

Volleyball team looks forward to next year

By Scott Simonson
Oregon Daily Emerald

Oregon volleyball head coach Gerry Gregory maintained all season that his team has a promising future. The Oregon athletic department has given him a chance to prove it.

Gregory had his contract renewed through the 1994-95 season. The one-year contract is a typical arrangement for most coaches within the athletic department. The one-year contract gives Gregory at least one more chance to reverse the fortunes of a struggling program.

Oregon finished 2-16 in the Pacific-10 Conference this year and 5-21 overall. It was Oregon's fourth consecutive sub-.500 season, its worst conference finish since 1988 and its lowest win total in school history.

That's only the short list of the bad news from 1993. What's the good news?

For starters, Oregon's starters. Oregon returned only two starters this year but will have all six back next season. The Ducks lost only one player, swing hitter Nicolle Hedberg, to graduation this season.

Oregon also hopes to get help from its incoming recruiting class. Oregon has four open scholarship slots for next year, and although Gregory currently

is prevented from naming players who may play for the Ducks next season, he is quietly optimistic and said three players have made verbal commitments to attend Oregon.

Gregory hopes that bringing in four new players, combined with the maturation of this year's six freshman, will solve one of Oregon's most glaring weaknesses: lack of depth.

"A lack of depth at middle blocker and also at swing hitter really hurt us. At the start of the year, I thought three swing hitters was enough to go with. But when Kristen Ruschiensky was injured, that really hurt us," Gregory said.

"The right side outside hitter spot was lacking in depth, also. Kalie Kerr did a good job, but at the start of the year that wasn't even her position."

Gregory hopes that shifting quick hitter Angee Henderson to the right side outside hitter slot, along with contributions from a healthy Ruschiensky and quick hitter Dani Cordova, a redshirt freshman this year, will help provide depth.

Junior swing hitter LaReina Woods, who in the past has divided her time between volleyball in the winter and track in the spring, will skip track season this year to devote more time to volleyball, Gregory said.

Three promoted within athletic department

The Oregon athletic department has promoted three staff members within the Duck Athletic Fund, athletic director Rich Brooks announced.

Herb Yamanaka, senior assistant director, has been elevated to associate athletics director for external affairs and will oversee all of the department's fund-raising efforts. Yamanaka has been associated with the athletic department in some capacity for the past 40 years since his days as a student.

To assist Yamanaka with the organization of the annual fund drive and other activities among the Ducks' booster groups, Jim Bartko will assume the duties of assistant athletic director for annual giving and be based in Eugene. He has worked in both The Duck Athletic Fund's Portland and Medford offices for the past five years.

Dave Whittle, regional DAF director in Southern Oregon and Northern California for the last two years, will move to the Portland office in the same capacity. Brooks said a search would be conducted shortly to fill the vacancy in Southern Oregon.

"We believe we are having success in working toward endowments to ensure the future of University of Oregon athletics, and Herb has been instrumental in those efforts," Brooks said. "Jim and Dave have done excellent jobs in their respective areas, and we feel that will continue in their expanded duties."

The Oregon women's basketball team split a pair of games over the weekend, losing to Middle Tennessee State and defeating South Florida at the Marriott Classic in Arlington, Texas.

Oregon shot 55.6 percent from the field and outbounded Middle Tennessee State 48-20 but committed 26 turnovers and lost 79-74 on Friday.

Guard Missy Croshaw was Oregon's leading scorer with 19 points. Forward Debbie Sporci-

ch had 18 points and 12 rebounds, and center Sara Wilson added 12 points and 14 rebounds.

Oregon won the consolation game of the tournament 63-59 against South Florida on Saturday.

The Ducks were led by Croshaw, 14 points; and Wilson, 12 points.

TUCSON, Ariz. (AP) — Arizona President Manuel Pacheco spent Friday consulting various groups with a stake in a decision he's expected to announce this week: the school's new athletic director.

Pacheco spoke privately with members of the athletic department and consulted others after having met Wednesday and Thursday with his two candidates, athletic directors Bob Bockrath of Texas Tech and Jim Livengood of Washington State.

Pacheco did not return a phone call to his office immediately.

The chairman and a member of the search committee who recommended Livengood and Bockrath be interviewed said its members briefed Pacheco Thursday night but didn't recommend a specific candidate to replace Cedric Dempsey, who last month was named NCAA executive director.

"The committee did not make a recommendation," said its chairman, Dudley Woodard. "We had forwarded the names to the president... We then provided him (Pacheco) feedback based on their visits." Woodard said from that point on, it would be "a presidential decision."

Bockrath, 52, has had a two-decade association with Arizona. He joined the Arizona football staff in 1973 and was an assistant coach until 1976. He returned from Purdue in 1980 as an associate athletic director and in 1988 became the senior associate under Cedric Dempsey. Bockrath left in 1991 to become athletic director at California.

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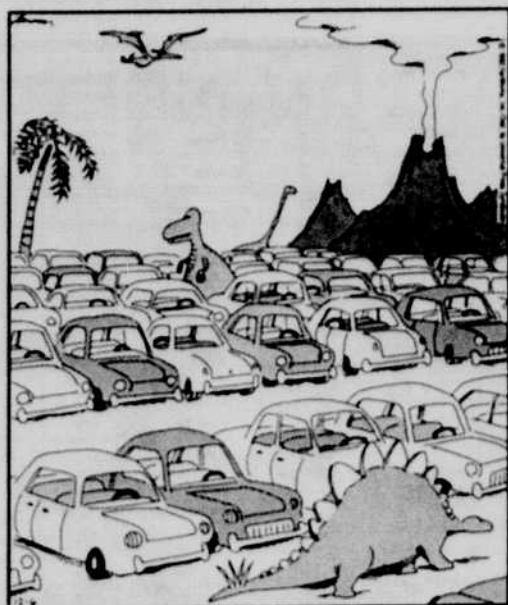
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By GARY LARSON



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