

Oregon coaching job not as unenviable as USC's



Rich Brooks and Larry Smith coach the same sport in the same conference under completely different rules and constraints.

Smith is in his sixth season as head coach of the USC football team; compiling a 40-21-3 record along the way. At the end of this season there is a strong possibility that he will be rewarded for his 60 percent winning record by finding himself out of a job.

Rich Brooks is in his 16th

season as Oregon's football coach, and with a 74-96-4 overall record, he was rewarded with the job of athletic director along with his coaching duties.

What do these two summaries say? Although the football programs at USC and Oregon may seem to be alike in many ways, they are really as different as night and day.

At USC, the tradition is intense, and the pressure on a head coach is even worse. From the second Smith became the head man at Troy, there was a bulls-eye on his chest and boosters had their bow and arrows aimed. You see, he was chosen to replace an unpopular Ted Tollner and was expected to return USC to the stability they always expected.

Two Oregon graduates had run the Trojan football program for 23 years with great success. John McKay came to the Trojans in 1960 and won a national title two years later, before leaving in 1975 with a 127-40-8 career record. John Robinson was the next man to lead the Trojan football team, taking over in 1976 and winning 67 of the 83 games, including a national championship, at USC.

In 1983, USC hired their third head football coach in 24 years, Ted Tollner. All Tollner did in his four years on the job was go 26-20-1 while leading the Trojans to three bowl games, including the 1985 Rose Bowl. However, that was not good enough for USC, and Smith was brought in to revital-

ize the Trojan football program.

Things went well enough during Smith's first three years at USC, he took the Trojans to the Rose Bowl in each of those three years and was named Pacific-10 Conference coach of the year twice. But then he did the unthinkable, he didn't reach the Rose Bowl for two years and in 1991 his team went, gasp, 3-8.

In reality, USC coaches are set up to fail. USC should be applauded for its willingness to play tough schedules, but the last two years have been ridiculous.

In 1991 USC played Washington, Penn State, Notre Dame and California, all top 10 teams. Sure, the Trojans also lost to Memphis State and some

other mediocre teams, but the challenge in front of Smith was incredible.

This season's Trojan football schedule includes away games at No. 1 Washington, No. 8 Stanford, No. 26 UCLA, No. 27 Oklahoma and No. 31 San Diego State. Home games include No. 12 Notre Dame, No. 22 Washington State, No. 29 Arizona and No. 30 California. Nine of 11 games are against teams that are currently ranked in the top 31 in the country.

USC has given Smith a monstrous task, and it will be remarkable if he completes it to the Trojans satisfaction. If he can compile a winning record this year, it would be an ac-

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AN AUTOGRAPH SHINDIG!

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by Rick Ball

JIMMY'S PARENTS HAD TO SERIOUSLY RE-THINK THE VALUE OF THEIR SON'S EDUCATION, AFTER HIS MOST RECENT WEEKEND VISIT.

Oscar the Freshman

Neal Skorpen

HOW I DRAGGED ON AND ON ABOUT MY SUMMER BREAK BY OSCAR PART VIII

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BUT THIS TIME, FATE WAS ON MY SIDE.

WHY THE DIRECTOR FELLOW HAS SHOWN! GROOVY! I'M TICKLED!

LIKEWISEOSITY.