

Monson not the only one to leave men's team

□ In the shuffle, two assistant coaches will not have contracts renewed, must seek positions elsewhere

By Jayson Jacoby
Emerald Sports Reporter

When Oregon athletic director Bill Byrne introduced Jerry Green as Oregon's new men's basketball coach March 31, most of the attention not given to Green was on the man he replaced, nine-year head coach Don Monson.

Seemingly forgotten in the shuffle were the Ducks' two full-time assistants, Ken Smith and Mike Petersen, both three-year veterans of Oregon basketball.

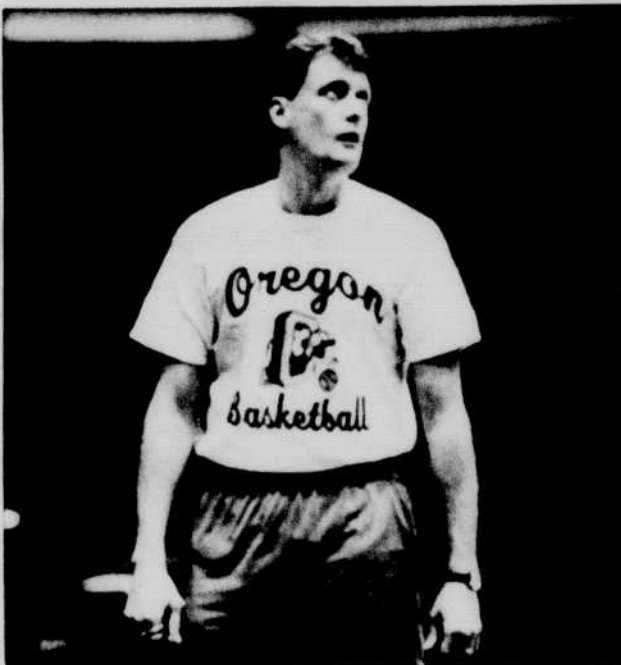
Although their contracts run out at the end of June, both Smith and Petersen have accepted the coaching change as part of the job and are actively seeking employment elsewhere.

Green said in March that he would be talking with Smith and Petersen about possibly retaining them, but nothing came out of those meetings. Oregon's new coach has already lured Long Beach State assistant Bobby Braswell to Eugene, and one of Green's former colleagues at Kansas has also been mentioned as a likely addition to the staff.

Smith, 37, had stints as an assistant at Washington, Montana State and San Francisco before coming to Oregon three years ago. He was also a head coach at two California high schools and one community college.

Smith said he spent last week at the Final Four in Minneapolis testing the waters for coaching openings.

"I looked at the head coaching job at Northern Colorado and was interviewed for that position," Smith



Assistant basketball coach Mike Petersen's job status changed with the firing of Don Monson and hiring of a new coach. Petersen is now seeking employment elsewhere.

said. "It's a matter of who they're interested in at this point. You hope that the work and effort you put in (at Oregon) was appreciated."

Smith, who was elevated to recruiting coordinator

last year, said leaving a program he has helped build is the most difficult part of the coaching change.

"That's where this profession becomes so tough," Smith said. "I like the kids that are on our basketball team. You don't want to leave a job when what you've strived for hasn't been completed. I'd like to be around to see Jordy Lyden, Clyde Jordan and all the freshmen develop. That part of it is very difficult."

"I'm going to say goodbye and move on but I'll always be available to them," he said.

Petersen, 33, also had extensive college coaching experience prior to joining the Oregon staff three years ago.

Petersen was an assistant men's coach at Northwest Christian College in Eugene, as well as serving for two years as an assistant to Elwin Heiny, the Oregon women's head coach.

Petersen made the trip to the Final Four as well.

"I've been in contact with several people about assistant coaching jobs at Division I schools," Petersen said. "And now I'll just have to sit back and wait to see what happens."

"I've also talked to some people about some Division I women's head coaching jobs. I really enjoyed coaching women and being a head coach, but I haven't decided yet if I'd like to return to coaching women or stay with the men's side."

Both Smith and Petersen said they are looking at all their options, regardless of location.

"If you're in this profession you don't want to put any limit on where you want to go or where you want to live," Smith said. "You just want to look for a quality program with quality people."

Petersen said he would like to stay in the West if possible, "but sometimes you can't make that choice."

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Track teams gear up to compete Saturday

By Jake Berg
Emerald Sports Editor

A tentative entries list for the Minnesota women's track team reads: "We are a little banged up right now but looking forward to coming to Eugene."

The Gophers will be in Eugene Saturday along with Washington State for a 12:45 p.m. three-way meet with Oregon at Hayward Field, but don't expect the Ducks to be gracious hosts to either.

Oregon began its scoring season last weekend as road warrior with a huge 98-38 win at Washington, the Ducks' biggest victory over a Pacific-10 Conference opponent in four years and the most points they have ever scored against a league foe.

"Our kids just competed really hard," Oregon coach Tom Heinonen said.

Their effort was just hard enough to win 15 of the 16 events and to set personal record marks on a wet and windy day that was hardly conducive to PRs.

Heinonen said he was most pleased — and impressed — by Regina Warren's 100-meter time, his team's sweep in the 800, and a 1-2 finish in the 400 hurdles.

Warren ran a personal record 12.1 to win the 100 when Heinonen projected that the Huskies — who had the best

Oregon began its scoring season last weekend as road warrior with a huge 98-38 win at Washington

two times in the event — would take the top two places.

In the 800, where the Ducks are recovering from a rash of injuries, Oregon swept the top three spots, and the Ducks' Jennifer Neitling and Sandy Church were first and second in the 400 hurdles with personal records.

"They all really surprised me," Heinonen said.

Events that may not surprise anyone this weekend at the Hayward three-way are the long jump, shot put and discus. Heinonen expects these events to provide Eugene fans with the most competition.

The long jump will feature Oregon's Laurel Roberts and Washington State's Sheren Li and Chantal Brunner, all of whom have cleared more than 19 feet this season.

In the shot put and discus, Oregon's Julie Beck will face stiff competition from Washington State's Kristy Andrews. The

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