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## BROOKS

Continued from Page 1

A budget deficit, big budget cuts due to Measure 5 and mediocre success on the field are all problems Brooks will have thrown on his lap when he sits behind his new desk on October 1.

Brooks will be juggling his duties as athletic director with his duties as Oregon's 16-year head football coach, the sport which is the highest revenue-earner at the University.

To make the situation even more unenviable is the fact Brooks is following in the footsteps of one of the most successful and well-liked athletic directors ever to hold the position at the University.

Besides his part in the building of the Casanova Center, Byrne also made possible the renovations of Hayward Field and Autzen Stadium and brought back to Oregon what Byrne said is "genuine state-wide support."

Brooks realizes he has some big shoes to fill but also thinks the University will benefit by having someone take over who has felt the burn of the financial difficulties brought on by Measure 5.

"I'm disappointed he's (Byrne) leaving because he's

done so much for the University," Brooks said. "He's done a remarkable job, and in that respect, he's going to be a difficult man to follow.

"I thought it would be better to have someone coming in who knows the situation," he added, "rather than having someone come in with no knowledge of Measure 5."

Brooks' contract runs through July 1, 1994, so Brooks must work fast to prove to the administration, students and alumni that he can do a good job.

"It's a realistic time frame to evaluate if things are going the way we all want them to go," Brooks said. "If it's not working, I'm sure I'll hear about it before July 1, 1994."

Sandy Walton, senior associate athletic director, says the athletic department is confident in Brooks' ability.

"We think it's a great idea," she said. "He's an extremely good administrator and has a clear idea of what's going on here. I think he's crazy for taking on so much work, but Rich has proven his abilities and we have total confidence in him."

The dual role for Brooks is far from a commonality in Division I athletics. Only two other coaches currently also hold athletic director positions, Nelson

**'I thought it would be better to have someone coming in who knows the situation.'**

— Rich Brooks,  
future athletic director

Stokely at the University of Southwestern Louisiana and Chris Alt at the University of Nevada. Because of that fact, Brooks did not consider going after the job at first.

"I didn't think it would be something the administration would consider," he said.

But after a conversation with Dan Williams, University vice president for administration, the two decided to spend a couple of weeks researching the possibility.

"We felt that as long as most people who supported the program wanted it to happen, we may consider it an option," said Brooks.

After researching possibilities, the University made the decision to go with Brooks.

"We asked ourselves if there was someone right here at the

Turn to **BROOKS**, Page 14B

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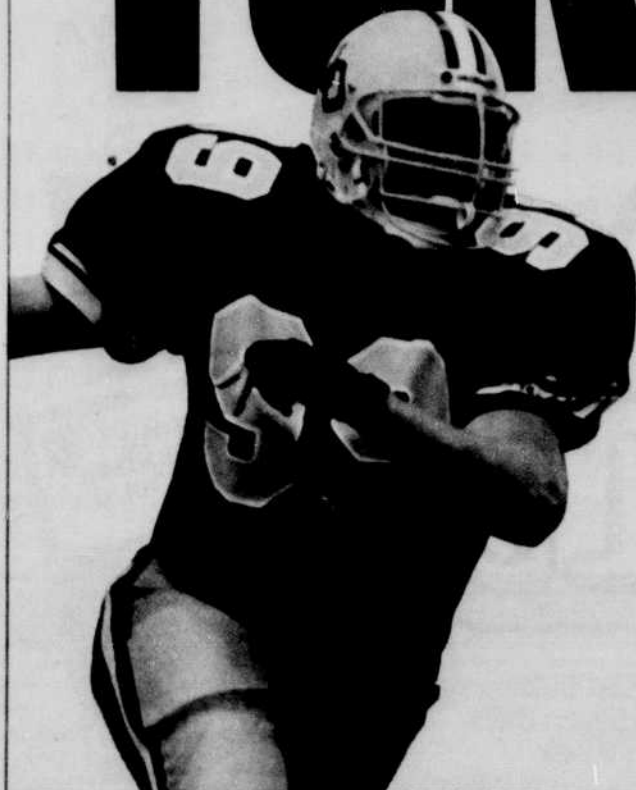


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