

REBUILDING

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made the coach wonder how close his program to the next level.

"We may be a couple of calls away from 11-4 this year," Sampson said. "It's a game of breaks. Why aren't we 2-2 in the confer-

ence? We've played well enough to be. If a couple of breaks go our way, maybe UCLA isn't in a position to be No. 1, but UCLA got the breaks and Washington State didn't."

Green said he sees a lot of similarities between where his program is and where Sampson's

program was, especially regarding recruiting.

"We resemble Washington State in that it is too tough a place to recruit because it is not located near a big metropolitan area," Green said. "Kelvin's done a great job of turning that program around."

Green took over an Oregon program last year that was coming off a 2-16 season and was filled with a number of players whose ability to play Division I basketball was in question. When a number of players left the program alongside former coach Don Monson, Green was given the chance to begin

building his team with his own players.

Green's first two recruiting classes have been almost equally split among freshman recruits and transfers. Green's 1993 recruiting class featured three freshmen, one sophomore transfer and three junior college transfers. Only one scholarship remained for next year and Green has filled it with freshman Mike Carson, a 6-foot-10 center. Sampson said he likes what he's seen of Green's system so far.

"Oregon is showing continued improvement," Sampson said. "They play hard and enthusiastic, and that says a lot about coach Green. I know what he's going through."

Bender said his team also resembles what Green has done in Eugene.

"Jerry gets his kids to believe," said Bender, who left Illinois State to join the Huskies. "When you take over a program, you don't have your own personnel but you still teach players the fundamentals of the system. That's what's happening at Oregon and the kids are understanding what Jerry wants. He began to build last year, and he's getting good players."

Bender's job has been tough from the start, as he lost his three leading scorers from a year ago. Forward Mark Pope transferred to Kentucky, guard Prentiss Perkins was kicked off the team, and guard Bryant Boston redshirted. Bender said he has set two main goals for his team this season.

"Improvement is the number one goal," Bender said. "Also, I want it so teams don't enjoy playing us because we are always playing hard, and we have been doing that. When you are building, that's part of the foundation."

Bender said that although his team has struggled at the start, he is pleased with its attitude. Often when a team learns a new system and positive results don't show up in the standings, a team gets frustrated, but Bender said that hasn't happened to the Huskies.

"The team has been ready to play each game and believes they have a chance to win each game," Bender said.

Green said he understands what Bender is doing, because it was just a year ago that he was in a similar situation.

"Bob's in the same position I was in last year, but he had a few scholarships to give when he took over," he said.

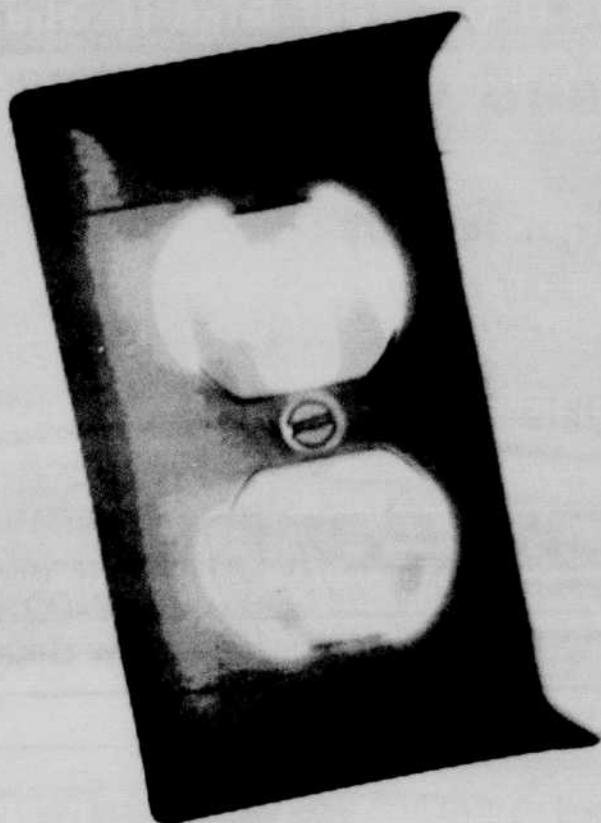
Bender has already begun using those scholarships and is excited about the players he's bringing in. Four freshmen signed with Washington in the early signing period, including a pair of 6-11 centers. In addition, center Mike Amos transferred from Creighton, and Jason Hamilton did the same from San Diego State. Those two are practicing with the team, though they can't play games until next year.

"I like adding the transfers because they get a year to practice with us," Bender said. "We have six new players joining us along with Boston, who is redshirting. The future is beneficial as our players are gaining experience."

While optimistic about the possibilities of a bright future, Bender refuses to give up on a successful campaign this year.

"We make no excuses this season," Bender said. "It's too easy to look to the future and forget about the present. You build for the future but also ingrain that with what you do everyday."

As Sampson knows, and Green is finding out, that can be a tall challenge.



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"The Energy Outlet"—a new energy conservation information center sponsored by Lane County's public utilities and the Bonneville Power Administration—will open in downtown Eugene in spring, 1994.

The store will help Lane County electric customers make wise energy choices by promoting energy conservation, energy education and electrical product efficiency. Bonneville is working with Eugene Water & Electric Board, Springfield Utility Board, Emerald People's Utility District and Blachly-Lane Electric Cooperative in developing and constructing the new information outlet.

The outlet will look much like a standard retail store. However, unlike a retail store, the outlet will not sell products, but will inform customers about where and what to buy for energy efficiency. The Energy Outlet will display and promote energy-efficient products — many of which are not commonly offered — and show how best to use these products and where they can be purchased.

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the Energy Outlet