



The Oregon football team has come heartbreakingly close to the Rose Bowl several times in recent years. Brooks says the closest was in 1988 before quarterback Bill Musgrave broke his collarbone.

BROOKS

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doing that. Now who's using who in that situation?

I find it increasingly difficult to figure out what my job is or what I'm supposed to answer to. I'm supposed to win all of my games, I'm supposed to graduate every one of my players, and I'm not supposed to have any one of them get in trouble off the field. I'm supposed to have this wonderful environment that everybody's going to be successful in.

If the player doesn't graduate, does that mean I've done a terrible job? The bottom line is I'll certainly accept the responsibility for that, but I'm certainly not going to apologize for my efforts in trying to get players to graduate. We do everything that we possibly can do, and I think we do more than some other programs.

ODE: Do you feel quite a bit of pressure on that from the public?

Brooks: No, I don't. I think that the public display and the publicity on all this stuff now is kind of hypocritical.

Why don't the professors have the same pressures as the football coach to graduate the general student body? My football players, most every year, are graduating at a higher rate than the regular student body at the University of Oregon. So, I'm not going to apologize for it.

I'm not going to ever be happy unless they all graduate, but I'm never going to be happy because they all aren't going to always graduate. There's a few years that I've had almost a 100 percent, and then there's a few years when it's been about 35 percent. It just drives me nuts — nothing infuriates me more or gets me more upset in my job if somebody doesn't go to class.

ODE: Do you think that OSU was hasty in getting rid of Dave Kragthorpe?

Brooks: He won a lot more games than they had won with two previous coaches. The year before he was named Pac-10 Coach of the Year, but I think it boiled down to fans in the seats again. That's how most coaching changes are made. I think if the attendance had dropped dramatically here in the early eighties, if it had really fallen off dramatically, I would have been fired here as well.

ODE: Len Casanova coached 16 years, and you'd have to go two more seasons to tie that. He's a legend as far as the University of Oregon goes ... what would you like people to think, say, 20 years after you've left Oregon?

Brooks: That we had good

football teams and good people.

ODE: Do you feel that there is any pressure to threepeat?

Brooks: There's always pressure, but there isn't any more pressure than what I put on myself.



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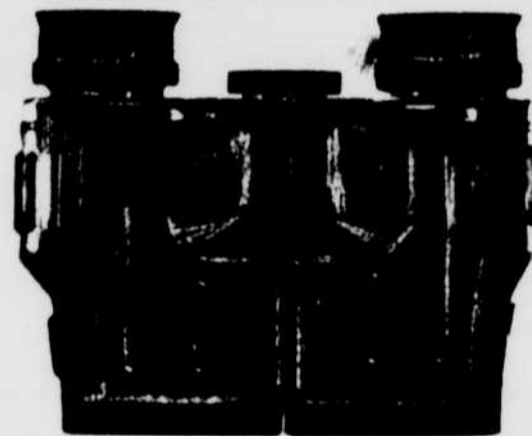
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