



ON THE TUBE
National Basketball Association,
Detroit vs. Miami,
TNT (27), 5 p.m.

SPORTS

Oregon Daily
Emerald

Jets, Pats strike deal; Parcells named head coach

■ **NFL:** New England gets four of New York's draft picks over the next three years in exchange for Parcells

The Associated Press

NEW YORK — Bill Parcells will take over as coach of the New York Jets immediately, under a deal brokered Monday by NFL commissioner Paul Tagliabue.

New England will get New York's first-round draft pick in 1999, the Jets' second-round pick in 1998 and their third- and fourth-round picks this year. In addition, the Jets will make a \$300,000 contribution

to the Patriots' charitable foundation.

New England had insisted that the price for Parcells would be the Jets' No. 1 pick this year — the top pick in the NFL draft. New York had the worst record in the NFL last season, going 1-15.

"Ultimately, there were wide differences on how this would have to be resolved," Tagliabue said. "But ultimately, we got it resolved."

Parcells didn't attend the meeting, but TV crews, fans and passersby waited in the lobby in hopes of seeing the coach, who led the Patriots to the Super Bowl this

season.

Patriots owner Robert Kraft, Jets owner Leon Hess, Jets president Steve Gutman and lawyers for both sides attended the meeting.

The Parcells controversy has plagued the NFL since the Patriots lost 35-21 to Green Bay in the Super Bowl two weeks ago.

Three days later, Tagliabue ruled that Parcells remained the property of New England as a coach or in a "comparable position" until Feb. 1, 1998, the expiration date of his contract.

Parcells resigned following the Super Bowl, and last week the Jets hired him as a consultant, part of a six-year contract signed Friday that called for him to take over as coach and general manager the following 1997 season. The deal calls for him to coach at least four of those years.

Bill Belichick, his longtime associate, was appointed coach for this season just last week. Under Monday's settlement, it appeared Belichick would become assistant head coach.

Kraft called the consultant's agreement a sham, and the issue went back to Tagliabue.

Ducks in same spot as last year, but future looks quite different

OPINION



Andrea DeYoung

In typical Oregon men's basketball fashion, the team seems to be gaining momentum in the second half of the season. The way the Ducks are playing right now, everyone, including head coach Jerry Green, wishes the season could be starting over with the team playing this well.

The way the season suggests a parallel to last year's performance, chances are the Ducks may have dug a hole too deep to pull themselves out of to get into the NCAA Tournament. But there is one major difference between last year and this year, and the difference is the future.

As soon as Oregon was passed over for both the NCAA Tournament and the NIT last year, it was time to start thinking about the 1996-97 season. With the entire Oregon roster returning and the addition of three players, the Ducks appeared to be in a good position to compete for the Pacific-10 Conference title.

But what happens after this season ends? What are the realistic goals for the 1997-98 squad? This may be a long way off, but there are only four guaranteed weeks left in this season and every game is a constant reminder of how this season may be the Ducks' last chance to get into the tournament for the next few years.

Oregon is losing four of its starters. Seniors Kenya Wilkins, Jamal Lawrence, Rob Ramaker and Kyle Milling will all play their last game as Ducks sometime this March. It is significant that they are all starters, but they are also all key play-

ers who have been able to lead Oregon on and off the court.

The biggest difference next season will be the absence of Wilkins. Since nabbing a starting spot on the team his freshman year, Wilkins has quickly become one of the best, yet most underrated point guards in the nation. Oregon may not be a national basketball powerhouse, but anybody who sees Wilkins play knows he can compete with the best in the nation.

When Wilkins leaves, the Ducks will be without one of the best ball handlers on the court. How many times have you seen Wilkins steal the ball from an opposing player and take it all the way to the other side of the court for a layin'?

Although the team counts on Wilkins as a scorer, he is most valuable when he is running the offense, dishing the ball to his teammates and going one-on-one with players like Brevin Knight.

Lawrence's sweet shot is something else that has become an Oregon trademark. There have been some nights when he has been so sensational that he hit every shot he attempted. The guard tandem has been explosive for the Ducks. Teams have had a tough time concentrating on both Wilkins and Lawrence, usually focusing on one while the other breaks away and scores 25 points.

So, what happens next year? The starting lineup will probably have Mike McShane and Terik Brown penciled in. Although there are times when Brown seems to have that magic touch on shots, he seems to just now be learning that every-

thing he shoots doesn't have to be a three-point attempt. Although he is usually the first guard off the bench, it will probably take some time for Brown to establish himself as a threat day-in and day-out.

McShane was brought in to be Wilkins' back-up for a year and then take over the position after Wilkins left. True, McShane has given Wilkins some valuable rest during games this year, and yes, he is falling down less and less every game, but is he ready to replace Wilkins? And is it fair to ask him to do so?

Wilkins is a rare breed of basketball player who scores, dishes out assists, steals the ball, grabs rebounds, hits a majority of his free throws and doesn't mind being a team leader on and off the court. It may be asking too much next season to have McShane take over this role.

The other two seniors the Ducks will lose, Ramaker and Milling, have only been playing with the program for a year and a half. But can you imagine what it would have been like without them? Especially last year when Henry Madden wasn't with the team. Madden will be back next year, but will that be enough?

A.D. Smith will be back from his redshirt season, and Jonathan Nelson is starting to assert himself on the court. But even so, these players may not have the experience to be forces as big men for Oregon. Madden has reportedly had problems in

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