

## Rumors swirl for two coaching futures



KRIS HENRY

This season in Oregon sports has been one of a tale of two coaches. Both of whom have been around Duck sports for many years and have fallen on hard times lately. Then came the rumors.

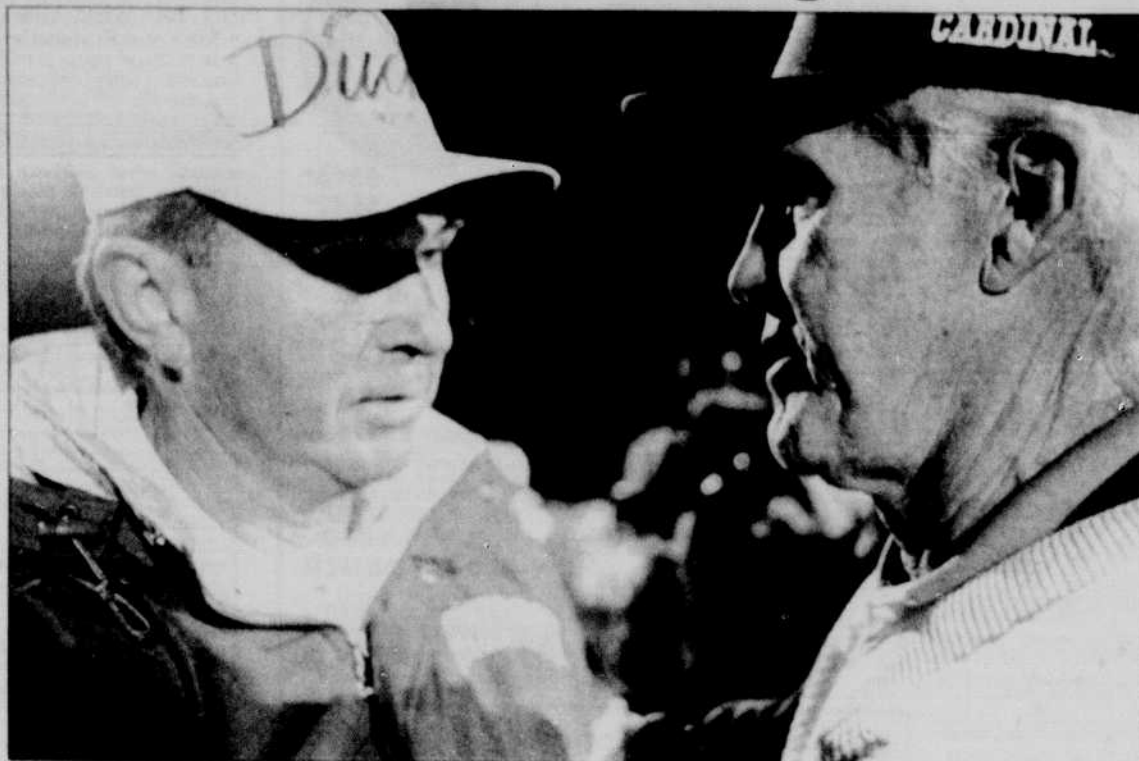
One coach took the reigns of his team and, after seven contests, immediately eclipsed the win total of the previous season. This bolt out of the gates led most to believe that the recent losing trend was no more.

The other coach got caught up in the starter's gate and stumbled to a less than impressive beginning to his season, causing many to wonder whether the hanging guillotine was soon to fall on this withering legend.

Whispers beget whispers. Then came the turnaround. Both coaches led their teams into battle in the Pac-10 and only one team came out a survivor.

Gerry Gregory, the Oregon volleyball head coach, entered his ninth conference schedule with a glimmer of hope and ends league play this weekend thankful that the bleeding will finally stop. Gregory's team went into league play with a daunting 6-2 overall record and, with two Pac-10 games remaining at press time, is limping out with a 7-20 record. The dark side of this season's conference play included a twelve-match losing skid.

Rich Brooks, the Oregon foot-



Head football coach Rich Brooks has put to rest any talk about his coaching future with the Oregon team. His successes this year have taken the Ducks to within one game of going to the Rose Bowl.

ball head coach, entered his 18th conference schedule with an injury riddled squad. His team of opportunity has answered every call to action but one with a final Civil War battle still to come. A team that crawled into league play at 2-2 has persevered and, with the Oregon State rivalry still to come, has an 8-3 overall record and the chance to grab a Rose Bowl bid that has eluded the Duck program for 37 years.

So, as the sunset falls on another Oregon fall sporting season, the thought lingers — who should stay and who should go?

In 15 years as a major-college head coach, Gregory has had

five losing seasons (all at Oregon). The 42-year-old former Olympic and U.S. National team member was accorded the highest honor by being named to the USVBA Hall of Fame in 1984. Gregory has taken three of his nine Oregon teams to the NCAA Tournament and has had three upper-division finishes in the nation's most competitive volleyball conference. He currently sports a 115-141 Oregon mark and a 241-233-3 mark overall.

Brooks ends his 18th season as head football coach, the longest tenure in Oregon history, with the opportunity to go to his first Rose Bowl. At press time, Brooks has amassed a 90-

108-4 mark since 1977. Earlier this season, he was selected as a finalist for National Coach of the Year honors by *Football News*. Before the 1994 season, Brooks was also the author of twice as many two-win seasons as eight-win seasons (four to two).

What is the deciding factor to when and why a coach gets fired? Is there a guideline with a checklist that determines if the ax should fall? Where does the media and public response fit into the picture?

As the months have gone by since Rich Brooks stepped down

Turn to HENRY, Page 12

TUESDAY

November 15, 1994  
Volume 96 Issue 56

## Duck Notes

## Belden collects weekly honor

Oregon kicker Matt Belden was named the Hertz/Pac-10 special teams Player of the Week.

Belden, a freshman from Glendale, Ariz., played a key role in Oregon's 55-21 win at Stanford that kept the Ducks in the driver's seat for a Rose Bowl berth. Belden averaged 40.8 yards on five punts with three kicks pinning Stanford inside its own seven-yard line. He also connected on two field goals from 27 and 34 yards.

It marked the second time this season that Belden garnered player of the week honors.

Other Ducks nominated for the weekly honors were Danny O'Neil and Alex Molden.

## AP TOP 25

## Basketball poll

|                  |                  |
|------------------|------------------|
| 1. Arkansas      | 14. Virginia     |
| 2. N. Carolina   | 15. Georgetown   |
| 3. Massachusetts | 16. Michigan     |
| 4. Kentucky      | 17. Wisconsin    |
| 5. Arizona       | 18. Alabama      |
| 6. UCLA          | 19. Connecticut  |
| 7. Maryland      | 20. Michigan St. |
| 8. Duke          | 21. Oklahoma St. |
| 9. Indiana       | 22. Villanova    |
| 10. Florida      | 23. Georgia Tech |
| 11. Kansas       | 24. Wake Forest  |
| 12. Syracuse     | 25. Illinois     |
| 13. Cincinnati   |                  |

## Women's basketball looks to repeat last season

Mark McTyre

Oregon Daily Emerald

Tonight the Oregon women's basketball team will open its preseason against the Hungarian National team at 7 p.m. at McArthur Court.

The Ducks are looking to improve on their outstanding mark of 20-9 of a year ago. This year's team features only two returning starters, Jessica Schutt and Karen Healea, along with six returning letter winners and six newcomers.

Last season was a miracle season for the Ducks. Few Oregon basketball enthusiasts could ever have envisioned the magnitude of the impact that head coach Jody Runge would have on the Ducks in her first year. She took over a lackluster 9-18 squad that tied for a last place Pacific-10 Conference finish the previous year.

All she did was transform a program, which had not experienced the joys of a winning season in four years, into one which placed third in the league standings, tied for the nation's sixth-biggest one-season turnaround a year ago, and finished with the Pac-10's best about-face in women's basketball annals.

Although Runge walked into a situation where there was no place to go but up, she

now faces the pressure of producing an encore to last year's second-round NCAA tournament appearance.

"I didn't feel any pressure on me last season, but there is certainly more pressure on us this year because of that success," Runge said.

With the pressure on Runge, where does she turn?

The Ducks lost four-year starters Missy Croshaw, Debbie Sporich and Sara Wilson, who departed as three of the best players in school history. What remains are six letter winners who only accounted for 38 percent of last year's scoring totals and 37 percent of the team's rebounding.

"When I took this job, people assumed there would be a rebuilding phase, and we still are in a young mode," Runge said. "We have some very young players who are going to have to step up into some big roles. It's very dependent on their ability to mature and be consistent within those roles that is going to be the measure of our success."

Last season the majority of the Ducks' scoring came from the inside game, but this year the Ducks will rely more heavily on the outside shooting of Schutt.

Schutt is the women's top returning scorer, averaging 10.8 points a game while lead-

ing the Pac-10 in free throw percentage (83.6%) and ranking fourth in three-point field goal accuracy (40.2%) a year ago.

The 5-foot-9 shooter set school records for three-point baskets made (8) and attempted (14) in one game as well as season free throw percentage. She earned conference player-of-the-week honors during the final week of the regular season with her 34-point explosion at USC marking the Ducks best single-game output in five years.

Healea, the other returning starter, led the team in steals (1.6 avg.), in addition to averaging six points a game from her off-guard post a year ago.

Although Oregon may be hard-pressed to match last year's surge, Runge is convinced the program's renewed success is more than a temporary departure from some of the recent hard times.

"Our returning players have tasted the success, and have tasted how hard we had to work and how committed they had to be to get that success," Runge said.

With the task already being difficult, the schedule will not make it any easier. The Ducks will face as many as four non-conference opponents who advanced to last year's NCAA tournament in addition to the Pac-10 grind that, last year, placed five teams in postseason play.

## Sport Shorts

## McNall to face fraud charges

LOS ANGELES (AP) — Felony charges that could bring up to 45 years in prison were filed Monday against Los Angeles Kings president Bruce McNall, following an investigation of alleged fraud involving nearly \$236 million in loans from six banks.

Peter Spivack, an assistant U.S. attorney, said McNall was expected to plead guilty to the charges: one count of conspiracy; two counts of bank fraud and one count of wire fraud, for allegedly defrauding the banks from January 1983 to April 1994.

McNall is scheduled for arraignment Nov. 28 before a U.S. magistrate. If convicted of all charges, he would face a minimum fine of at least \$1.75 million, and Spivack said the fine could be much higher.