



Mr. ROSE BOWL

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Oregon Daily Emerald

It was March 3, 1917. Fresh off a Rose Bowl victory, Oregon football coach Hugo Bezdek announced plans for a two-year leave of absence to get a degree at the Chicago School of Medicine before returning to the University.

The *Oregon Emerald* ran a front page story in which Bezdek assured the school that he would return as the director of athletics upon completion of his schooling.

"When he completes his studies he will no doubt sign a new contract giving him full supervision of the department," the *Emerald* reported March 3, 1917.

Bezdek, more commonly known on campus as "Bez," gave his final words in the paper as he thanked those that befriended him at Oregon.

"It was simply a matter of bettering myself," Bezdek said. "I want to further my work in medicine to get my doctor's degree. I have several warm friends at (Oregon) I was considering."

It was common knowledge that Bezdek was held in high regard by many interested schools looking for a head coach following his 14-0 Rose Bowl victory over Pennsylvania just a few months earlier.

Nonetheless, Bezdek was expected to

return to Oregon. It was never to be, however.

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As Oregon prepares for its first Rose Bowl since 1958 and hopes for its first victory in the game since Bezdek's 1917 squad, they do it against the school that wound up benefiting from Bezdek's services in much the same way.

In 1918, just over a year after leaving Oregon and after he coached the Mare Island Marines to the 1918 Rose Bowl, Bezdek returned to coaching, jumping ship to Penn State.

Bezdek's coaching magic continued in Pennsylvania. From 1919-1921, he led Penn State to an amazing 22-1-4 record. Bezdek did his part in establishing Penn State as a football power, allowing only five points per game in that span while scoring over 24. Always a firm believer that defense was the most important aspect of football, his motto in those days was "if they can't score on you, they can't beat you."

Pasadena would not elude Bezdek much longer as he made his third trip to Southern California with as many teams, taking his 1923 Penn State team to its first-ever Rose Bowl. Bezdek's team lost to Southern Cal 14-3, but he proved once again that he could take yet another team



Hugo Bezdek led both Oregon and Penn State to Rose Bowls in the early 1900s.

UNIVERSITY ARCHIVES

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The University of Oregon Alumni Association

congratulates the

1994 Pac-10 Champions

The Oregon Football Team

We're Rose Bowl Bound!