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BROOKS

Continued from Page 4B

University who had the abilities, the necessary experience and the understanding of athletics, our university and the state of Oregon, to provide the required leadership," Williams said. "The answer to that question was 'yes.'"

That decision will save the University some much needed money. As athletic director, Byrne made \$88,000 annually. Brooks will only receive an extra \$20,000 added to his salary of \$97,859 as football coach.

Brooks said his interest in the position lies with the University and not with personal

wealth.

"In my mind, the financial issue was not an issue," he said. "We need to be innovative and save money in areas that don't affect teams on the field."

Byrne, who has been athletic director at Oregon since 1984, will take over a program at Nebraska that is one of the top programs in the country. Besides having perennial powers in football, basketball and baseball, the school has also received avid support from the state. The state recently approved a one-cent sports tax.

With such a stellar program, Byrne will be hard-pressed to

find something to improve. But he said there is some work to be done.

"You can win national championships," he said. "That's always been a goal of mine to be part of a program capable of winning national championships. Plus they have some facility needs. I want to provide the same facility support that I did here at Oregon."

Byrne said he has no qualms about Brooks replacing him at Oregon.

As far as Brooks being able to cope with his new job, Byrne said simply, "He'll do a damn good job."

PAC-10

Continued from Page 11B

31 sacks and losing 26 fumbles. The defense was not much more impressive, giving up 405 yards a game and 32 points a game.

It would be no surprise if Arizona started the season 3-0, but then the season from hell starts with four straight games against Miami (Fla.), UCLA, Stanford, and California, with three of those on the road. The Wildcats will be lucky to get one victory out of that.

Predicted Finish: 5-6, 3-5 in Pac-10.

USC Trojans



Last Year: 3-8, 2-6 in Pac-10 (8th).

It's not often a team goes 3-8 and is ranked in the top 25 in pre season polls the next season, but that is the case for USC this season.

The reason for the optimism in Los Angeles this season is the return of nine starters on offense and the competitive battles at key positions. Last year's starting quarterback Reggie Perry returns but will be pressed hard to retain his starting job by sophomore Rob Johnson.

"We have two very good quarterbacks. Rob has talent

and Reggie has experience," head coach Larry Smith said. "I don't want a quarterback controversy. The team wants to win and if it takes two quarterbacks to win, then so be it."

At running back, last season's starter Deon Strother returns, but he will be challenged by senior Estrus Crayton. The Trojans also return last year's starting receivers, juniors Curtis Conway and Johnnie Morton, who combined for 70 receptions last year.

USC returns nine starters on defense and will switch to a 3-4 defensive set. Linebackers will be the key to the new defense but the strength may be in the secondary, where three starters return from last year's unit.

Questions are everywhere on this season's Trojan squad but with improved depth on offense, optimism abounds for USC.

Predicted Finish: 4-7, 3-5 in Pac-10.

Washington State Cougars



Last year: 4-7, 3-5 in Pac-10 (6th).

Washington State quarterback Drew Bledsoe will lead a potentially explosive offense this season, but it won't be enough to win many games un-

less the Cougar defense improves on last year's poor performance.

The Cougar offense returns all 11 players who started at the end of last season, including Bledsoe, who is one of the top quarterbacks in the nation. His performance should improve this season because his top four receivers from last season all return. Junior slot back Phillip Bobo and two-time all Pac-10 tight end Clarence Williams should be Bledsoe's favorite targets, and running back Shaumbe Wright-Fair will lead the Cougar's one-back offense.

"I expect our offense to be outstanding," head coach Mike Price said.

The good news for the Cougar defense is that they return seven starters. The bad news is they return from a squad that ranked last in the Pac-10 in rushing defense and total defense in 1991. The strength of the defense will be at linebacker, where they return two of three starters including Anthony McClanahan.

"I feel good about our defense," Price said. "Our defensive line is young and I expect our secondary to be outstanding eventually because we start four sophomores there. However, right now we aren't where we want to be."

Predicted Finish: 5-6, 3-5 in Pac-10.

Oregon State Beavers



Last Year: 1-10, 1-7 in Pac-10.

A Civil War victory can go a long way, and coach Jerry Pettibone is hoping the Beavers' revitalizing victory over the Ducks will carry some enthusiasm into this season.

Oregon State will be in the second year of their wishbone offense that was so inept for most of last year. However, the offense did click every once in a while and the Beavers showed signs of mediocrity. Ian Shields and Mark Olford are the returning quarterbacks, and Pettibone says it will be Olford who will get the starting nod.

Fans at Oregon State seem to have a boost of enthusiasm after last year's victory over the Ducks, but Pettibone said last year's Civil War triumph is a moot point.

"That victory is old news," he said. "We're looking forward now."

Oregon State's one-word motto for this year is "Onward". If two victories is considered onward, the Beavers will have a successful season.

Predicted Finish: 2-9, 1-7 in Pac-10.

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