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## Runge

continued from page 11B

In a highly publicized legal battle, Runge fought for what she and her program deserved, which was more than either were getting. And — big surprise, right? — she won, eventually signing a four-year contract for \$80,000 per year in 1995.

Last April, she became the third highest-paid coach in the conference, earning, with incentives, more than \$200,000 a year.

Two summers ago, she hired former guard Kirsten McKnight as an assistant. Last summer, she added to the "family" Dan Muscatell, who had no college or women's basketball coaching experience, but, nonetheless, gets rave reviews from players.

Through it all, she's won Pac-10 titles. Coach of the year awards. Her overall record heading into Oregon's first-round match up with UAB at Mac Court: 143-60.

Moos said it: "Her record speaks for itself."

There it is. There's the story you already knew.

Truly, it is amazing.

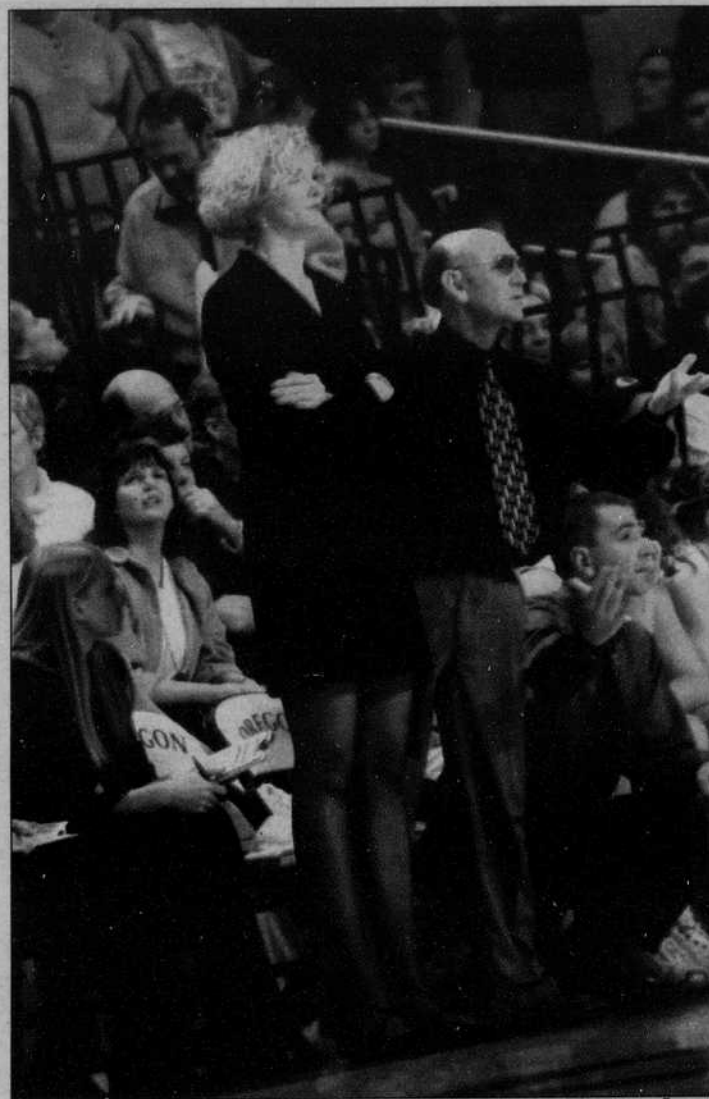
But there's more to it. It's about more than success, more than money, more than winning.

It's about an extraordinary person who's dealing with the intense pressure of being a head coach, a role model, a winner. And who's dealt with by compiling an extraordinary staff.

That's why 9,087 delirious, appreciative, adoring fans chanted her name as hard as they could last Friday: "Jo-dy! Jo-dy! Jo-dy!" as the 37-year-old head coach scaled a ladder, snipped the remaining strands of a net, and then yanked that sucker free in celebration of her first all-out Pac-10 title.

And you sat on press row, wondering, how does *that* feel?

Promising yourself that, this time, you've gotta ask.



(from left to right) Kirsten McKnight, Jody Runge, Fred Litzenberg and Dan Muscatell collaborate effectively. "I don't know if you could fill four roles much better," Litz said.

So downstairs, during Runge's postgame interview, you jump at the opportunity, start — and hear another reporter take the words out of your mouth.

"You've put a lot of work into this program, and here you are, you've won the Pac-10 champi-

onship and the crowd is prompting you to go and cut down the net. How does that feel?"

Runge sits back and looks away from the questioner, at no one in particular.

"It feels awesome."  
Awesome, huh?

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