

Byrne sliced from Florida AD search

By Dave Charbonneau
Emerald Sports Reporter

Athletic director Bill Byrne is staying at Oregon.

On Tuesday, Florida narrowed a field of five finalists down to three for the vacant position of athletic director, and Byrne — a finalist — was not on the list. Byrne was nominated for the job at Florida and interviewed for it two weeks ago.

The three candidates still in the running for the position are interim athletic director Jeremy Foley; Dave Hart Jr., of East Carolina; and Max Urick, of Iowa State.

Dr. Nick Cassisi, who was chairman of the athletic board in charge of narrowing the field to three, said it was a very difficult decision to make.

"Bill was a very strong candidate," Cassisi said. "It wasn't that he didn't have the quali-

ties. There were intangible things that the committee felt the other candidates had that fit better at Florida."

Cassisi was obviously hard-pressed to find a reason Byrne was eliminated from the race.

"You can't get five people into three spots," he said. "Bill's one of the bright stars out there."

Byrne said last week he thought he was a long-shot for the position.

"My chances of getting the job are remote," he said.

Byrne also pointed out that if he did not get the Florida job, he planned to stay at Oregon and consider future job offers as they came to him.

"I am not out seeking opportunities to get away from the University," Byrne said.

Sandy Walton, senior assistant athletic director at Oregon, said she was surprised, but relieved, she will still get to work



Bill Byrne

in the same office with Byrne.

"I can't believe they're not going to hire him," Walton said. "But I'm glad he's staying. Without him we wouldn't be sitting in the building we're sit-

ting in now (the Casanova Center)."

Byrne took over as athletic director at Oregon in 1984. He has seen the football team reach two consecutive bowl games, helped the athletic department get a new facility and watched the Ducks' overall budget jump from \$5 million in 1985 to \$11.4 million in 1990-91.

Byrne currently makes \$88,027 a year.

Whoever is selected at Florida will take over from former athletic director Bill Arnsparger, who left the school for a position with the NFL's San Diego Chargers. His salary while at Florida was \$105,000 a year.

Florida's search started with 38 candidates who were narrowed down to five by the board. University President John Lombardi will make the final selection from the three remaining candidates sometime this month.

Rough road ahead for the Ducks

The absence of two 'W's could cost the Oregon women's basketball team two W's.

The Ducks will be playing their final two road games without the services of Staci Wallenborn and Sara Wilson, two of the team's top players. A foot injury has likely sidelined Wilson for the rest of the season, and the death of Wallenborn's brother will keep her from making the trip.

The losses come at a bad time, too, as Oregon travels to Stanford tonight and California on Saturday, two of the best teams in the Pacific-10 Conference. At 22-3 overall and 12-3 in the league, the sixth-ranked Cardinal is first in the Pac-10, and the Golden Bears, 18-7 and 10-5, are third in the conference.

Wallenborn, one of only three Oregon players to see action in every game this season, is the only Duck to score in double figures in all of Oregon's 14 conference games. She is also the team's leading scorer at 15.3 points a game.

The senior's brother, 23-year-old Duke Wallenborn, died suddenly Monday. The Associated Press reported Tuesday he died from cardiac arrest as a result of Wolff-Parkinson-White Syndrome, from which the chances of dying are less than one in 1,000.

Duke Wallenborn played basketball at Western Washington, where he was the Vikings' leading scorer.

Wilson and Wallenborn's absences are merely an addition to a long list of missing players that just keeps growing. It's a list that is becoming fairly commonplace for coach Elwin Heiny's club, which has utilized 12 different starting lineups going into this week's games.

Facing Stanford tonight at less than full strength is probably the last thing Oregon wanted to do at this point in the season.

The Cardinal has beaten the Ducks nine consecutive times, dating back to Oregon's 1987 win in Palo Alto, and the Ducks' last victory in Berkeley was four years ago.

Ironically, though, Oregon has a better road record this season than it does at McArthur Court. The Ducks are 8-5 on an opponent's court, but they are only 6-5 in Eugene.

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