

**Ron Finley** 



Tom Heinonen



Elwin Heiny

#### COACHES

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are hoping to make the state of Oregon — and the University of Oregon — better.

'Everyone feels like an Oregonian whether they are or not. You sacrifice some things to live in a place you enjoy.'

"The pay is lousy and everyone knows that," said Buzz Summers, who has coached men's tennis for 25 years, the longest stint of any Oregon head coach. "It's the people in the area and the lifestyle in Eugene. I've lived in bigger cities, and I don't like it."

Both Dellinger and Tom Heinonen, Oregon's women's track and cross country coach, said the public support for their sports — especially track and field — has also helped convince them to stay in Eugene.

"It's not the pay," Heinonen said. "But in track and field it doesn't really get any better than this. There's a level of support here that doesn't exist basically anywhere else in the country.

Finley said he has also seen a strong sense of commitment among Oregon coaches.

"Our administration has done an outstanding job of hiring people who they felt would stay and help build the program," he said.

Despite the consensus among Oregon's long-term head coach-es that the lifestyle keeps people here, coaches at schools in areas even more renowned for quality of life don't measure up in longevity.

The two Arizona schools which are located in a state

with a climate that has helped make it one of the country's fastest-growing - have only seven head coaches with more than 15 years tenure, two at Arizona and five at Arizona State.

And it would seem that Oregon State would have the same qualities that Oregon's coaches say have kept them around for so long. Yet only Jack Riley, the Beavers' baseball coach, has been at Corvallis for more than 15 years as a head coach.

Summers said Eugene offers the best of both worlds.

"Eugene is more of a cosmopolitan place, and Corvallis is a little small," he said. "There aren't as many cultural and social activities as there are in Eugene. Eugene is a good size."

That pretty well sums up the feelings of all six Oregon "old-

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