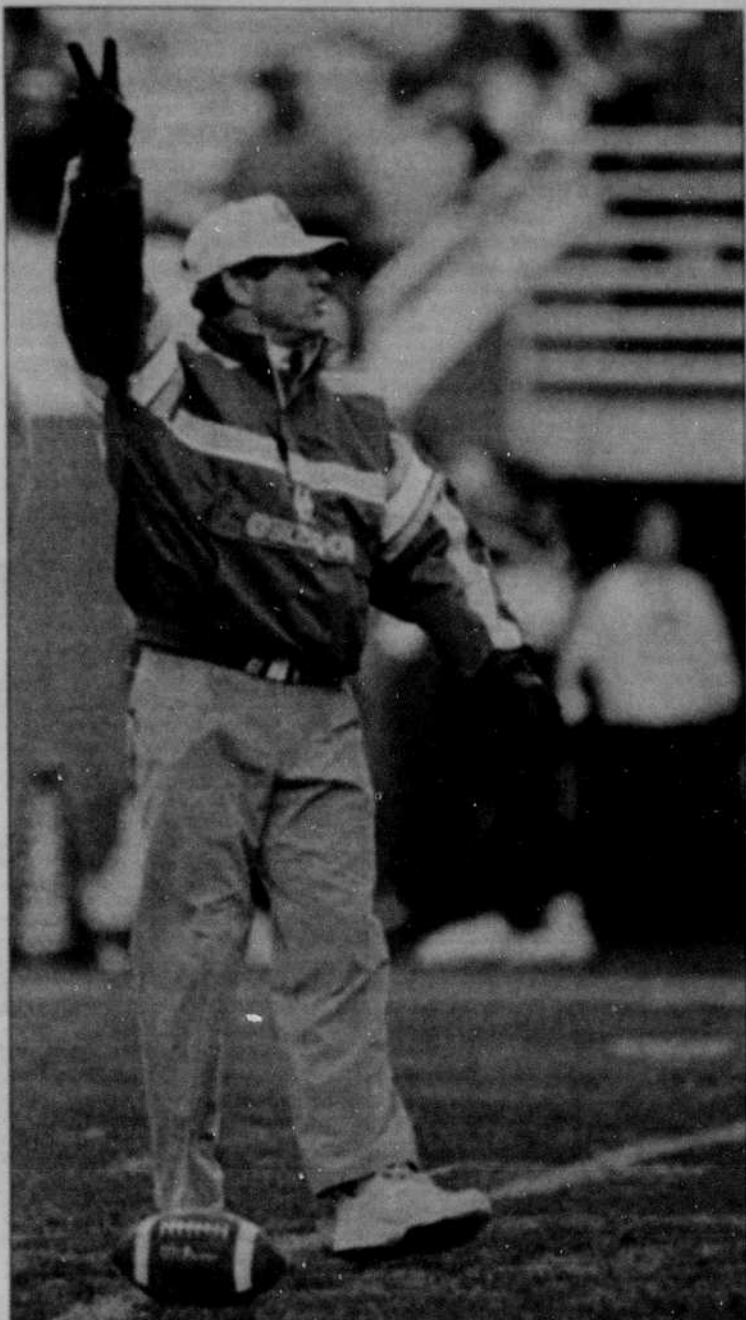


Personal conflict tears Waters from Oregon



Charlie Waters, who was hired as defensive coordinator last year, will not return to the Oregon football team next season.

■ **FOOTBALL:** The defensive coordinator leaves the Oregon staff only a year after accepting the position

By Trevor Kearney
Sports Editor

Charlie Waters resigned his defensive coordinator position at Oregon in the best interest of his family, head coach Mike Bellotti said at a news conference on Monday evening.

Waters' resignation comes just three months after his 17-year-old son Cody died in his sleep. According to a statement from Waters that Bellotti read, the Waters family will be moving to Texas to be close to family and cope with the loss of his son.

"It is with a great deal of sadness that I am making this announcement to leave the University of Oregon," Waters said in the statement. "Due to the loss of my beloved son Cody, I feel it is of the utmost importance to live near the comfort and support of close family members in Texas."

According to Bellotti, Waters was currently looking for housing and employment — either in or out of football — in the state of Texas.

"Obviously the circumstances of Charlie's departure are much different from the norm," Bellotti said. "I don't know that this decision is any more difficult than figuring a way to survive after losing a son."

"I think it was tough because he and his family truly loved Eugene," he said. "In times of stress you look towards family as a help and support system, and he feels that is the best course of action right now."

"I think he did feel that the most important thing for him at this point was to get his family back to a support system centered around the family in Texas. And in doing so, he put the needs of his family above his own professional and personal goals and I understand that and do support him."

Whether or not Waters will take a football coaching job in Texas, such as the Baylor or Texas Tech jobs he has been reportedly associated with, still remains to be seen.

"I know he has applied for several jobs in athletic administration, some football, some even outside the coaching realm. I will support him in any



WATERS

endeavor he chooses," Bellotti said.

In the months following Oregon's Cotton Bowl appearance, Waters future with the Ducks, and in Oregon, became unclear, as rumors swirled about the family's return to Texas.

Monday's announcement cleared those rumors up, however, and comes just over a week after the Ducks had filled the only hole in their coaching staff by naming Dirk Koetter the team's offensive coordinator, replacing Al Borges, who took the coordinator job at UCLA.

About two weeks ago, Waters informed Bellotti of his decision, but Bellotti wanted to hold the decision until after the Ducks chose the new offensive coordinator.

"I asked him to help me with the process of the selection of the offensive coordinator and to hold off on the announcement until I felt that we were in the position, from a program standpoint, to let that go," Bellotti said.

The head coach plans to find a replacement for Waters within the next few weeks, and has already talked to several possible candidates for the open job, including former Oregon State coach Rocky Long. However, Long took a job with UCLA last week.

While Waters leaves Oregon after just one year of coaching, he has had visible impact on the program.

"We have learned from a football standpoint some schemes that he will leave with us," Bellotti said. "There are some things he did and he will leave this team with, both from a coaching standpoint and a player relationship standpoint, that we will be better for."

Waters brought several new weapons to an already accomplished Oregon defense, the most notable of which were several blitzing schemes. Those improvements helped the Ducks lead the Pacific-10 Conference in defense and earned Oregon a No. 8 national ranking in rushing defense.

"He is very intelligent about the game of football," defensive lineman Mark Schmidt said. "He brought a whole different aspect. He taught the game of football excellently. You couldn't ask for a better coach."

"To tell you the truth, I am sad he is leaving," cornerback Kenny Wheaton said. "But family is first and being the man he is, he has to do what is right for his family, so I am behind him all the way and I wish him the best."

"But at the same time I have to admit I am going to miss him."

Both Oregon tennis teams enjoy success during rare homestand

■ **TENNIS:** The women beat Idaho, Seattle and Willamette on Sunday, and the men won too

By Ryan Frank
Freelance Sports Reporter

For the only time all year, both the Oregon men's and women's tennis teams were in town.

Idaho, Seattle and Willamette were in town for three matches in three days to face the Oregon women's team. Idaho's men's team also made the trip to Eugene for a Friday match.

On Friday, the Oregon women squeaked by Idaho 5-4, swept Seattle 9-0 on Saturday and didn't drop a set as it swept Willamette 9-0 on Sunday. The three wins move the Ducks to 9-2 for the season.

Oregon's top three singles players won their matches, including freshman Ali Napier. Napier, Oregon's No. 2 singles player, began a successful weekend with a win over Rachel Dive. No. 4 Hannah King and No. 5 Shanelle Kaneshiro dropped the only two singles matches for the Ducks.

On the doubles side, No. 2 Allison Sosnow and King won the only match for

Oregon with a win over Andrea Ehtling and Erin Wentworth.

After battling it out with Idaho, the Ducks easily defeated Seattle on Saturday. King started her streak of two straight matches without losing a game by taking care of Megan Joyce 6-0, 6-0. No. 5 Jamie Martin was the only Duck to go to three sets before edging out Marcie Scott.

On Sunday against Willamette, only No. 6 Cristi Craveiro was tested as the first set of her match went to a tie-breaker. Every other match was decided in straight sets. Napier didn't lose a game all day as she won her singles match 6-0, then teamed up with Craveiro to win their doubles match 8-0 at No. 3 doubles. Once again, King didn't drop a game as she defeated Laura Ragee.

Next weekend the women's team will travel to California for the third time this season; playing four matches in three days. Oregon will take on Cal Poly Pomona and Sacramento State on Friday, Cal Poly San Luis Obispo on Saturday and St. Mary's on Sunday. All four matches will take place in Moraga, Calif., the home of St. Mary's.



Freshman Ali Napier had a strong weekend, picking up wins on Friday and Sunday.

Portland doesn't need Strickland

Dear Mr. Rod Strickland,
As a Portland native and long-time supporter of the Trailblazers, I take offense at your recent behavior. If I have my facts

correct, you wanted to be traded before the NBA trading deadline because you don't like playing for the Blazer's head coach P.J. Carlesimo.

When the trading deadline came and went without the Blazer's front offices being able to work out a trade that was beneficial to the team, you vowed that your "days as a Blazer were over."

If I continue to have my facts correct, you then cursed out your team and Carlesimo at practice

OPINION



Pete Schneider

Turn to SCHNEIDER, Page 12

Turn to TENNIS, Page 12