

Sports

Rice fills role as graduate assistant

By Robert Weber
Emerald Contributor

Freshman center Bob Fife watches his second free throw rattle around and fall through the hoop giving Oregon a sixpoint lead over Washington State in McArthur Court.

Immediately, Fife and the rest of the Ducks get set to employ their full-court press on the Cougars. As the players rush to their spots on the floor, a 26-year-old graduate assistant coach looks on nervously from the edge of his seat.

A steal by Terrell Brandon, a quick pass to Keith Reynolds and a thunderous dunk later, Leon Rice sits back with a smile on his face. The 55 base press strikes again.

Rice is one of the architects of the 2-2-1 full-court press and one of the reasons that Pacific-10 Conference coaches are taking a second look at the resurgent Ducks.

Rice, in his second year as a graduate assistant for coach Don Monson's team, explains that his responsibilities range from a designing a pressure defense during practices to moni-

toring study halls after practices and just about everything in between.

"The press is special to me, but it makes me very edgy on the sidelines," Rice said. "I get nervous because if it doesn't work coach Monson will pull it right away."

Rice graduated from Washington State in 1986. After spending some time teaching and coaching at Pasco, Wash., he is studying sports management as a graduate student, but his goal is to someday become a head basketball coach.

"My main plans are to coach basketball at the college level, but I would consider coaching at the high school level again if nothing is immediately available at the college level," Rice said.

Rice started as a volunteer at Monson's summer basketball camp and when Monson later offered him a job as the Ducks first-ever graduate assistant, Rice jumped at the chance.

"I thought it was a great opportunity to coach in a conference like the Pac-10," Rice said.

Rice said he believes the differences between coaching

high school and college basketball are as different as night and day, citing athletic ability as the biggest difference between the two levels.

"The players at the collegiate level are so much more skilled, so you are able to do so much more with them," Rice said. "In the college game you will still work with the fundamentals, but these players have the natural ability to create something with fundamentals."

As Oregon's graduate assistant, Rice is responsible for breaking down game films for the other coaches and players. This is a tedious but very important part of the job, and Rice takes pride in his ability to break down films quickly and efficiently.

"It's important to do a good job breaking down the films because it allows the other coaches to watch more film in a shorter amount of time," Rice said. "The new computer system we have allows us to watch more film than ever and that helps us prepare better for our opponents."

Before each game, Rice will



Photo by Martin Thiel

Leon Rice has served as Oregon's first-ever graduate assistant at Oregon under head coach Don Monson the last two seasons.

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100 CONNECTIONS

Recycle this paper.

TO OUR LITTLE INDIAN - WHAT'S THAT ON YOUR CHEST?

GUINEVERE: A broad term indeed. I offered her my hand, she took me by the arm. Once bitten, twice shy. Knight.

OH, ROMEO. In black jeans. Though you're a lady killer and will break my heart, I can't help but dream of you RED.

100 CONNECTIONS

MY PHYSICS LAB TA, you are the best! Intelligent, handsome, extremely sexy. Can we get to know each other better? Please notice me! A lovesick student.

DOUG S. We think you are "wonderful" no matter what your grades in Chemistry are. Are you ticklish? Karyn and Eileen.

MCALISTER '85 '86
One last party! 9PM upstairs at Renee's this Saturday night. THE MCALISTER ZONE! Everyone please come and drink, reminisce.

100 CONNECTIONS

ATO'S DAVID!
Remember. Never argue without a referee, eh? The 2 Canadian Girls (Safely Hazard and Scarie Gummy).

TO THE disenchanting male. In an effort to understand the male gender, the truth becomes ambiguous. 2 honest, but disenchanting females.

HEY THORNTON SKI BUMS! Black Butte was on fire with white winter heat. Another road trip on 9 or 10 weeks or so? Thanks for the super time! Terri.

100 CONNECTIONS

TO ATO OMAR
I watch you from afar and think that you're a star! I'd really like to meet in soc. I'll sit beside your seat. Starstruck.

105 PERSONALS

AXO HEATHER M.
Congratulations on placing 3rd in the comedy show! Love, Your Sisters.

GREEKS! Today is the day to turn in your order envelopes from last week ends party. WALLY.

105 PERSONALS

FIJI'S SATURDAY NIGHT WAS A GREAT BREAK FROM MIDTERMS. WE WERE "MAXED TO THE LIMIT!" HOPE TO DO IT AGAIN SOON. THANKS, ALPHA PHI

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