



Brooks leaves after 18 years

Possible replacements singled out



CHRIS METZ

Life without Rich Brooks will be odd

It's hard to imagine the University of Oregon without Rich Brooks, but that's exactly what it is three days after he made the announcement that he would be leaving the school after 18 years at the helm of the Ducks.

It's kind of a strange feeling. There's always been talk of Brooks leaving, or when he would leave. But now that that time has come, it's difficult to comprehend.

His critics, so many in the past but reduced a great deal by a trip to the Rose Bowl in 1994, can now celebrate their ultimate wish come true.

His fans and supporters no doubt wish him well as it appears he will be fed to the sharks with probably the worst team in the NFL.

Most people are shocked by the move. Some can't believe that Brooks, who has become such an institution in regards to Oregon athletics, would leave Eugene. Others can't believe that the coach of the University of Oregon, not exactly synonymous with legendary football greatness, would even be considered for an NFL job, especially when names like Mike Ditka were being thrown around.

The plain truth is that Brooks is well respected as a coach. Talk to any of the other head coaches in the Pac-10 and they'll tell you that the success

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Trevor Kearney
Oregon Daily Emerald

The departure of former Oregon football coach Rich Brooks has left athletic director Dan Williams with a huge hole to fill, but several candidates got the ball rolling early by expressing interest in the position.

Offensive coordinator Mike Bellotti, defensive coordinator Nick Aliotti and assistant head coach Neal Zoumboukos have expressed interest in the job, Williams said, but no formal interviews or decisions have been made.

And, according to Williams, Denny Schuler, Bob Toledo and Terry Shea are names that were suggested to him as possible candidates.

"Those six people are people that I have been asked to consider," Williams said, adding that the list was not an official list of candidates, and that he has received several more suggestions. "My phone hasn't stopped ringing."

With spring practice nearing and uncertainty among incoming recruits and the coaching staff, the decision will be made sometime in the near future, Williams said, but no date has been officially set.

"This is going to be an important decision," Williams said. "I'm not anxious to set a date because if I miss it I will get bombarded."

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After a successful Rose Bowl season with the Ducks, Rich Brooks now takes over a Rams team that went 4-12 last season and will move to St. Louis for the 1995 season.

St. Louis learning about new head coach

Chris Metz
Oregon Daily Emerald

As sports crazy St. Louis awaits final league approval that would bring the Rams east from Los Angeles, news that the franchise had decided on former Oregon head coach Rich Brooks as the team's new head coach spread fast.

The news has been met with mixed emotions in St. Louis, as a general lack of knowledge as to who Rich Brooks is seems to prevail. Oregon's Rose Bowl success shed some light on the veteran coach's abilities, but with NFL names like Mike Ditka and Ernie Zampese on the Rams' list, the appointment of Brooks as the new head coach has the town talking.

At Ozzie's, a sports bar in St. Louis, the news was the hot topic of conversation on Friday and Saturday. Patrick O'Keefe, a server at the bar owned by St. Louis Cardinal Ozzie Smith, said the news has been met with mixed reviews by sports fans in the area. O'Keefe said a lot of people were hoping for a more high-profile coach, but most people understand that the Rams, already a struggling franchise, had finan-

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Students have mixed emotions about departure

Rebecca Merritt
Oregon Daily Emerald

University students seem to understand Rich Brooks' decision to leave the Ducks to coach the LA Rams.

But that doesn't mean he won't be missed. "I think it's good for him but unfortunate for us," senior Spanish major Jon Smith said. "He left at the top, which is what I would have done."

Adrian Parker, a sophomore pre-business major, agrees.

"I think it sucks for the school, but if he's going on to bigger and better things then it's good for him," Parker said.

Students at Saturday's basketball game were pretty much unanimous in their decision that

a chance to lead an NFL team is a good enough reason to ditch the Ducks.

Kevin Allen, a sophomore pre-journalism major, has nothing but praise for the coach.

"I'm definitely sorry to see him go because of everything he did for us," Allen said.

Mike Eadie, a sophomore business major, said he favors the move because the Rams are in need of a good coach like Brooks.

However, not every student is part of the Rich Brooks Fan Club. Some say they are surprised that the Rams picked Brooks for the job.

"His record hasn't been that great here," said freshman Mark Pattalochi.

Other students question what effects the change in head coach will have on the new

recruits.

"I wonder what all the recruits are saying about him now," freshman Dominic Cofresi said.

But with or without Brooks, students say Oregon will still be a good team next year.

"We still have [Nick] Aliotti and all the other coaches so we'll be all right," said Chris Fogarty, a freshman psychology major.

Who do they want as Brooks' replacement?

Although Brooks has recommended offensive coordinator Mike Bellotti, defensive coordinator Aliotti was the popular choice among students.

"I'd be surprised if they didn't hire him," said Pattalochi, about Aliotti.

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USA TODAY-CNN Top 25

The USA Today-CNN basketball coaches' poll, with first-place votes in parentheses, records through Feb. 12, total points based on 25 points for a first-place vote through one point for a 25th-place vote, and previous ranking:

	Record	Pts	Pvs
1 Connecticut(16)	19-1	807	4
2 North Carolina(10)	19-2	794	1
3 Kansas(3)	18-3	759	2
tie Kentucky(3)	17-3	759	3
5 Massachusetts(1)	18-2	734	5
6 UCLA	16-2	674	6
7 Maryland(1)	19-4	664	10
8 Michigan State	17-3	587	7
9 Syracuse	17-4	531	9
10 Arizona	18-5	499	8
11 Missouri	18-3	461	12
12 Arkansas	19-5	449	11
13 Arizona State	18-5	402	14
14 Wake Forest	15-5	396	13
15 Villanova	17-5	328	18
16 Virginia	16-6	277	17
17 Georgia Tech	15-8	233	15
18. Oregon	14-5	189	20
19 Stanford	15-5	181	16
20 Oklahoma St	16-7	141	—
21 Brigham Young	20-5	138	—
22 Georgetown	14-6	110	19
23 Iowa State	18-6	106	21
24 Purdue	16-6	89	25
25 Minnesota	16-6	87	24

Others receiving votes: New Mexico St. 84, Alabama 60, Mississippi St 51, Utah 47, Utah St. 45, Cincinnati 35, Penn 31, Texas 27, W. Kentucky 26, Xavier, Ohio 24, Tulsa 23, Louisville 19, Memphis 18, Miami, Ohio 18, Oklahoma 15, Florida 13, Illinois 10, Temple 10, Tulane 10, DePaul 9, Indiana 9, Manhattan 9, Nebraska 9, Iowa 8, Michigan 8, Texas-El Paso 8, Virginia Tech 8, Saint Louis 7, NC-Greenboro 4, California 3, New Orleans 3, Ark.-Little Rock 2, George Washington 1, Idaho St. 1, Long Beach St. 1

STANDINGS		
Men's basketball		
	CON.	OVERALL
UCLA	9-2	16-2
Arizona	8-3	18-5
Arizona St.	8-3	18-5
Oregon	6-4	14-5
Stanford	6-5	15-5
WSU	6-5	11-8
California	4-7	12-8
Oregon St.	3-7	6-13
USC	2-9	7-14
Washington	2-9	6-13
Sunday's game		
California 74, Arizona 72		

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