



The Bellotti era begins at Oregon

Kris Henry
Oregon Daily Emerald

With Monday's announcement, the Mike Bellotti era has officially begun at Oregon.

Bellotti takes over a program that hasn't had to accept a new head football coach in 18 years and hasn't had to face the possibility of making a return trip to the Rose Bowl in 37 years.

So how does Bellotti feel about being a part of this ground-breaking endeavor?

"I think we have a tremendous challenge ahead of us," Bellotti said. "Getting to the top is hard, but staying on top is harder. I think we've set a very positive expectation in terms of Oregon football that we will work very hard to uphold."

"It's nice to know that you're going to charter the ship. That, in itself, is a factor that fills me with a certain sense of accomplishment and satisfaction and then in the other, a certain amount of awe and fear."

However, the former offensive



Mike Bellotti was given the head coaching position at Oregon on Monday and faces the challenge of taking the Ducks to a second straight Rose Bowl.

GARY GRASS/Emerald

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Decision OK with pair of recruits

Trevor Kearney
Oregon Daily Emerald

While the departure of Rich Brooks and the hiring of Mike Bellotti as head coach of the Oregon football team promises to bring some changes to Oregon football, none are expected to be drastic enough to alter any of the Ducks' new recruits' decisions to come to Eugene.

The recruits are bound to come to Oregon by the letters of intent that they signed on Feb. 1, so if they choose not to follow through on that promise, they would lose a year of eligibility. If any of the recruits decided to go to another Division I school, they would have to sit the football season out.

They could, however, go to a junior college or a lower division school, and they would be able to play football, but they would still lose one season of Division I eligibility.

"I'm going to talk to all of the recruits personally," Bellotti said at Monday's conference. "They can choose not to come to Oregon, but I don't think they will. Most of them feel fairly comfortable."

Bellotti said because of the other factors that went into the recruits' decisions, the Ducks will probably not lose any of their incoming fresh-

men.

"The reason they chose Eugene was a combination of the coaching staff, the academic environment and Eugene itself. I think that hasn't changed that much," Bellotti said.

"Obviously we are losing a great coach in coach Brooks, but the people that recruited them and the people that will coach them will still be here, and to my knowledge everybody is fine with that."

Brooks' decision came as a surprise to Brandon McLemore, the incoming high school defensive back from Torrance, Calif. and the brother of Oregon flanker Cristin McLemore. But it did not change his decision to go to Oregon.

"It was a shock because (Brooks) told us that he would be here," the younger McLemore said. "But I'm happy for him because he gets to coach at the highest level."

And, McLemore said, the promotion of an Oregon coach was the thing to do.

"I'm glad they kept it internal. The overall strategy will probably stay the same because the team was so successful last season," he said.

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Top trio earn recognition at third-annual ESPY awards

NEW YORK (AP) — Jeff Bagwell of the Houston Astros, Mark Messier of the New York Rangers and Charlotte Smith of the North Carolina women's basketball team each won two ESPY Awards Monday night on ESPN.

The two top ESPY Awards went to San Francisco 49ers quarterback Steve Young as male athlete of the year and Olympic gold-medal winning speed skater Bonnie Blair as female athlete of the year.

The ESPY's were given out for the third year. Part of the proceeds goes to The V Foundation for cancer research, established in memory of the late Jim Valvano.

Bagwell accepted his awards for baseball player of the year and breakthrough athlete of the year.

Messier won NHL player of the year, best performance under pressure and was on the outstanding team of the year.

Smith was named women's college basketball player of the year and was awarded the play of the year as well for her buzzer beater against Louisiana Tech in the women's final.

Repeat winners from 1994 were Nick Price, golfer of the year, and Pete Sampras, tennis player of the year.

In an award announced earlier, ailing broadcaster Howard Cosell received the Arthur Ashe Award for Courage. Bill Cosby accepted the award on his behalf.

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The Top Twenty Five By The Associated Press

The top 25 teams in The Associated Press' college basketball 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	Prv
1. Connecticut(50)	19-1	1,626	3
2. North Carolina(6)	19-2	1,527	1
3. Kansas(3)	18-3	1,464	2
4. Kentucky(6)	17-3	1,441	5
5. Massachusetts	18-2	1,431	4
6. UCLA	16-2	1,354	6
7. Maryland(1)	19-4	1,306	8
8. Michigan St.	17-3	1,099	7
9. Missouri	18-3	971	13
10. Arkansas	19-5	965	12
11. Syracuse	17-4	956	10
12. Arizona	18-5	911	9
13. Arizona St.	18-5	889	14
14. Wake Forest	15-5	819	11
15. Villanova	17-5	805	16
16. Virginia	16-6	706	17
17. Stanford	15-5	377	15
18. Alabama	17-5	360	23
19. Oregon	14-5	344	22
20. Georgia Tech	15-8	298	18
21. Iowa St.	18-6	289	19
22. Oklahoma St.	16-7	265	24
23. Mississippi St.	15-5	218	21
24. Minnesota	16-6	163	—
25. Purdue	16-6	151	25

Other receiving votes: Brigham Young 134, Georgetown 130, Xavier, Ohio 62, Utah 52, W. Kentucky 42, Utah St. 32, Oklahoma 31, California 29, Penn 23, Memphis 21, St. Louis 21, N.C. Charlotte 17, Virginia Tech 15, Santa Clara 14, Texas 14, New Mexico St. 11, Tulane 11, Auburn 10, George Washington 9, Illinois 9, Manhattan 8, Florida 5, Texas-El Paso 5, Miami, Ohio 3, Tulsa 3, Nebraska 2, Indiana 1, Ohio U. 1.

Bennett grabs player of the week in Pac-10

WALNUT CREEK, Calif. (AP) — Arizona State forward Mario Bennett is the Pacific-10 conference's player of the week for Feb. 6-13, the conference announced Monday.

Bennett totaled 44 points and nine rebounds in the Sun Devils' sweep of visiting California and Stanford.

He scored a season high 31 points against the Bears on Thursday, then recorded his seventh "double-double" of the season with 13 points and 10 rebounds against the Cardinal on Saturday.

It was the second time Bennett, a junior, has earned the award. He won it previously in February 1992 as a freshman.

CLUB NOTES

Joel Hood
For the Oregon Daily Emerald

After a brief intermission, the University rugby team began the second half of its season in ominous fashion, losing all four of its first round matches at a stormy tournament in Portland last weekend.

"It was a disappointing way to start our season," said team president Chris Lampe. "I thought we should have beaten a couple of teams."

Injuries plagued Oregon throughout the fall season and continue to play a major role as several key backs were unavailable for this tournament.

"We basically beat ourselves," Lampe said. "We were missing a

couple of starters on defense and that really hurt us. We didn't have many players with competition experience."

Oregon lost in each of its four first round matchups. The University of British Columbia, Central Washington University, Reed College and nationally ranked BYU were able to take advantage of Oregon mistakes and missed tackles.

The Rugby team's next match will be this Saturday at the South Bank field against Portland St.

... Last weekend's "Ero-O-Mania" rowing machine competition in Seattle played host to some of the Northwest's top

rowing teams, including both the men's and women's team from the University.

The women's novice open-weight team raced to a second place finish on Saturday, losing by only three tenths of a second to Pacific Lutheran University.

In the men's light-weight division Oregon took home another second place despite the absence of one of their rowers. Amy Piasek-Kluge, a member of the women's light-weight team, filled in and helped muscle the team to second place.

In the women's light-weight division, Oregon raced strong and captured a third place overall ranking.