

Runge signs 6-foot-2 JC transfer

By Scott Simonson
Oregon Daily Emerald

The Oregon women's basketball team has signed its first recruit during the spring signing period, but head coach Jody Runge said Wednesday she will not use all of her available scholarships this spring.

Cicely Brewster, a 6-foot-2 forward from Los Angeles Valley College in Southern California, has signed a national letter of intent to play at Oregon.

The 1993-94 season was Brewster's first at the junior college. She has three years of eligibility remaining. Brewster averaged 10 points, 10 rebounds and four blocked shots per game as a freshman.

Runge has seven more scholarships available but she said that Oregon expects to have scholarships available when next season begins.

"The way we're looking at it, and it may not be the way everyone is looking at it, is that the majority of the Division I, Pac-10-caliber players signed during the early signing period (last November)," Runge said.

Considering the circumstances surrounding the Oregon program last November, Runge said she is not surprised that Oregon signed no players. The Ducks were a team with an untested new coach and a program with questions about which direction it was headed in. Members of one of the best classes of high school talent in the state's history headed elsewhere.

Oregon's ability to recruit has been enhanced by

its NCAA tournament berth last season, but the West Coast is a very competitive recruiting field, Runge said. The demand for major-college talent is exceeding the supply of quality players.

During the spring signing period, which began April 13, Oregon wants to ensure it does not use scholarships unwisely, Runge said.

"With what's out there right now, we're just trying to be very careful that we're not making an investment in anyone that we're going to turn around and recruit over in the fall. ... We absolutely will not give all the scholarships that we have," she said.

With available talent lacking on the high school level, Runge said Oregon is taking a hard look at bringing in junior college transfers. In the junior colleges, the Ducks are looking for players who can step in and help immediately or who will accept a backup's role for two years, Runge said.

Oregon has received a "tremendous response" from walk-ons, so finding players to fill out Oregon's roster will not be a problem. "We're not concerned about numbers," she said.

The Ducks lost their three best players to graduation. Four others have left the team. "The group that's returning is a pretty strong group. They really came on at the end of the season," she said.

Runge cautioned that recruits require time to learn the system that the returners already know.

"I told them, 'If you think someone's going to come in here from the recruiting class and get the job done, you're sadly mistaken,'" she said.



Oregon women's basketball coach Jody Runge signed one recruit in the spring, but says she may wait until fall to sign some others.

Letting people in on the secrets of golfing

So why do people play golf? It's a better use of spare time than terrorism. It gives people something to talk about when they finish playing. It's a quest for a fleeting moment of perfection. As addictions go, it's pretty harmless.

To some, golf is an existential riddle steeped in tradition, a mystery that isn't easily explained. People who don't play golf don't understand it, either.

As a public service announcement to those who don't understand golf, here are a few myths and misconceptions about the game that can be easily cleared up.

Golfers wear bad pants. This image is a hangover from the 1970s, when golfers did wear bad pants. But if you were paying attention back then, you noticed everyone else also was wearing bad pants.

The proper attire for golf is baggy shorts, wingtips with golf spikes and a T-shirt. To avoid unsightly tan lines, adjust your wardrobe accordingly. You aren't allowed to wear anything bearing a logo until you sign an endorsement contract or win your first tour event.

Golf visors are cool. Golf visors are dumb. No great player has ever won anything important while wearing one. Jones, Hagen, Hogan, Nelson and Nicklaus didn't wear them. Watson started wearing them after he lost his game. The best players



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in the world today don't wear them, either. Mickelson, Price and Faldo all bare their heads.

The only reason to wear a hat with a hole in the top is that somebody is paying you money to do this. As the old saying goes, if you can't show off your endorsement check when people laugh at your funny hat, then take off your funny hat.

Golf is a sport. Golf is just a game, an odd, bewildering game. Golf is more than a game. Therein lies the contradiction. It's closer to fly-fishing than baseball or basketball. It's an exercise in concentration and self-mastery combined with patience, skill and discipline.

But unlike most sports, golf contains all three great literary conflicts: man against man, man against self and man against nature. On a more pragmatic note, golf is one of the few activities where people can claim to be exercising while smoking or drinking or doing both at the same time.

Golfers are good athletes. Not really. If golfers are good athletes, then why aren't good ath-

letes also good golfers? Michael Jordan is only slightly better at golf than he is at baseball. Golfers may look like John Kruk, but Kruk hits a baseball traveling 90 miles an hour while 60,000 people yell at him. Golfers insist that the ball doesn't move and they want everyone to be quiet.

Golf requires some physical skill, and good golfers may have natural gifts or athletic ability that make the game easier. The golf swing does require timing, balance and concentration, but so does walking in a straight line or opening a door. Golf isn't easy, and athletic ability doesn't make it easier.

Golf is what used to be known as a "gentleman's game." On the contrary, golf may be the best way to swear loudly and often in public and receive complete social approval. Gambling is always allowed and often encouraged.

Golf courses are bad for the environment. Golf courses are always spraying pesticides, some will say. Those pesticides, herbicides to be exact, are both expensive and inconvenient for courses. Anything that can be done to eliminate their use saves money and effort.

Golf courses aren't bad for the environment. Thousands of single-car drivers in a city with excellent bicycle paths and a good public transportation system are bad for the environment. Not recycling is bad for the envi-

ronment. A large expanse of grass and trees isn't quite bad for the environment.

Golf courses are a waste of good land. Most courses are built and operated on private property. Some may complain that golf courses do not allow for equal access to recreational activities for all people. Yes, and the grass at Yankee Stadium is nice and green, but you don't go for a walk there while people are playing.

Golf courses aren't useless to the general public. The city of Portland uses some of the revenues from its courses to help support the performing arts. It's also trying to use revenues to sustain athletic programs that would otherwise be cut from public schools.

Television golf is popular. The only reason it's on the tube every week is that luxury automobile manufacturers know their market watches at the bar of the country club after a weekend 18.

Caddyshack is the best golf movie ever made. Caddyshack is the best movie ever made. In the English language. Except for maybe Citizen Kane.

What's so important about golf? In a better world, everyone would golf. Then again, that might make the courses too crowded. Sometimes it's best to keep a secret.

Scott Simonson is a sports reporter for the Emerald

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