



Wimbledon  
Grand Slam Tennis  
HBO (2) 6 a.m.

## Runge explains decision to avoid Texas A&M job

The start of summer recruiting forced her to make a quick decision

By Allison Ross  
Freelance Reporter

Jody Runge, the Oregon women's basketball head coach who has led the Ducks to five consecutive NCAA Tournament appearances, announced Friday that she would prefer not to be considered for the head coaching vacancy at Texas A&M. The decision came two days after Runge interviewed for the five-year contract reportedly worth \$1 to \$1.5 million.

"It was not a hard decision," she told the Register-Guard on Friday. "I tried to look at the Texas A&M situation from every angle, and I tried to be unemotional about it."

Runge, who will begin her sixth season with the Ducks next year, has led them to a

95-47 overall record. With only five wins next season she will become the third-fastest coach in Pacific-10 Conference history to reach the 100-victory mark.



"I am happy Jody has decided to stay at Oregon," Athletic Director Bill Moos said in a released statement on Friday. "She has done a splendid job and I have every reason to believe the future of women's basketball at the University of Oregon is very bright. Our program is certain to benefit from her decision to remain here."

Oregon returns four starters and 11 players from last year's team, which ended the

season fourth in the Pac-10 with a 17-10 record. Runge has been successful in keeping some of the state's top athletes in Oregon, including 6-foot-5 sophomore center Jenny Mowe and 6-foot-1 sophomore forward Brianna Meharry.

"It would have been a great job opportunity at Texas A&M, but the timing just was not right," Runge said in a released statement. "It has been a very emotional process over the past three days with the thought of leaving the team I have returning to Oregon as well as the community."

Runge said the decision was based on the fact that summer recruiting was set to begin shortly and she needed to make a decision quickly.



RUNGE

## Saul says Emeralds have fighting chance

The team has shown comeback ability early in the season

By Rob Moseley  
Associate Editor

Eugene Emeralds manager Jim Saul stood in his clubhouse office after Sunday's 5-4 Eugene Emeralds victory over the Portland Rockies in 10 innings and overflowed with fatherly emotions for his group of young players.

Saul had just watched his team overcome deficits of 3-0 and 4-2 to beat the defending Northwest League champion Rockies on a German Alvarez sacrifice fly to score Junior Brignac from third.

"That's a big win for this group in here," Saul shouted as he pointed to the locker room. "They're fighters, that group in there is fighters, and I think they're going to make a fighter out of me."

It was an appropriate reaction for a game played on Father's Day, and after the Ems fourth straight comeback from deficits of three or more runs, albeit two in losing efforts. Appropriate because Saul is the patriarch of the Ems, a group of 25 young men, none of whom is older than 23 and whose starting second baseman is just 18.

That second baseman, Al Castro, is one of three Emeralds to return from last season, when Eugene finished last in the four-team South Division of the Northwest League with a 31-45 record. The Rockies, who finished 44-32 in their

championship season, won three of five games to take the championship series against Boise, which the Ems began a five-game series against on Monday.

Eugene entered that series 3-3 after splitting its opening series at Salem-Keizer, winning its home opener against the Volcanoes on Thursday, then avoiding a three-game sweep at the hands of Portland on Sunday. The Rockies lead the Northwest League's South Division with a 4-2 record.

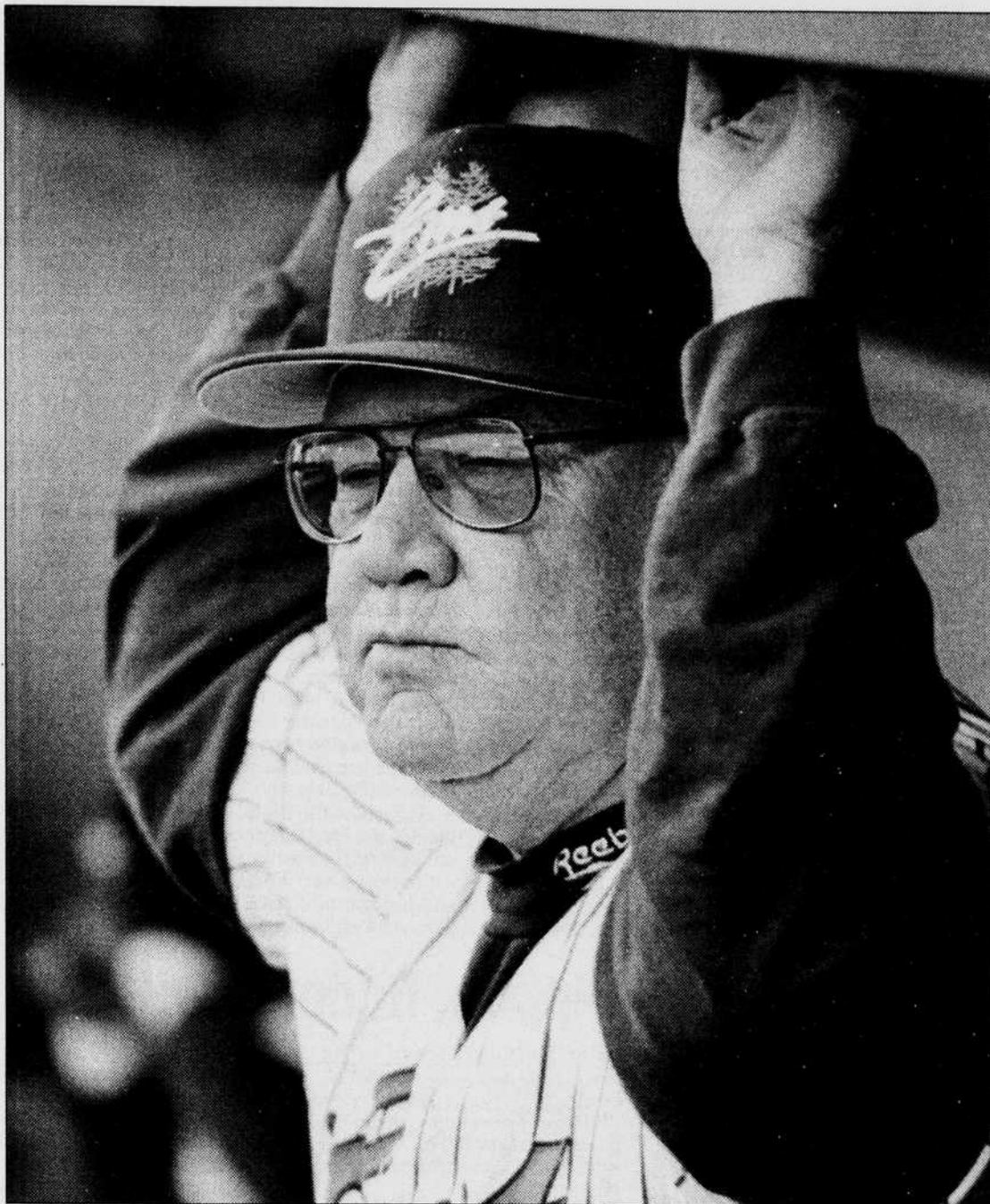
"This club is playing very well," Saul said before Sunday's game. "There's a lot of good life on the club.

They're battlers. The last three games we've come back and had the tying or winning runs on base, which is a good sign that they don't quit. If I go into battle, I want every one of my troops fighting for me. I don't want them going against me."

The other two returning Ems are designated hitter and occasional leftfielder Greg Strickland and third baseman Manny Sanchez, who hit a two-run homer in the bottom of the seventh inning to knot the score at 4-4 on Sunday.

Saul said although he would rather finish 0-76 and have a few of his players reach the major leagues than win the title and have none advance to a higher level of the minor

Turn to EMS, Page 9A



EMERALD

Emeralds manager Jim Saul says this year's team should produce more runs.

## Injuries haunt Ducks at the USA Track and Field Championships

Sudden chest pain forced Micah Davis to drop from third to 12th place

By Mirjam Swanson  
Freelance Reporter

Three Oregon athletes competed in the USA Track and Field Championships in New Orleans last weekend, but health concerns held back two of the University's best.

Junior Micah Davis made his first appearance at the USA Championships on Friday, finishing 12th in the first of two opening rounds in the steeplechase. Davis, an All-American in the event last season, was slowed by chest pain which forced him to fall from third place to the back of the pack almost instantly, according to the Oregon athletic department. Davis finished the race

in 9 minutes, 13.13 seconds.

"It was so weird," Davis said in a released statement. "I was feeling great running with the leader, then I got this really weird spasm in my upper chest, and it hit me like a ton of bricks. Afterward, I wasn't fatigued or tired, it just felt like someone stabbed me. Even the weather wasn't bad — it

had settled down to a breezy 75 to 80 degrees — nothing intense. That's the slowest time I've ever run but at the same time the best I felt going into the race."

Davis' time was particularly disappointing considering he had run 8 minutes, 47 second or faster in each of his previous six races during the year and two weeks earlier had finished fourth at the NCAA championships.

"We went through at 71-second laps for the first three laps, which I've done before and it felt so easy," Davis said. "Then within the span of 200 meters, I dropped back nine places and almost stepped off the track, but I never have done that before and I didn't want to start, no matter how much it hurt."

Turn to INJURIES, Page 8A



DAVIS