



NBA Playoffs
L.A. Lakers at Seattle,
TNT (27), 7:30 p.m.

SPORTS

Oregon Daily
Emerald

UO close to naming new wrestling coach

Athletic director Bill Moos says the decision could be announced later in the week

By Alex Pond
Sports Editor

Oregon athletic director Bill Moos is close to naming a new head wrestling coach as the list of candidates to succeed Ron Finley has been narrowed down to four finalists, according to Moos. The finalists include former Oregon wrestlers Chuck Kearney and Scott Bliss, 1996 U.S. Olympic gold medalist Tom Brands and 1992 Olympic silver medalist Zeke Jones.

Moos met with the candidates last week in Eugene, and a decision could come later this week.

Finley retired at the end of the 1997-98 season after 28 years and 311 wins. His 311-189-8 record is the best mark in the program's history.

Each of the four finalists has a history of success in the sport.

Kearney, an Oregon assistant coach since 1988, won the Pacific-10 Conference championship at 177 pounds as a senior at Oregon in 1988 and is tied for sixth on the school's list for most wins in a single season (34). He has been



one of the Ducks' top recruiters the past 10 seasons, helping to put together top 20 recruiting classes in six of the past eight seasons.

Bliss wrestled for Oregon from 1977-1980, when he became the Ducks' all-time leader with 120 wins. He was a two-time NCAA All-American.

In 1980 he won the Pac-10 championship at 150 pounds and was the NCAA runner-up. Bliss is currently the head coach at Mead High School in Spokane,

Wash. Previous collegiate coaching experience includes a stint as an assistant at Oregon State and head coaching jobs at Montana and Wyoming.

Brands has been an assistant coach at Iowa the past six seasons and has helped the Hawkeyes win five NCAA championships during that span. During his wrestling career at Iowa, Brands was a four-time All-American and won three NCAA championships. He was named the NCAA's top wrestler in the 1992 meet.

Jones was a three-time All-American who won three Pac-10 championships at 118 pounds while competing at Arizona State. The 1990 NCAA runner-up was a six-time U.S. Open National Freestyle champion. He has been the Sun Devils' top assistant coach since 1993.

Finalists

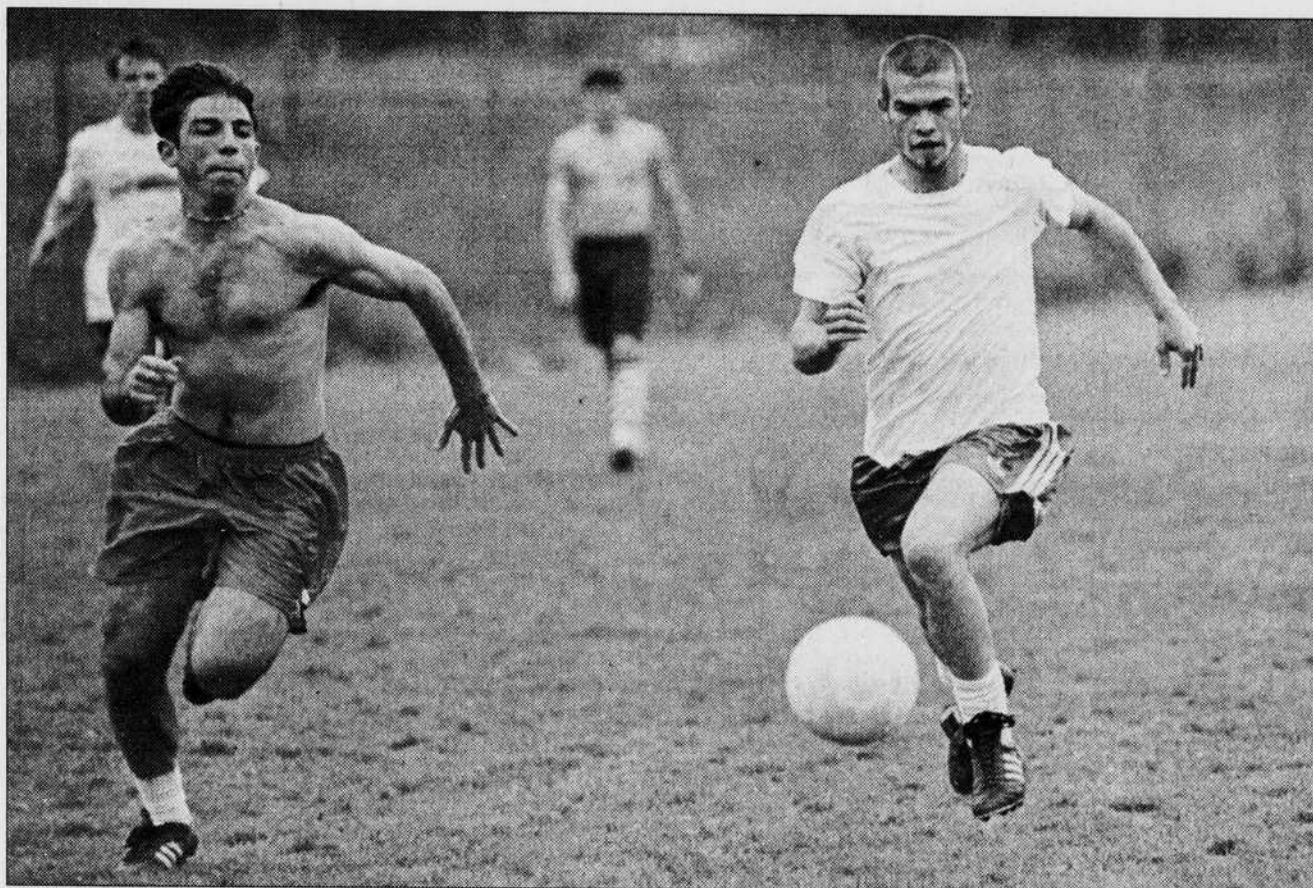
■ **Chuck Kearney**
Oregon assistant coach since 1988

■ **Scott Bliss**
Head coach at Mead High School in Spokane, Wash.

■ **Tom Brands**
Iowa assistant coach

■ **Zeke Jones**
Arizona State assistant coach

CLUB SPORTS REPORT



Chad Wright, a forward on the "A" team, dribbles past "B" team fullback Brian Jennaro during Club Sports men's soccer practice Monday at Southbank Field.

Men remain undefeated with win over Steelhead

The Ducks scored two unanswered goals in the second half for a 3-1 win

By Jeanette N. Diaz and Mirjam Swanson
Freelance Sports Reporters

Water is a duck's natural habitat.

Last Friday, the Oregon Club Sports men's soccer team didn't let the pouring rain hinder its game, drubbing Steelhead 3-1 in City of Eugene action at Ascot Park and upping its record to 4-0.

Goalkeeper Matt Sassali said the win wasn't one of the Ducks' finest.

"We controlled most of the game but we had trouble finishing some scoring opportunities," he said. "The weather was tough and it was pretty cold. We had tired legs because we were missing some guys."

Forward Chad Wright added: "It was a really wet and physical game with everyone slipping around. Everyone didn't seem like they were playing together as a team. We didn't get it together until the second half."

B.J. Perrett opened up the game with an early goal for the Ducks. The game grew

stagnant after that as neither team was able to come up with a goal until Steelhead scored on a penalty kick right before halftime to tie it at one point each.

Oregon quickly got things rolling again with Jay Molde scoring early in the second half. Wright ended the scoring spree with a third goal for the Ducks later in the half.

"It was a good win for us because Steelhead's one of the better teams in the league," Wright said.

"The referee was one sided but we rose to the occasion and ended up playing well."

On May 2, the Ducks met up with their in-state rivals, the Oregon State Beavers, in a scrimmage game and squeezed by them, 3-2. Wright scored two goals while Molde added one.

Up next for the Ducks is a game against The Tribe at Petersen Barn on Friday.

Women's soccer

After starting the season 0-2 in the City of Eugene League, the Oregon Club Sports women's soccer team has won two

straight games.

The Ducks garnered a 3-1 win against a team it lost to earlier in the season — Tom Tech Inc. — last Wednesday at Petersen Barn.

Tom Tech came into the game short-handed, with only eight of its players showing up while Oregon had the comfort of knowing it had at least four subs for the game.

Goalie Jill Krupoff said the Ducks are playing more together as a team.

"We had strong offense and strong forwards and attacked well," Krupoff said. "I'm looking forward to our goalies and sweepers communicating a little better and making better transitions."

Amy Wilson put Oregon on the scoreboard with an early goal in the first half before Tom Tech tied it at one right before halftime, giving the Ducks a bit of a scare.

"In the second, Corina [Alexander] scored so we knew we were going to rally," goalkeeper Gabrielle Hendel said.

Jen Houghton added another goal as the Ducks were able to keep Tom Tech at bay for the rest of the game.

Goalie a hot commodity in playoffs

Forget your chiseled superstars with their playboy images.

Forget getting more points for shooting from further away.

Forget calling fouls for nothing more than a love tap.

Forget the NBA Finals.

What makes the spring so special is not watching a bunch of 19-year-old millionaires bounce around a court playing grab-ass for a national television audience. What makes the spring special is watching marginally out-of-shape diehards pound each other into walls, leaving their hearts, souls, and often blood on a floor made of ice.

What makes the spring so special is the bonanza that is the NHL playoffs.

This year's version of the hockey postseason is in full swing, and an established trend from the past decade is again being exemplified. Just like pitching and defense wins championships in baseball, goaltending wins Stanley Cups in hockey.

Whether it was Chris Osgood and Mike Vernon of the Red Wings last season, Patrick Roy of the Avalanche in 1996, Martin Brodeur of the Devils in 1995, Mike Richter of the Rangers in 1994, Roy again for the Canadiens in 1993, or Tom Barraso of the Penguins in 1991 and 1992, it has been proven throughout the decade and, as Billy Smith's performance between the pipes for the Cup-winning Islanders from 1980 to 1983 illustrates, throughout the history of the game that a hot goaltender is worth more than all the 50-goal scorers a coach can throw out on the ice.

And this year has been no exception.

Round 1 in the Eastern Conference was one of the most shocking in recent memory. (Caveat: I'm only 21 and a heavy drinker. Recent memory ain't that long ago.) Each of the top three seeds lost in that first round, including top-seeded New Jersey's untimely demise at the hands of the No. 8 Ottawa Senators. Brodeur is still the netminder for the Devils, and he's arguably the best in the game, but the Senators' Damian Rhodes caught fire at the right time to lead his team into the second round.

The Buffalo Sabres' upset of No. 3 Philadelphia was more reasonable, as Dominik Hasek, a recent gold medalist at the Olympics and the man Wayne Gretzky himself recently labeled "the best player in the world," carried the Sabres to victory.

More surprising was No. 7 Montreal's

OPINION



Rob Moseley

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