

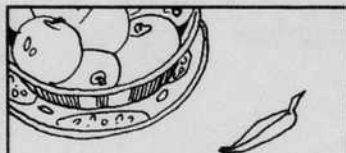
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New Coach: Braswell said he loves the Eugene area

■ Continued from Page 9

and an impressive 22-1 record, including wins against teams with scholarship players.

"I've been a head coach for four years and I've done some things," he said.

As the top assistant to Green this season, Turgeon has assumed the role of head coach until one is named.

"In recruiting, we're just going very hard. Everybody that we were involved with before Jerry Green, we're still involved with without Jerry Green," he said.

Moos said will be meeting with Braswell and Kent, later this week.

Both candidates have Oregon connections, as Braswell was a Green assistant for four seasons before taking the position at Cal-State Northridge. Kent is a 1977 Oregon graduate who played for Dick Harter, and began his coaching career at Oregon as the freshmen coach in 1977-78.

"They both have Oregon ties, and I think there is again some merit in that," Moos said.

"I know of them and have heard many positive comments in regards to them, so they were naturals. They both have some head coaching experience at this time and I think that also has some

merit."

Braswell said the Oregon job would be a great opportunity, but leaving Cal-State Northridge after one season would be a tough decision.

"You feel somewhat committed and it is a difficult decision to make either way," said Braswell. "But I had a great experience in Eugene. I love the area, I love the community and it would be a great opportunity."

Both Braswell and Turgeon said they are close friends but Braswell said competing for the job would not affect their friendship.

"We know what the business is about and it will not effect our friendship," Braswell said.

However, Turgeon said he and Braswell would not be working together in the future because both are worthy of head coaching jobs.

"I don't think Bobby would work for me if I get this job," Turgeon said. "I look at Bobby as an equal."

Braswell just finished his first season at Cal-State Northridge, which is located in the Los Angeles area, with a 14-15 record, but made it to the championship of the Big Sky tournament before losing to Montana.

His recruiting ties to the Southern California area would be seen as a bonus to the Oregon program. He served as the recruiting director at Oregon in his four seasons.

While an assistant at Long Beach State from 1989-92, his recruiting was viewed as instrumental in the 49ers making it the NCAA Tournament.

"[Recruiting] has to be considered to be successful [at Oregon]. This is where I am from, so I know the area," Braswell said.

Kent, who owns a 90-80 record at Saint Mary's, took the Gaels to the NCAA Tournament this year after posting a 23-8 record and winning the West Coast Conference championship this season.

Kent began his coaching career at Oregon and had a head coaching experience in Saudi Arabia before later spending two seasons as an assistant at both Colorado State and Stanford.

A meeting between Moos and Kent is expected to take place in the next 48 hours, Kent said Wednesday.

Taylor, who was a possible candidate Wednesday, has had informal contact with Moos, but expects to hear more in the next few days. With a new arena on the way for the Grizzlies and past success in the Big Sky Conference,

"I know of [Braswell and Kent] and have heard many positive comments in regards to them, so they were naturals. They both have some head coaching experience at this time and I think that also has some merit."

— Bill Moos
UO Athletic Director

Taylor wouldn't be ready to automatically say yes to Moos.

"I've got a good job," Taylor said. "I probably have the best job of any of the guys that I see as names they are considering."

At Montana, Taylor defeated Braswell's team 82-79 in the Big Sky championship game before making his third trip to the NCAA Tournament in the 1990s.

"We score a lot of points, we run, we shoot threes, average in high 70s, low 80s most years. We play a very good defense," Taylor said.

In 1994-95 the Grizzlies gave the Ducks a scare before losing 102-97. In 1991-92 Taylor's squad defeated Oregon 78-39 at McArthur Court.

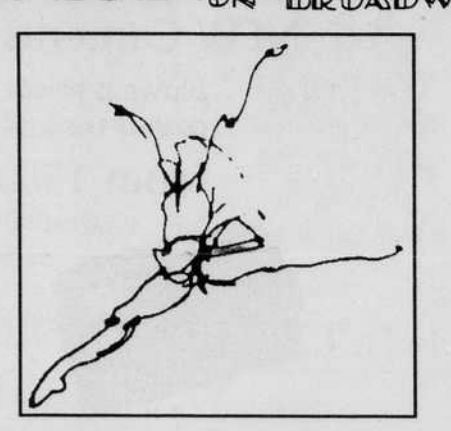
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