

THE CANDIDATES



BRASWELL

■ **WHO:** Bobby Braswell
 ■ **CURRENT:** First-year head coach at Cal-State Northridge
 ■ **PAST:** First assistant coach hired by Green in 1992



TURGEON

■ **WHO:** Mark Turgeon
 ■ **CURRENT:** Assistant coach with the Ducks since 1992
 ■ **PAST:** Coached Kansas JV team to 22-1 record in 1992



KENT

■ **WHO:** Ernie Kent
 ■ **CURRENT:** Head coach at WCC champion St. Mary's
 ■ **PAST:** Played and coached at Oregon in the 1970s



TAYLOR

■ **WHO:** Blaine Taylor
 ■ **CURRENT:** Head coach at Big Sky champion Montana
 ■ **PAST:** Worked under Athletic Director Bill Moos at Montana

Search begins for successor

■ **NEW COACH:** Four coaches top the list of possible replacements for Jerry Green, who left the Ducks Tuesday

By Ben Kwasney
Sports Reporter

Just one day after Jerry Green announced he was leaving Oregon, the focus has quickly turned to Green's successor.

Oregon Athletic Director Bill Moos has officially contacted three candidates for the men's basketball head coaching position, and he has informally spoke with another. Moos expects to have found his man in the next week.

The list includes Oregon assistant Mark Turgeon, and head coaches Bobby Braswell of Cal-State Northridge, Ernie Kent of Saint Mary's and Blaine Taylor of Montana.

The search will most likely not include big names such as former UCLA coach Jim Harrick, unless Moos feels uncomfortable with the candidates he has already identified.

Turgeon, who left Kansas and came to Oregon with Jerry Green five years ago as an assistant, interviewed Wednesday morning with Moos.

"It went very well," said Moos. "I wanted to get an opportunity to get a better idea of Mark's background and his philosophy that he would implement as a head coach."

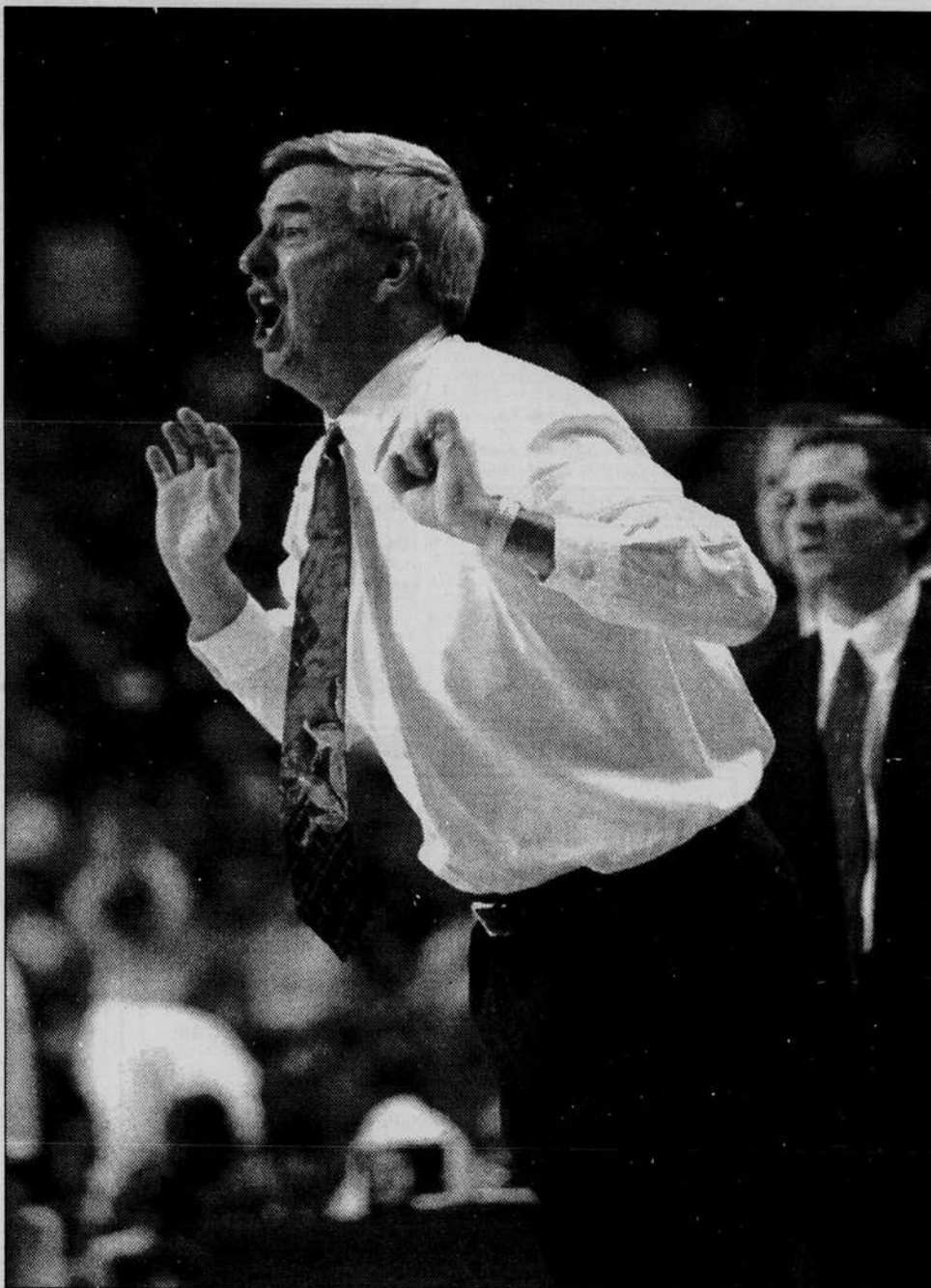
The 32-year-old Turgeon said he would not comment on the meeting, but did say the he has received support from others.

"You never know how people view you until something like this comes up, and I've had tremendous support from not only the players, but from people in this profession, from the community and from the alumni," Turgeon said.

"And that makes Mark Turgeon feel good."

Turgeon launched his coaching career at Kansas, where he played from 1984-1987 under current Indiana Pacers head coach Larry Brown. As the head junior varsity coach for four seasons, he led a group of walk-ons to three straight winning seasons

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After leaving the Ducks, Jerry Green (left) recommended current Oregon assistant Mark Turgeon (background) for his vacated head coaching position.

Stadium funding gets approval

■ **SEAHAWKS:** Money will come from both private and public funds

The Associated Press

OLYMPIA — The Washington Senate on Wednesday narrowly approved a funding package for a new Seattle Seahawks stadium, apparently deciding that saving the team outweighs the financial risk of building "a playhouse for millionaires."

Backers described the proposal to let state voters decide whether to approve a \$425 million stadium and exhibition center in place of the Kingdome as a last chance to accept billionaire Paul Allen's offer to buy the NFL franchise and keep the team in Seattle.

The special election would be held June 3.

The Senate vote was 25-23, the minimum needed for approval. The victory enabled Allen to redirect the focus of his expensive lobbying blitz on the more conservative House, which is expected to vote on the plan next week.

"It will be scary," Bud Coffey, chief lobbyist for Allen's Football Northwest organization, said as he made his way through the Senate wings thanking lawmakers who voted for the bill. "We'll be looking for every single vote and try to get to 50 [the House minimum]."

Before the vote, senators rejected amendments to offer a renovated Husky Stadium as an option to tearing down the Kingdome, or funding a new stadium by taxing the millionaire players, the media and wealthy fans.

The proposal, SB5999, is a mix of public and private funds, including a \$100 million pledge from Allen, a co-founder of Microsoft. The public portion, capped at \$325 million, includes new lottery games, a 5 percent wholesale tax on licensed sporting goods and clothing, a King County sales tax credit and taxes on Seahawks admissions and parking.

After the vote, a coalition of sports leagues, teams and retailers issued a statement saying the narrow margin of victory shows that the tax on sporting goods is likely to kill the entire package at the polls.



Jim O'Brien leaves Boston College to take over at Ohio State

■ **HIRING:** O'Brien, who will possibly make \$650,000 with the Buckeyes, will take over for fired coach Randy Ayers

The Associated Press

COLUMBUS, Ohio — Jim O'Brien, who coached Boston College for 11 years, was hired Wednesday to take over a struggling Ohio State team after two other candidates rejected the job.

O'Brien signed a five-year contract and succeeds Randy Ayers, who was fired March 10. He inherits a team that finished 10-17 the last two years and was ninth in the Big Ten this past season.

The deal includes a base salary of \$150,000 a year. The *Boston Herald* reported that the total package, including outside endorsements and radio-TV contracts, is believed to be worth about \$650,000 a year.

O'Brien visited the campus Monday after Clem-

son's Rick Barnes and Georgia's Tubby Smith decided to stay where they are. Athletic Director Andy Geiger also interviewed Illinois State coach Kevin Stallings on Tuesday.

"I think Jim has coached at a high level in a conference [the Big East] I think is comparable to the Big Ten," Geiger said.



He said O'Brien convinced him he really wanted to come to Ohio State and was not dissatisfied with Boston College.

"It was really important to me that we not be romance on the rebound," Geiger said. "He was ready for change and this is a change he feels very, very good about."

Geiger also said at his news conference that Stanford assistant Amy Tucker said she was not interested in replacing fired women's coach Nancy Darsch.

Tucker was believed to be the leading candidate. Ohio State also has interviewed Detroit-Mercy's Nikita Lowry and San Diego State's Beth Burns.

O'Brien, who is to have a news conference in Columbus on Thursday, is the second Boston College basketball coach hired by Ohio State in recent years. The Buckeyes took Gary Williams in 1986, and he coached Ohio State to a 59-43 record in three seasons before leaving for Maryland. He was followed by Ayers.

O'Brien is 168-166 at Boston College and 235-217 in 15 seasons of college coaching.