

Assistants get jobs elsewhere

By Pete Alfrey
Emerald Contributor

On Sept. 19 Oregon women's basketball coach Richard Lucas resigned from his position to play professionally in Austria, and on Sept. 4, former assistants coach Mike Petersen became the head women's coach at New Mexico State.

Lucas leaves for Europe after first joining the women's staff on an interim basis last December. In a statement from the Oregon athletic department, current women's head coach Elwin Heiny said, "I really hate to lose someone the caliber of Richard, but on the other hand, I certainly understand his wishes to resume his playing career."

In addition to his brief coaching experience, the 23-year-old Lucas was a standout for Oregon's basketball team from 1987 to 1991. The 6-foot-7 center from Anaheim, California finished his senior season as the Ducks' leading rebounder with 8.8 boards a game, and the team's second-leading scorer, behind current Cleveland Cavalier Terrell Brandon, with 15.3 points a game.

Petersen was an assistant coach for the Oregon men's team. The 34-year-old Petersen was also the head women's coach at Gonzaga for four years, in addition to being an assistant for the men's team at Northwest Christian College.

In August, he left Eugene to become an assistant coach at New Mexico State. He became head coach when it was announced that his longtime friend Doug Hoselton resigned from his position as head coach of the Roadrunners to pursue business interests in Arizona.

"One of the reasons I came down here was to get a chance to work under Doug, and now I won't be able to," Petersen said in the Sept. 3 Las Cruces Sun-News Report. "I really have mixed emotions, but I'm delighted. I couldn't be happier."

Pac-10 teams head into brunt of schedule

The Pacific-10 Conference schedule football gets into full swing this weekend with eight teams featured in conference match-ups.

Without a doubt, the biggest game of the week features top-ranked Washington facing Southern Cal. Both teams are undefeated and USC is coming off a victory over favored Oklahoma. The Huskies will be playing at home and have been virtually untouchable this season. The Trojans could give Washington a run for its money, but it's not likely.

Pick: Washington 24, USC 10.

Arizona is coming off an upset of its own. Sure they lost to Miami last weekend, but the 8-7 score in Miami's home field has to give the Wildcats a boost. They will

return home to face UCLA.

The Bruins are coming off a convincing pummeling of San Diego State and are ranked 11th in the nation. If the Bruins play the way they did against San Diego State, forget about it. But if the Wildcats can use the home field to their advantage, this one could be close.

Pick: UCLA 14, Arizona 10.

Oregon State faces its first true test of the year when the Beavers travel to Berkeley to face the Golden Bears. California defeated a tough Kansas team that killed the Beavers in the season opener. In addition, the Bears are at home and Oregon State is coming off a big loss to Utah.

California should run circles around the Beavs, especially on offense. It's time for a reality

check for Oregon State's dated offense.

Pick: California 49, Oregon State 7.

Arizona State lost its top running back, Mario Bates, for the season last week in its loss to Nebraska. It remains to be seen what effect the loss of Bates will have on the Sun Devils, but the Ducks aren't complaining. Arizona State has a host of good running backs, but Oregon's defense is coming off back-to-back games of holding opponents to less than 50 yards rushing. But this is the same Sun Devils team that held Louisville to 17 yards total offense two weeks ago.

The Ducks scored 59 points last week against a grossly over-matched UNLV team (stick with basketball). Oregon is also play-

ing at home for the fourth time in five games. Both teams desperately need this win.

Pick: Oregon 13, Arizona State 9

Stanford is ranked in the top 25 and face sixth-ranked Notre Dame this weekend. Stanford has looked impressive thus far this season, but Notre Dame is at home (what a surprise). The Cardinal could really turn heads with a victory this weekend, but it will take quite a performance.

Pick: Notre Dame 24, Stanford 14

In the "who cares" game of the week, Washington State faces Temple. Bill Cosby's alma mater will lose to the Cougars in Pullman.

Pick: Washington State 35, Temple 7

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