



The Three Sisters can be seen from Tidbits Mountain. These three volcanoes, each more than 10,000 feet high, seem a stone's throw from this mountain north of Blue River.

## Touring the top of Tidbits Mountain



### INTO THE OUTDOORS

BY JAYSON JACOBY

Few people would probably expend much effort to see a place called Tidbits Mountain.

Despite its diminutive name, though, this 5,185-foot peak north of Blue River in the Willamette National Forest offers a taste of just about everything Oregon's Western Cascades have to offer.

In return for just two miles and 1,000 feet of elevation gain, hikers on the Tidbits Mountain trail will see old-growth trees, wildflowers, the remains of a log cabin, an impressive rockslide, and — from the mountain's summit — close-up views of several of the Cascades' highest peaks. Few trails offer the variety of scenery found on the lightly used path to Tidbits Mountain, and you won't even have to bang up your car too badly getting there.

If at all possible try to make this trip on a clear day, as the view from the top is one of the best in the Cascades.

To reach the trailhead, drive on Highway 126 east of Eugene-Springfield along the McKenzie River. This is truly a case where getting there is half the fun, as the bright colors of the many blossoming flowers and trees prove that spring really has arrived. And the river's many moods — sometimes placidly flowing before turning into raging whitewater around the next bend — are always interesting.

Just under three miles from the second of two signs pointing to Blue River, look for paved road 15 on the left side of the highway. Follow this road nearly five miles along the eastern shore of

Blue River reservoir. Immediately after crossing a bridge, where the road turns to gravel, continue straight ahead on road 1509, ignoring the right fork that is the continuation of road 15.

Although road 1509 has been recently graded and is smooth enough for cars, it is steep and winding. There are dropoffs most of the way as the road climbs the Tidbits Creek canyon, but if you take it slow, it shouldn't be a problem.

Almost eight miles from the bridge, and about one-quarter mile after passing a green water tank on the left side of the road, take road 877 to the left. This road leads very steeply uphill, about a tenth of a mile, where a short spur road to the left ends after 100 yards in a small parking area.

There is no trailhead sign, but the trail is easy to pick up as it leads off into the forest at the edge of the parking area. Tidbits Mountain can be seen from this point as the rock pinnacle sticking up to the west.

The trail climbs steadily but gradually along the side of a steep ridge, passing right through the middle of a classic old-growth Douglas Fir forest carpeted with rhododendrons and wildflowers. There are a few downed logs across the trail, but it's no problem to step around them. After 1.2 miles the trail reaches a junction marked by a sign and the crumbled remains of an old log cabin. The right fork leads to an alternate trailhead at road 1509. Take the left fork past the cabin remains.

The trail now curves around to the shaded north side of the ridge, where the first views of Mt. Jefferson open up. About three-tenths of a mile from the junction, the trail crosses a large and blocky rockslide of basalt lava. There is a

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## Young Ducks excited about Green's game

By Dave Charbonneau  
Emerald Sports Reporter

With the acquisition of new head coach Jerry Green, it seems as though the Oregon men's basketball team is in a can't-lose situation.

A new, faster paced style of play, a new philosophy, a new attitude and a new face will bring new life into a program that was slowly dying under former coach Don Monson.

Some players will benefit more than others. Antoine Stoudamire and Andre Collier will, for instance, only have one year to play under Green. The players who are going to be responsible for building a reputation for the Ducks and Green are the freshmen/soon-to-be-sophomores.

And the Ducks are loaded with them.

Jeff Potter, Johnnie Reece, Orlando Williams, Damon Runyon and Kevin Robinson all will get three years to learn Green's system.

Potter, a 6-foot-7 forward, said he'd rather get a new coach now than later.

"If this is going to happen," he said, "I'm glad they did it now so I have a few years left."

Williams, a 6-foot guard, realizes the older players may be getting a raw deal but thinks they can handle it.

"It may be tougher for the more experienced players," Williams said. "But it's definitely nothing they can't handle."

The team met with Green last week and had nothing but positive things to say about him.

"The team was really pleased with him," Potter said. "He was real easy going, and he looked like someone you could talk to, which is what we all wanted."

After Monson was fired, many players brought up the fact that Monson was a difficult person to talk to.

"(Green) seemed like a



Jerry Green

strong coaching figure," Williams said. "He let us know that if we worked together, we could get a lot accomplished."

But the main thing coach Green has said impressed his new team the most was that he wanted to play a more up-tempo game.

Under Monson, the team resorted to the slow-down game more often than Ralph Miller's old Oregon State team. Not only was Oregon losing, it was also playing boring basketball.

Reece, who started at point guard for most of last season, said everyone was excited at the prospect of getting into the open court.

"All the guys like the fact that he wants to run, as opposed to last year when we were always walking the ball up court," Reece said.

Williams is from Portland's Benson High School, which is known for its run-and-gun style of play, and he obviously approves of Green's plans for high-scoring games.

"I think his style of play is definitely a bonus for us," he said. "I'm looking forward to it. It's not exactly like Benson, but it will be a lot of fun."

The question is, how long will it take the Ducks to get used to the new system? The

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