

Thompson set to chase dream

By Andrew Scales
For the Oregon Daily Emerald

Ronny Thompson, son of Georgetown's head coach John Thompson, took the first step toward realizing his dream when he was named restricted earnings coach for the Oregon men's basketball team this summer.

"Ronny is the ideal person for a restricted earnings coach because he is a young guy trying to get into the coaching field," said Jerry Green, Oregon's head coach. "The fact that his dad is John Thompson is a good reference. He's been around basketball all his life and played at Georgetown as well."

The rookie coach is fast learning that coaching the game is more than just taking care of business on the hardwood. Thompson's duties will range from booking hotel reservations to video breakdown to running practice drills.

"People thought that as a coach, my dad's whole life was basketball," Thompson said. "But I'm learning that being a coach, 70 percent of what I do isn't even basketball related. I've got to make sure that the locker room is set up, that travel arrangements are made. There is so much that has to be done before we even pick up a basketball."

For Thompson, the past year has been one of transition. He worked as a bond trading assistant for Prudential Securities after graduating from George-

town in 1992. That experience is proving to be invaluable as he tackles the organizational and financial duties required of an assistant coach.

After growing up in the nation's capital, he has had to make a geographic and cultural transition to Oregon.

"The first image I had of Oregon was horses and cows," Thompson said. "But I came out here and loved it. The Pacific-10 Conference is a great conference, and it gives me an opportunity to start coaching at a highly competitive level."

Thompson said he was excited when the opportunity to coach at Oregon opened up. Thompson has aspired to one day coach a team of his own, and he and his father believed Oregon was an ideal place to start — a place that will serve as the foundation upon which Thompson can build a coaching career.

"My dad was very high on coach Green," Thompson said. "He told me that if I was going to start out, this is the guy who would be great for me to learn from. He did not want me to go anywhere else."

Green should benefit from Thompson's experience as well. With seven new recruits, Green looks to implement an up-tempo style of play, something Georgetown has done better than anyone else.

Don't look for a clone of Georgetown's team, though. The

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assistant basketball coach

Ducks have their own personal style. However, the coaching staff wants to adapt some of Georgetown's defensive full-court pressing and rotation strategies.

"My dad always said, 'Genius borrows nobly,'" Thompson said. "And I think that is what's going to happen. Coach Green will make all the final decisions, but he has been very open minded to suggestions. It would be crazy for anyone not to want to know what someone else did that was successful."

Having played for his father for four years, and now gaining expert tutelage under Green, Thompson is well on his way to realizing his dream. As the dream becomes clearer and clearer each day, Ronny Thompson gets that much closer to pacing the visitor's bench at the Capital Centre in Landover, Md.

Thompson gets closer to hearing the final whistle blow, shaking hands with the opposing team's coach, and holding back a proud smile as he says, "Good game Dad, better luck next time."

Golf wins in Corvallis

By Steve Mims
Oregon Daily Emerald

Senior Cappy Mack won medalist honors to pace the Oregon women's golf team to its first team victory of the year at the Nike Invitational in Corvallis on Saturday.

The Ducks opened the tournament with team scores of 301 and 296 last Friday, giving them a 25-stroke lead heading into the final day. The Ducks fired a 299 Saturday to finish the 54-hole event at 896, 34 shots ahead of second-place British Columbia.

Oregon got plenty of impressive performances, placing five golfers among the top 11 in the tournament. Mack took the lead with an even-par 72 in the first round, and never relinquished the top spot. Mack fired back-to-back 73s in the second and third rounds to win the tour-

namment by five strokes over Oregon State's Margo Evashevski and Holly Reynolds of Kansas.

Oregon junior Leigh Casey opened the tournament with consecutive 75s on Friday before shooting 76 Saturday to finish tied for fourth at 226. Fellow junior Shannon Hare rebounded from an opening-round 78 with a 75 in the second round and 74 in the final round to finish in sixth place, one shot behind Casey.

Senior Amy Elieff, who won the tournament last year, shot 73 in the second round to go along with an opening-round 80 and a 76 on Saturday to finish eighth at 229. Junior Karly Mills shot 76-77-78 to finish in 11th place.

The Ducks return to action Oct. 11-13 when they compete in the Ihanfeldt Invitational in Redmond, Wash.

Contest to help victims, schools

By Steve Mims
Oregon Daily Emerald

The J. Donley Gifts For Others Organization of Pennsylvania is conducting a contest asking for students, alumni and supporters of all Big Ten Conference and Pacific-10 Conference schools as well as Notre Dame to tell why they like their favorite team.

The contest is designed to support the Midwest Relief Fund, as well as scholarship funds for each school involved. In addition, one winner will receive a trip for two to Disney World in Florida.

The Big Ten/Pac-10 and Notre Dame Challenge begins next Monday, and entries are due Dec. 15. The sponsor hopes to make the contest an annual event.

Those interested in submitting an essay to the contest should explain in 100 words or less why they like their favorite Big Ten team, Pac-10 team or Notre Dame. Essays should be sent along with a \$5 donation to: The J. Donley Gifts For Others Organization, 301 Union Ave., Suite 305, Altoona, PA 16602

Professionals from around the Pennsylvania area will judge each essay and choose a finalist from all

22 schools involved. The grand prize winner will be chosen from the 22 finalists and announced Jan. 1, 1994.

The final judging of one winner from among the 22 schools will be done by a team of high school teachers. The winner will receive a trip to Disney World, and depending on the success of the contest, the remaining 21 finalists could receive consolation prizes.

The first \$2,000 raised by the contest will fund the cost of the trip to Florida, with the rest of the money going to four other causes. Fifty percent of the money will go to the Midwest Flood Relief Fund, which helps those decimated by this summer's flooding.

Forty percent of the money will go to the scholarship fund for each Big Ten/Pac-10 school, and 5 percent goes to the J. Donley Gifts For Others Foundation.

The school in each conference that raises the most money will divide the remaining 5 percent of the money, as well as receiving an additional award for its scholarship fund. The conference which raises the most money will possibly be honored at the Rose Bowl.

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