

FOOTBALL

OREGON VS PACIFIC

The football experts?



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Awwwwww, come on.

You can do better than these "experts."

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FOOTBALL

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Ceremony will honor Brooks' achievements

■ **BROOKS:** The field at Autzen Stadium will be named after the Oregon coach before the Pacific game

By Chris Stewart
Sports Reporter

For his service of eighteen years as the head coach of the Oregon football team, Rich Brooks will be recognized by the athletic department, Oregon fans and players Saturday.

A ceremony in Brooks' honor will be held at 12:40, twenty minutes prior to kickoff of the game against Pacific. Brooks will receive a memento and the field of Autzen Stadium will be officially named Rich Brooks Field.

"Our staff decided to (honor Brooks this way) last spring," head sports information director Steve Hellyer said. "We did it in light of the fact that he had done so much for the program, not only as a coach, but for two years as athletics director."

Brooks stepped down as athletics director prior to the 1994 season so that he could focus all of his attention on football. The decision proved to be a good one as the Ducks finished the season 9-4 and made their first appearance in the Rose Bowl in 37 years.

"We decided to honor him because of his winning record and his long tenure with us," Hellyer said. "He's a great representative of our school."

Along with the bowl appearances, one of Brooks' best statistics is his impressive and important 14-2-1 record against rival Oregon State. In a state where national recruiting isn't as good as some more televised places, the in-state recruits are a necessity. Those "Civil War" victories helped Oregon to lure the local talent and improve its program while Oregon State's program has struggled.

Brooks won many coaching awards during his tenure with

the Ducks. Following the 1979 season he was awarded three honors: Pacific-10 Conference Coach of the year, American Football Coaches Association District IX Coach of the Year and the Slates Gill Award, awarded to Oregon's sportsman of the year. He also won the award as Oregon's top sports figure for 1989.

After leading his 1994 squad to a 9-3 regular season record, Brooks earned national coach of year accolades, beating out Joe Paterno of Penn State and Tom Osborne of national champion Nebraska, both of whom had undefeated teams.

Brooks' teams have provided many memorable games for Oregon fans. In 1990 the Ducks upset fourth-ranked BYU and Heisman Trophy winner Ty Detmer. A thrilling victory over Washington on a Terry Obee reverse for a last-second game-winning touchdown.

Most of the 1994 campaign kept fans on the edge of their seats, with fourth quarter come-from-behind victories over Oregon State, Arizona and, of course, Washington the legendary interception return by Kenny Wheaton to seal a hard-earned victory over Washington.

Brooks' style has worked well for him in his move to the NFL where he is the head coach of the St. Louis Rams. Brooks and his quarterback Chris Miller — a former Duck — have reunited to take the Rams to a surprising and impressive 4-1 record.

Brooks' Rams have a bye this weekend and that allowed him the time to come back to Oregon for the weekend. So he returns with his 4-1 record to find his former team sitting at 3-1.

Brooks and the Ducks are doing well for themselves without each other, but this weekend's ceremonies will be a nice reminder and fitting attribute of some of the great things that they accomplished together.

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