

Oregon ends early recruiting

By Brent De La Paz
Of the Emerald

Oregon basketball coach Don Monson was "disappointed" overall by his team's showing in the early signing of recruits that ended Wednesday as the Ducks signed only one player to a commitment letter of intent last week.

The Ducks got 6-11 center Sven Meyer, out of North Idaho College in Cour d'Alene, to help the inside game, but Monson wished he would have been able to sign a freshman forward for next year's team.

"We were very close on two or three good forwards," Monson says of the recruiting battle, but Oregon couldn't snare any from a group that went elsewhere.

"All of them were in the blue-chip area. I'm not going to get into the particulars, but it was very disappointing. Most of the kids that we recruited have signed with somebody else this fall."

Monson was discouraged that he didn't get more recruits, but was pleased with the signing of Meyer, who played on a West Germany junior-league team with Oregon forward Thomas Deuster.

"You don't find too many 6-11, 230 pound centers that can run the court well," Monson says of Meyer. "He has very good offensive skills and shoots the ball well from 15 feet."

Monson declined to compare in depth Meyer with former Oregon 7-foot center Blair Rasmussen, who is beginning his first year of play in the National Basketball Association with the Denver Nuggets.

"You are not going to find too many 6-10 centers that have a better shooting touch than Blair does," he says. "He (Meyer) can run the court better (than Blair) and has a little more versatility with foot speed."

Meyer has averaged more than 22 points a game last year on a North Idaho team that went 28-3. That team advanced to the junior-college regionals and lost to the eventual champions from St. George, Utah.

"Obviously we needed a center to augment the graduation of (Jerry) Adams," Monson says. "We still have Senior (Greg) and Kyei (Kofi), but they don't have the experience like Meyer."

One drawback to Meyer's signing is that he will have one year of eligibility left. He has played two years at the junior college level, but Oregon will petition the NCAA to grant the North Idaho transfer an extra year of play.

Monson offered two other scholarships to players, but only came away with Meyer's letter of intent. One player signed with another college and the other is waiting until April to decide.

The third-year Oregon coach says he would like to fill the team's front line because of the departure of Adams, Oregon's only senior, to graduation and possibly find a point guard.



Photo by Ross Martin

Don Monson finished the early signing period last week with the announcement of the signing of 6-foot-11 Sven Meyer from North Idaho College.

Brooks' winning streak gives OSU nightmares

By Brent De La Paz
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Once again it's that time of the year for the football programs at Oregon and Oregon State — the annual Civil War clash between the two schools this Saturday at Autzen Stadium.

As usual the game means bragging rights for state football supremacy. More importantly, for Oregon coach Rich Brooks and his OSU counterpart Dave Kragthorpe, the game's winner unlocks the riches of the state's talent drawer, while the loser can only hope for some paltry leftovers.

So far Brooks has been likened to Attila the Hun of the Civil War, taking no prisoners, conquering, pillaging and best of all, keeping the plunder. Brooks has never been beaten in the series both as player and assistant coach at OSU and as a head coach at Oregon.

Brooks sports an incredible 15-0-2 personal record in the series that has made him one of the most popular coaches in Oregon history — if not saved his job during some bleak years for the program.

Popular is not the word Beaver fans have for Brooks — envy would be more like it. Brooks, the winless streak to the Ducks, the pathetic one- and two-win years by OSU football teams have sent a series of coaches packing. The Beavers have not posted a winning season since 1970.

The reputation of former OSU coach and Athletic Director Dee Andros, who was the architect of the famous "Giant Killers" and "Black Bandits of Benton County" in the late 60's, has vanished into a clearer image of Brooks' Ducks smashing Beaver teams into the Brooks surrendering at the laughable "Uncivil War."

OSU's last victory over Oregon, 35-16, was back in 1974. That's when we had a little war called Vietnam, gas was about 50 cents a gallon and Gerald Ford became President of United States by default, replacing the embattled Richard Nixon and his Watergate scandal.

Since that time, Oregon and Brooks have posted nine victories out of the past 10 games. The only blemish in the streak was a forgettable 1983 0-0 tie in the infamous Inept Bowl.

But everything goes in cycles (even in the Civil War) as Brooks knows all too well. Kragthorpe will take his first shot Saturday at putting a dent in Brooks' unequalled Oregon-OSU football record.

Kragthorpe, whose passing wizardry, has ignited the Beavers' offense and team into a different group from past OSU squads. The transformation has given Beaver fans hope of doing the unthinkable — beating Brooks and the Ducks who are 19-point favorites and 4-5 overall.

Add OSU's 3-7 overall record (the first time the Beavers have won three games since 1978) and a win over the much-hated Huskies, then the tide could be turning. That miracle feeling the United States Hockey team had in beating the Soviet Union in the 1980 Winter Olympics could be a reality Saturday.

For the 35,000 at Autzen Saturday afternoon, it will be a chance to see a new era in the Civil War battle begin. But the end result should be the same old story as Brooks' legend in the Civil War continues to gain fame.

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