

Holtz makes resignation from Notre Dame official

■ **COACH:** After 11 seasons, Lou Holtz is saying good-bye to the Fishing-Irish

By Nancy Armour
The Associated Press

SOUTH BEND, Ind. — Lou Holtz tried to treat this like any other Tuesday. If he tried hard enough, maybe he could convince himself he really wasn't leaving Notre Dame.

But his cover was blown as soon as he arrived for his weekly news conference. A cameraman reached out to hug Holtz as he passed, and the coach paused for a moment to return the embrace.

Then he walked onto the stage and confirmed what everyone already knew: After 11 seasons at Notre Dame, Lou Holtz is leaving.

"I feel worse than I've felt in a long time," he said. "I do not feel good about this at all. But I do think it's the right thing to do."

Holtz's successor hasn't been named, but the new coach is expected to be in place by early December.

Northwestern's Gary Barnett and Irish defensive coordinator Bob Davie are considered the top contenders for college football's glamour job.

On Tuesday, however, the focus was on Holtz, and he did things his way. He insisted on spending the first few minutes of the news conference discussing Saturday's game against Rutgers, his final appearance at Notre Dame Stadium. Only after he was finished would he address the subject everyone wanted to discuss.

For 75 minutes he talked about his love for the university and his players, and how honored he is to have coached here. He was calm and composed the entire time, his voice catching briefly when he talked about his players and his childhood.

He could give no explanation for why he is leaving, except that he thinks it's the right thing to do. He

said he's glad he won't break Knute Rockne's record of 105 victories at Notre Dame, but said that isn't why he's leaving.

Holtz is 99-29-2 at Notre Dame — six wins shy of tying Rockne's Irish school victory record — and 215-94-7 overall.

And despite rumors that he resigned to go to the NFL, possibly to the Minnesota Vikings, Holtz, 59, said he has no future plans. He still wants to coach, he just doesn't know where.

"I felt this would be the end of my life," he said, referring to his coaching tenure at Notre Dame. "It's hard for me to even think of coaching anywhere else. ... But if I feel the way I do today, I would still want to coach."

Though it was obvious Holtz is leaving Notre

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Benny Beaver: move over for Irish's TD Jesus

Dear Lou Holtz, Now that you have finally decided to leave South Bend, please, please consider taking Jerry Pettibone's place at Oregon State.

All of us in Orygun know that you are or will be getting a number of offers from both the NFL and the college ranks; and this offer may sound like a joke at first, but if you really think about it, it wouldn't be so bad.

We know that you are retiring from the Irish because you didn't want to break Knute Rockne's all-time win record at Notre Dame, but at Oregon State you would never have to worry about that. If you came in as a first-year coach and won more than six games, the athletic department would immediately change

Parker Stadium to Holtz Stadium and forget about any of the coaches before you.

Secondly, you wouldn't have to spend your Novembers fretting about how you are going to squeak your team into a bowl game with only six wins. Instead, you could spend November planning spring practice drills because with two-win seasons year-in and year-out, you would be assured of being able to spend time with your family during the holidays.

And what is up with the Irish's Touch-down Jesus? Screw that. At Oregon State you would be able to rub "The Beaver" on your way into beautiful and spacious Parker Stadium on game day. Yeah, as if Touch-down Jesus can compare to a metal Beaver.

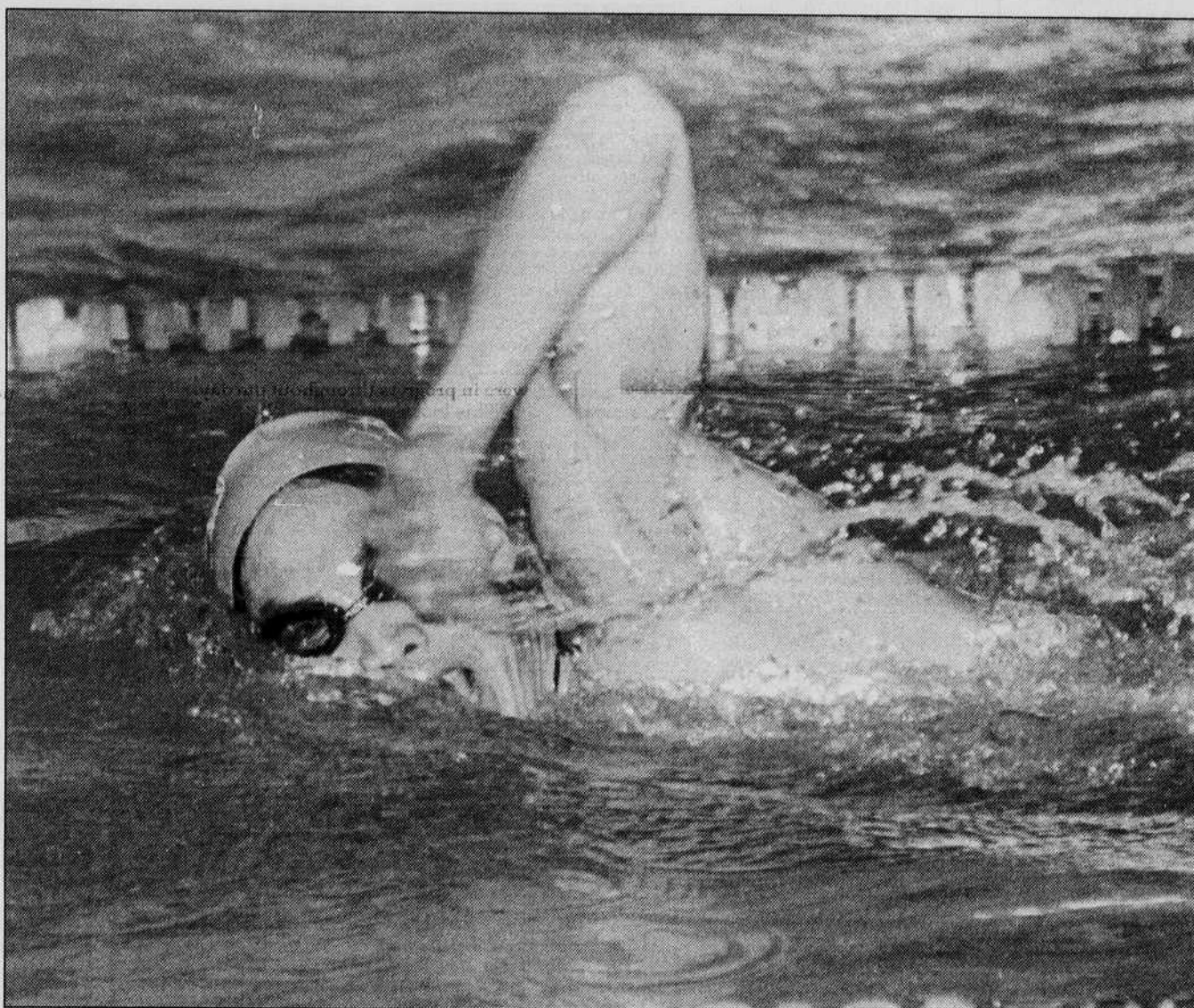
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OPINION



Ryan Frank

Eat my wake



ANDREW BRACKENSICK/Emerald

Leaving other swimmers in his wake, Eddie Chau works out at Leighton pool with the Club Sports Triathlon/swimming team. The Club meets 3-5 p.m. Tuesdays, 4-5 p.m. Thursdays and 2:30-4:30 p.m. Fridays at the Leighton pool in the Esslinger building.

Belle signs with White Sox, becomes highest-paid player

■ **FREE AGENT:** Former Indian signed what is believed to be a \$52.5 million, five-year contract with Chicago

By Ken Berger
The Associated Press

CLEVELAND — The Cleveland Indians will miss Albert Belle's enormous presence in the lineup, the tunnel vision, the gladiator's body that never got hurt.

Will they miss the tantrums, the suspensions, the aching fear that you never knew when Belle was really going to snap?

Not one bit.

The Chicago White Sox, who signed perhaps baseball's top offensive player Tuesday, get it all: the home runs, the clutch hits

and the temper.

"Early in Albert's career we recognized his talent, and we certainly recognized his quirks and at times, his lack of maturity," Indians general manager John Hart said after the deal was announced. "At the same time, we recognize Albert's contributions on the field for this ballclub. He was a star player who did some great things for us."

Belle signed what is believed to be a \$52.5 million, five-year contract with Chicago, the Indians' chief rival in the AL Central. To help fill the void, Cleveland is going after 1996 NL Cy Young Award winner John Smoltz and won't stop there.

The Indians, winners of two consecutive AL Central titles, need a starting pitcher and a second baseman. Now, they also need a left fielder.

"I can't emphasize it enough," Hart said. "We have turned the page. We are not going to blink. We are not going to look back."

The Indians are one of the few teams that could lose Belle and still have a feared lineup. Kenny Lofton still leads off, followed by either Julio Franco or Kevin Seitzer, Jim Thome, recently acquired Matt Williams and Manny Ramirez.

And remember, Hart is just getting started.

Meanwhile Belle will make plenty of trips to Cleveland in his new White Sox uniform. Wearing black, will Belle be treated as an outlaw at Jacobs Field?

"He'll be booed right out of the stadium," Indians fan Al VanValkenberg said after hearing the news. "The first time he comes up, they ought to check his bat."

Indians catcher Sandy Alomar said there was no time to pout over Belle's departure.

"He wanted his money; he got it," Alomar said. "I'm not going to feel sorry about him leaving because he doesn't feel sorry about leaving us."

By now Cleveland is used to watching its favorite players—even an entire team, like the NFL's Browns—leave town. Belle, who has said in recent interviews that he wanted to play his whole career in Cleveland, was filmed by television cameras leaving his suburban home Tuesday and getting on a plane.