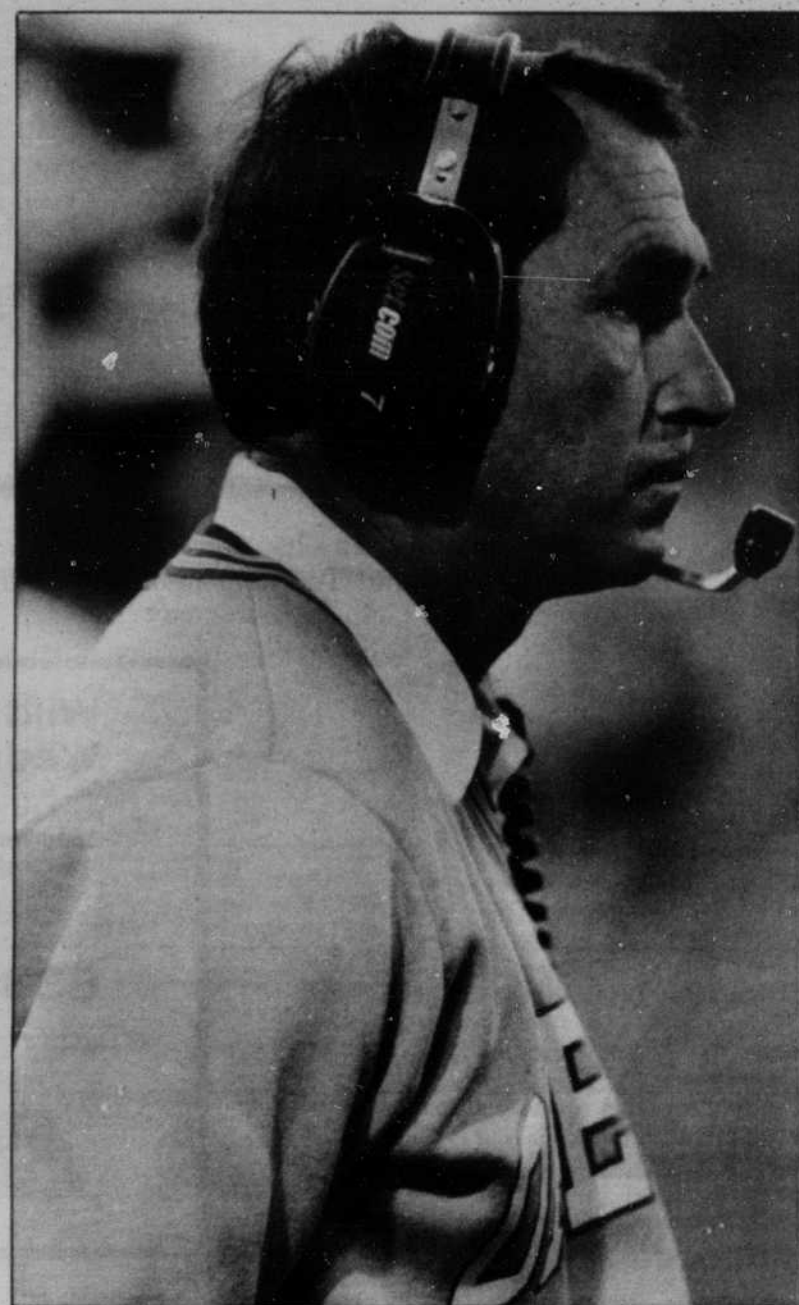
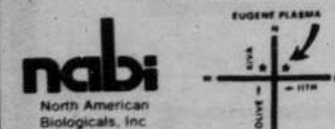
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Emerald File Photo
Entering his ninth year as head football coach, Rich Brooks has led the Ducks to three of their four winning seasons over the last twenty years.

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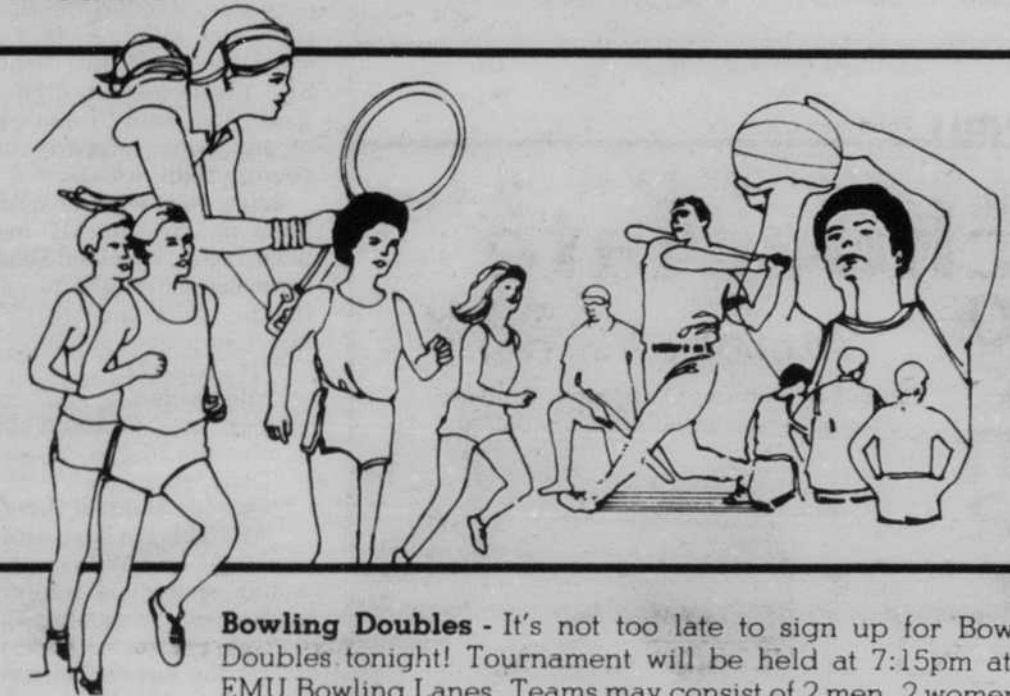
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Bowling Doubles - It's not too late to sign up for Bowling Doubles tonight! Tournament will be held at 7:15pm at the EMU Bowling Lanes. Teams may consist of 2 men, 2 women, or 1 man and 1 woman. Games will be handicapped to equalize play. The cost per team will be \$3.00 for 6 games. Shoes and bowling ball provided free of charge by the EMU.

Intramural Wrestling - You may have noticed that the intramural wrestling meet has not been scheduled fall term. There is a reason! It has been moved to winter term so we can run our finals with some class. At this time we are working with Coach Finley to have the finals prior to a home wrestling meet. This gives all you wrestlers a bit longer now to get in shape. Check at the RIM office at the beginning of winter term for the exact date.

Flag and Razzle Dazzle Football players please take note - Playoff games scheduled for Saturday and Sunday, November 16 and 17, are being played on the Southbank Field.

Late Night Program - Students are enjoying the increased open recreation hours from 10pm - 3am Monday through Thursday. Over 100 students are taking advantage of facilities each night to play racquetball, tennis, basketball, to swim and lift weights. Take a break from your late night studying to relax with a little recreation. Come to the Leighton entrance.

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