



ON THE TUBE
Men's College Basketball
North Carolina at Clemson,
ESPN (34), 6 p.m.

SPORTS

Oregon Daily
Emerald

Jerry Green being sought for LSU coaching position

■ GREEN: The men's basketball coach listens but won't respond to LSU's offer until after the season

By Chris Hansen
Sports Reporter

For Oregon men's basketball head coach Jerry Green, the last thing he or his team need right now is to be distracted. But recently, Green has been rumored to be a front-runner for the head coaching position at Louisiana State.

Although Green has admitted he has

been contacted by LSU Athletic Director Joe Dean — an old friend of Green's — about the position, he has not been willing to engage in speculation about whether or not he is considering taking the job.

After Saturday night's victory against Arizona State, Green commented, "Joe Dean called me and said 'Would you be interested in the LSU job?' and I told him that I had a job right now, and I'm going to take it through the end of this year."

"I am not in a position to say no right now, and I'm not in a position to say yes."



GREEN

Los Angeles to take on UCLA and Southern

When our season is over, if someone is interested in giving Jerry Green a zillion dollars, I'll have to look at that."

Green also said the recent reports are not distracting him or his players and will not as they prepare for their road trip this week to

California. The outcome of these two games hold, realistically, the answer to where the Ducks will be playing come postseason tournament time.

"It is not a distraction to me," Green said. "Except for one telephone call that lasted a couple minutes, I'm concentrating on my basketball team and they're concentrating on me."

"This is a big period of time right now, and you can ask them if you think it is distracting them and I don't think that they

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Mac Court: more harm than charm

I'll apologize in advance to the thousands of you who will find what I'm about to write offensive. I'm sorry.

Okay, here we go: McArthur Court is an old, rundown, ugly, ancient facility that has weeds growing up its outside walls and a new roof that is more suited for a food warehouse like Costco.

OPINION



Chris Hansen

Now I know some of you will translate that into: "The Pit" is a historical landmark with character and charm that has beautiful ivy crawling up the walls of

its exterior, and it just went through some brightening cosmetic renovations.

Stop kidding yourselves.

The only time Mac Court has any redeeming qualities is on game night when the place is packed and rocking.

The fact is, Oregon basketball is heading in a new direction. The women's team is about to make the NCAA tournament for the fourth year in a row, quietly establishing itself as one of the premier teams in both the Pacific-10 Conference and the country.

The men's team has sealed up its third consecutive winning season in a row and is also on the verge of making postseason play for the second time in three years.

But if either of these teams wants to move up to the next plateau, to a place where it is recognized as an elite team and not just within the conference, a new, modern facility is a must.

Mac Court is a 71-year-old recruiting nightmare.

Oregon, unlike Arizona and UCLA for the men and Southern California and Stanford for the women, doesn't have a great basketball tradition. Therefore, it can't use tradition as a selling point when competing with these other schools for top recruits.

Due to this handicap, Oregon needs to have other selling points and unfortunately, Mac

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Women's Basketball

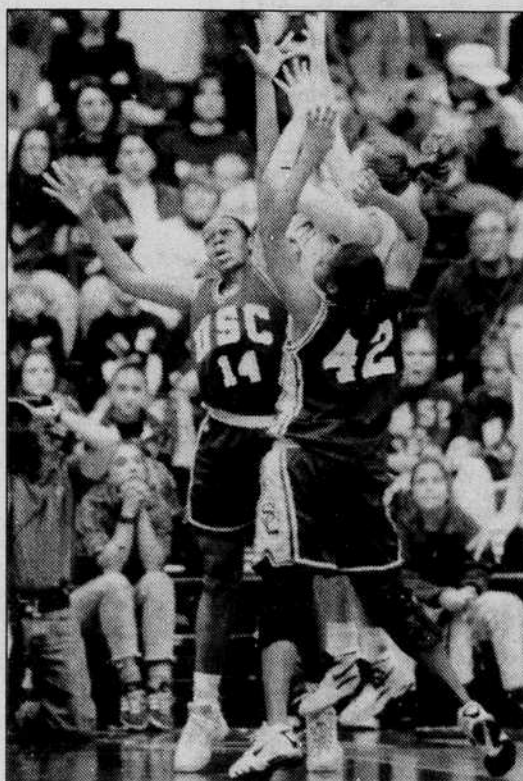


“She's real tough. She's so talented athletically and such a tough defensive draw because she can shoot [from the outside], or she'll power it up inside.”

— Jody Runge
UO Head Coach

Senior forward Tina Thompson (14) is averaging 22.3 points per game coming into Thursday night's game at McArthur Court.

Woman of Troy



Senior Tina Thompson has the Trojans headed back to the NCAA Tournament for the third time in her four seasons

By Ryan Frank
Sports Reporter

Tina Thompson is no stranger to success.

The Southern California forward has been there, done that — and then some.

In high school, Thompson was an all-American at Morningside High School and finished her career with more than 1,500 points and 1,000 rebounds.

At USC, she started the first game of her collegiate career at center. Then went on to earn the Pacific-10 Conference Freshman of the Year award and Freshman All-American honors.

That same season, the Trojans made their fourth straight trip to the NCAA Tournament and advanced to the final eight.

Her sophomore year, Thompson was No. 2 in scoring and No. 1 in rebounding in the conference as the Trojans made

their eighth trip to the tournament in the last 10 seasons.

But then came 1996.

Thompson continued her stellar play, but the Trojans did not.

She averaged 23.1 points and 9.3 rebounds per game while earning first-team all-Pac-10 honors for the second straight season.

But for the first time in six years, USC did not qualify for the postseason.

Thompson would suffer her first losing season ever as the Trojans finished 13-14 overall and 8-10 in the Pac-10.

"I think that was kind of a wake-up call for me as well as my teammates," Thompson said. "We never want to be in a situation like that."

Whatever the Trojans and Thompson had to work out between last season and this season, they did it.

With just four games remaining in their 1997 Pac-10 season, USC holds sole possession of second place heading into Thursday night's contest with third-place Oregon at McArthur Court.

And Thompson is currently second in the conference in rebounding at 10.6 per

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