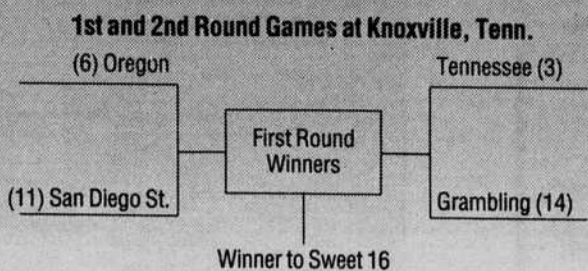
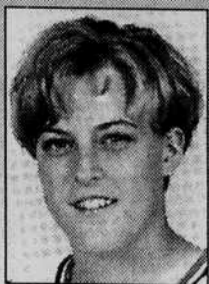


TOURNAMENT HOOPS

STANDOUT:

San Diego State's Jodi Nowlin-Tres led the Aztecs in scoring, rebounding and steals enroute to the WAC Championship/11



SDSU AZTECS:

San Diego State takes its nation-leading defense into the NCAA Tournament, hoping to knock off the Oregon Ducks/10

The NIT Tournament

Oregon men suffer season ending loss

NIT: Oregon made only seven field goals in the entire second half, blowing a 10-point halftime lead

The Associated Press

HONOLULU — Alike Smith had 23 points and Anthony Carter scored six straight during a crucial second-half run that carried Hawaii to a 71-61 victory over Oregon on Wednesday night in the first round of the National Invitation Tournament.

The win sends the Rainbows (21-7) to Las Vegas for a second-round game Monday against Western Athletic Conference rival UNLV, which defeated Memphis earlier Wednesday. During the regular season, Hawaii turned back the Runnin' Rebels twice.

Hawaii, down by 10 points at the half, went on

two runs in the final 20 minutes to pull away from the Ducks, who didn't make a field goal for the first 8:02 of the second half.

The first run featured Eric Ambrozich, who scored seven points during a 14-2 spurt. That put the Rainbows ahead for only the second time since the early moments of the game.

Then, with the score tied at 52, Hawaii went on a 14-5 run, sparked by Carter's string and four points by Smith. That put the Rainbows ahead for good.

Oregon, meanwhile, struggled offensively. In the final 20 minutes, it missed 30 of 37 shots, while Hawaii, with Carter and Smith doing most of the damage, was 18-of-27 in the second half.

Turn to NIT, Page 13

The NCAA Tournament

Looking for more



UO Head coach Jody Runge wants to get her team to the next level and earn respect

By Ryan Frank
Sports Reporter

Elwin Heiny was closing out his 17-year Oregon coaching career in a woeful way in 1993. The Ducks lost 16 of their final 19 games to record the school's worst Pacific-10 Conference record ever at 3-15.

At that point, the Oregon athletic department decided it was time to make a change.

Enter Jody Runge. Fresh off a four-year stint as an assistant coach at Missouri, her fourth job as an assistant, Runge was hired to lead the Oregon women's basketball program back to the respectability and success it once enjoyed.

But who knew it would come so quickly?

In her first recruiting class at Oregon, Runge landed Canadian provincial MVP Cindie Edamura to help her turn the Ducks around.

In Runge, Edamura and high school all-American Arianne Boyer's first season, they made a comeback worthy of national recognition. Oregon recorded the largest turnaround in Pac-10 history, improving its conference record by 12 games, finishing in third place with a 15-3 record.

"Coach Runge, when she got here, like she always has, put discipline and put hard work and put doing the right thing to be successful into her program," Oregon assistant coach Fred Litzenberger said.

"And the kids that were here

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NCAA FIRST AND SECOND-ROUND CALENDAR



Thursday
March

13

Men's NCAA

The first game of the tournament begins at 9:15 a.m. PST with the California Bears playing Princeton in Winston-Salem, N.C. The tournament's top-seeded team, Kansas, tips off at 9:25 a.m. against Jackson State in Memphis, Tenn.

Friday
March

14

UO Women

The Oregon women's basketball team has its final practice in Knoxville, Tenn., before playing San Diego State on Saturday. The Ducks will have a closed shootaround at 8 a.m. PST before its game that will begin at 3:06 p.m.

Saturday
March

15

UO Game Day

The Oregon women play San Diego State in the First Round of the NCAA Tournament. The winner will play the victor of the late game between Grambling and host Tennessee. The Lady Vols have won 4 of the last 10 national titles.

Sunday
March

16

NCAA

The Second Round of the men's tournament continues. In Knoxville, the two winning teams of the women's First Round games will have closed practices and answer questions from the media in two press conferences during the day.

Monday
March

17

NCAA

The Second Round of women's tournament continues. In Knoxville, the two winning teams of the First Round games played on Saturday will battle for a berth into the Sweet 16. The winner will move on to Iowa City, Iowa.

