

# Runge's REIGN

■ Jody Runge has attracted all sorts of attention for what she's done with the women's basketball program

By Mirjam Swanson  
Oregon Daily Emerald

Start story.  
So reads the template on each NewsEdit Pro word document that we use to start our articles. Typically, we erase the "Start story" and replace it with the lead — the few, supposedly powerful lines that pull in the reader. But sometimes that's hard. With that in mind, here goes: Don't know that fans can see it

from every seat in the McArthur Court, but there's usually a short moment at Oregon women's basketball games, specifically during player introductions, when Jody Runge gives the place a quick once-over.

When the Ducks' head coach glances up at the 5-, 6- or 9,000 fans on hand, she seems to let herself hear the noise, let the magnitude of her accomplishment, of all her hard work, sink in.

And you sit up there on press row every game watching it happen, impressed, intrigued and promising yourself you'll ask her about this, when you get the chance.

So, Coach, what does that feel like?

You can only imagine such a reception. You're curious. You'd like to hear from her, what that — knowing you're creating a dynasty and that you've developed a program that, no matter what, gets better every season, that out-draws all but 12 other women's teams nationwide, that is successful, positive and so incredibly loved — feels like.

So you'll ask. About that, certainly, and about other things.

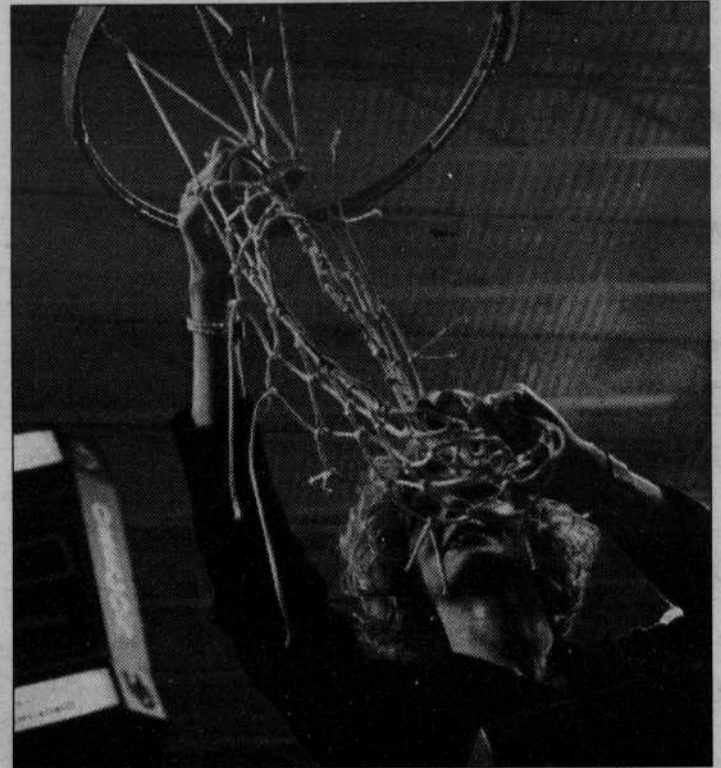
Because everyone in town has a question about Runge. Everyone has his or her own take on the woman. And everyone, it seems, has wanted to share it with you.

A lot of people have a lot of respect. A lot of admiration.

And a lot of people don't. You've heard so much — listened to so many stories, rumors, different opinions.

And, yes, you've talked to her yourself a few times a week for the last 4 1/2 months — asked countless questions about Shaquala Williams and the latest RPIs and Lindsey Dion's knee and head and

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Ryan Starkweather Emerald

To loud chants of 'Jo-dy! Jo-dy!' from the 9,087 fans at McArthur Court, Runge finishes cutting down the net after Oregon claimed the Pac-10 championship Friday.



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# NCAA

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