

Coaches are key to teaching 'youth' the game



FROM THE SIDELINES

BY RICHARD LUCAS

The date: June 25, 1991. That was the day it all began. The day Terrell Brandon, in front of a national television audience, was drafted by the NBA's Cleveland Cavaliers as their No. 1 pick and the 11th pick overall. Yes, you have to be happy for him. This was definitely the best thing for him to do. But it's hard to watch him in the NBA knowing the points he is scoring and the assists he is giving could have been in an Oregon uniform. The departure of Brandon, coupled with the loss of Kevin Mixon, myself and now red-shirting Bob Fife, has left quite a void for coach Don Monson to fill. But he's got a great

group of young players to try to fill it with. The key word, however, is "young." In their exhibition win over Iceland, the Ducks started two sophomores, a red-shirt freshman, a junior-college transfer and one senior. Because of this inexperience, many preseason magazines have the Ducks finishing near — if not in — the Pacific-10 Conference cellar. Monson, entering his ninth year at the Duck helm, is combating very young players with a very seasoned coaching staff. But even this year's staff has undergone a few changes. Because of assistant coach George Libbon's departure to Austria, former graduate assistant Leon Rice moved up to take a permanent position on the coaching roster alongside three-year assistant Mike Petersen. Taking Rice's place as gradu-

ate assistant is Mike Guajardo. Between them, the two have accumulated more than 15 years of coaching experience. When Rice came to Oregon in 1988, becoming a paid coach was far from his mind. "My intention at first was to volunteer," Rice said. "I just wanted to learn all I could about coaching from coach (Monson)." But he didn't stop there. Rice worked long, hard hours. He often went above and beyond the duties of any "volunteer," and this hard work paid off. He was upgraded from volunteer to graduate assistant by the end of the season. "Each year that I've been here, my duties and responsibilities have increased tremendously," he said. And that responsibility has increased this year with the loss of Libbon. "When you lose someone

like Libbon, someone who did so many things for this program, that's a lot of slack to make up," Rice said. Understanding this very fact, Monson added Guajardo to his staff. Guajardo is no stranger to Monson or the Oregon basketball program. Since playing for Monson at Pasco (Wash.) High School, Guajardo could be found many summers at McArthur Court helping out with youth summer camps. "Guajardo is one of the most loyal players I've ever coached," Monson said. "So when he asked to try his hand at this level, I was more than happy to help." Guajardo's curiosity of college coaching comes after a long and successful stint as the head coach of his prep alma mater. Since becoming Pasco head coach in 1981, Guajardo led his team to five Columbia

Basin Big-Nine league titles and was named league coach of the year three times for his efforts. Guajardo's role as a graduate assistant deals primarily with scouting reports and films, but both he and Monson agree Guajardo's status will change. "As I become more familiar with this level, my responsibilities will probably increase," Guajardo said. "He's more than your typical G.A.," Monson said. "He already knows my style of coaching." Hopefully for Oregon, the coaches' experience will be enough to balance out with the players' inexperience. *Richard Lucas is a University student and played center for Oregon last season.*

Charroin makes Pac-10 team

Oregon senior Dawnn Charroin was named to the All-Pacific-10 Conference women's volleyball first team Monday. The 6-foot-1 middle blocker/outside hitter was one of 12 players selected to the first team by a vote of the league coaches. She averaged 3.55 kills, 3.40 digs and 1.18

blocks during the Ducks' 13-15 season. Stanford senior Kristin Klein was named player of the year and was one of three Cardinal athletes on the team, which is more than any other school. Klein, a 6-2 senior hitter, averaged 4.6 kills, 3.5 digs, and had a hitting per-

centage of .323. Don Shaw, coach of first-ranked and conference champion Stanford, was named Pac-10 Coach of the Year. Duck middle blocker Stephanie Warren was named to the Pac-10 All-Freshman team for her efforts during her debut campaign.

Duck defenders rake in Pac-10 football honors

Pacific-10 Conference head football coaches tipped their collective hats to Oregon's defense, but mostly ignored the offense, when selecting the all-conference team last week. The Duck defense, the 3-8 Oregon squad's strength during much of the year, had seven players named to the All-Pac-10 team, including first-teamers Eric Castle and Marcus Woods. Both athletes made the second team last season. The five other Oregon defensive players named to the team were all given honorable mentions. Selected were: defensive lineman Romeo Bandison, linebacker James Bautista, freshman safety Chad Cota, linebacker Joe Farwell and defensive lineman Matt LaBounty. Bandison, Bautista and Cota were honored for the first time, Farwell was given honorable mention for the second straight year, and LaBounty was a second-team selection last year. On the other side of the ball, tight end Jeff Thomason was

the only selection from the Oregon offense. The senior garnered second-team honors for the second consecutive year. Punter Tommy Thompson was given honorable mention by the league's coaches, who voted on the teams last week. The sophomore was on the second team last year. Conference champion Washington led all schools with eight players on the first team, including standout defensive lineman Steve Emtman, who was also named defensive player of the year for the second straight year. Don James, coach of the second-ranked Huskies, was selected as Pac-10 Coach of the Year by his peers. It marks the second consecutive year James was given the honor. Washington wide receiver Mario Bailey and California quarterback Mike Pawlawski were named co-offensive players of the year.

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